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**Chase Maggiano to become next Executive Director of The Washington Chorus
at beginning of 2016-17 Concert Season**

Washington (DC) - The Board of Trustees of The Washington Chorus (TWC) today announced the appointment of Chase Maggiano as Executive Director, following an extensive national search. Mr. Maggiano's leadership of the Grammy Award-winning chorus will be effective July 1, 2016. Mr. Maggiano is currently Executive Director of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC (GMCW). He will succeed Dianne Peterson, who announced last June that she would retire from TWC at the end of the 2015-2016 season. Dianne has served as the Chorus' Executive Director for over 30 years and is a national leader in choral music management and the longest-serving chief administrator of a major American chorus.

Speaking on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Chorus, Board Chairman Chris Denby said, "TWC is thrilled to welcome Chase to the Executive Director role. Although he has very big shoes to fill, Chase will bring tremendous leadership skills, energy, and passion to the organization. The entire Board joins me in welcoming him warmly to The Washington Chorus family."

In accepting the appointment, Mr. Maggiano said, "I am honored to be joining The Washington Chorus family and energized to return to my classical roots. TWC's reputation for presenting challenging and new repertoire is a prized asset within the bountiful choral scene in Washington. I hope to honor and build on the legacy of my friend and mentor, Dianne, whose 30 years of dedication have brought TWC to national and international acclaim. As we celebrate Julian Wachner's final season with TWC, we are well poised to find the next great maestro/a for Washington."

In welcoming him, Music Director Julian Wachner said, "I could not be happier to welcome Chase to TWC and look forward to working with him during my 10th season. His vision, leadership, and passion will be an asset to our organization."

Dianne Peterson commented, "I embrace the Board's selection for our next executive director, and am proud to welcome my friend and colleague Chase into this amazing organization. He has the right combination of energy, drive, innate skills, and an engaging personality. I am confident Chase will play a major role in leading TWC into its next chapter."

"Chase is a strong, creative leader whose music background and entrepreneurial business experience make him a natural successor to the brilliant, respected Dianne Peterson," said Jenny Bilfield, President & CEO, Washington Performing Arts, and member of the Search Committee. "His incisive, strategic thinking impressed me when we first met several years ago, and I know The Washington Chorus will continue to thrive under his leadership!"

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About Chase Maggiano

Chase Maggiano is Executive Director of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC (GMCW). As one of the largest-budget choruses in the country, GMCW has flourished under Chase's leadership and vision. Chase nearly doubled community-programming activities, garnered international press attention, increased fundraising with the organization's first multi-year giving program, and resolved lingering debt issues. During his tenure, GMCW completed a national search resulting in the appointment of Dr. Thea Kano as Artistic Director, who was previously Associate Conductor for TWC from 2004-2009. Chase has helped bring GMCW to a new position of prominence by expanding the inclusivity of the mission and programming, creating the first LGBTQ and allied youth chorus in Washington, and forging relationships with local and international presenters, including an historic concert tour of Cuba. Prior to joining GMCW, Chase served in arts education and fundraising roles at the Washington Performing Arts. Prior to his arts management career, Chase was Director of Business Development for a fast-growing tech company outside of Washington. Growing up locally as a classically trained violinist, Chase has combined his lifelong dedication to music and entrepreneurial spirit to ensure that more art happens in Washington. Chase remains an avid violinist and shares his perspective on the business of art at www.chasingtheheart.com.

About The Washington Chorus

The Washington Chorus (TWC), under the direction of Julian Wachner, is now in its 55th season. The Chorus is noted for its critically-acclaimed performances and recordings of the entire range of the choral repertoire. A three-time nominated and two-time Grammy Award-winner, TWC is widely recognized as a cultural leader in the Washington area. The Chorus presents an annual subscription series at the Kennedy Center, the Music Center at Strathmore, and other major venues throughout the Washington, D.C. area. TWC is proud to have sung with the NSO in more than 250 performances, under the direction of many of the world's greatest conductors. 2015-2016 season highlights include Vaughan Williams's *A Sea Symphony*, five *Candlelight Christmas* concerts, the music of acclaimed composer Luna Pearl Woolf in the sixth installment of TWC's award-winning series *New Music for a New Age*, a program of the French masters that includes Duruflé's *Requiem*, and guest appearances with the National Symphony Orchestra. TWC is committed to the performance of contemporary music and was proud to receive Chorus America's 2011 ASCAP Alice Parker Award, recognizing a chorus programming significant, recently-composed music that expands the mission of the chorus and challenges the chorus' audience in a new way. Other awards include the 2000 Grammy Award for "Best Choral Performance" for the live-performance recording of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*. As a leader in its commitment to community, the Chorus offers numerous educational and outreach programs, including the Junior Washington Chorus for teens ages 16–18, the *Side-by-Side* High School Program (now in its 24th year), Conductor in the Classroom, and Outreach Singers (presenting free concerts for groups who may not be able to attend concerts in the traditional concert hall setting). For further information about TWC, concerts, and recordings, visit thewashingtonchorus.org.