



December 13, 2021

A Message from the ARC Board of Directors

Dear ARC Friends and Members,

There is a growing sense of excitement of being able to sing again together in person in January 2022! Though our experience will be different, we will once again join to make music! I know we will all adjust to how this looks, just like we have navigated the changes over the past 20 months. One thing that ARC has done well over the years is navigate and manage changes, evolve, and emerge as a rich musical community.

In January, we will experience a “changing of the guard” as Reema Fanning, Associate Director and Principal Choreographer and Michelle Kotelko, Associate Director and Principle Director will both be stepping down. Both have shared personal circumstances that resulted in their decisions. As much as we would love for each of them to remain with our choirs for many years to come, putting their health and family first is understandable and commendable.

In addition, Brian Bowman, ARC Founder and Artistic Director has announced his retirement as Artistic Director effective June 30, 2022. He will remain with us during the winter session as we re-launch in person rehearsals and prepare ARC for the future.

On behalf of the board, I would like to thank Brian, Michelle and Reema for the tremendous amount of time, effort, and love that each of you has put into this organization. All three of you have enriched this organization with your passion and talent. We will miss you all dearly and wish you the best in the future.

This next change for ARC is certainly a big one, but it gives us an equally big opportunity to grow. I have great hope for ARC's potential as we emerge out of the difficult times that COVID presented along with the changes ahead for our Artistic Team.

ARC has gone through many changes throughout the past 20 years. Talented people have come and gone, always leaving a positive influence for the organization to grow from. As we all made our way through this pandemic, ARC's staff and volunteers were able to gain valuable skills that will help us stay strong going forward.

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Awakening, nurturing and sharing the magic of voices in harmony!



The Board will be taking many steps in the upcoming months to ensure the stability of our organization. We have a strategic planning session scheduled in January where we will establish the goals we need to achieve, and the steps needed to ensure their success.

We will be establishing search criteria for the hiring of our next Artistic Director. Choosing the right person to fill this role will be essential for the future of our choirs and not something that will be taken lightly. The person we hope to hire will be someone who embodies the qualities of our organization and has a passion for choral music, much like the members who are a part of it.

While working on all of this behind the scenes, the Board has full confidence that Torri Airhart will creatively, enthusiastically, and effectively lead the re-launch of our choirs during this upcoming semester as Principal Director. His devotion for music has already been felt from his brief experiences with us so far, and to have him working with us full time will be an honour and a treat.

The Board will be sure to keep all of you updated as we forge ahead and establish ARC's future. We will strive to remain connected and transparent with our members during this time as well. We will all work together to imagine, create, establish, and step into the next chapter of the ARC story.

Expect to see surveys for your input on ARC's future. If there is anything you would like to share with us that could be of assistance, feel free to email info@archoirs.org.

If you would like to be even more involved, this is a great time to volunteer for the board or one of our committees. More voices will help us immensely as we strategically build the future of ARC. For opportunities to become involved, please email your interest to info@archoirs.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carleen Smith'.

Carleen Smith
President
ARC Board of Directors