

San Francisco Girls Chorus

SAN FRANCISCO GIRLS CHORUS APPOINTS J. ANDREW BRADFORD AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



San Francisco, CA - March 7, 2017 – The San Francisco Girls Chorus (SFGC) and Board President, Shelton Ensley, today announced the appointment of J. Andrew Bradford as Executive Director. Bradford, who joins SFGC on March 13, will serve as chief executive officer of the entire organization, operating the San Francisco Girls Chorus, Chorus School, and the Kanbar Performing Arts Center.

As Executive Director, Bradford will oversee all aspects of SFGC’s operations; represent the Chorus in the Bay Area as well as nationally and internationally; and work collaboratively with Artistic Director Lisa Bielawa and Music Director Valérie Sainte-Agathe to establish artistic direction for the organization. Bradford succeeds Melanie Smith who stepped down at the end of June 2016 and takes over from interim Executive Director Beth Schecter.

“It is with great excitement that we welcome Andrew Bradford as our next executive director,” stated Board President Shelton Ensley. “I would like to thank the members of our search committee for finding someone with such remarkable energy, vision and enthusiasm to support the incredible work and accomplishments of our artistic team. Andrew brings all of that and much, much more. We are thrilled that he is joining the team and look forward to his leadership as we enter the next chapter in our history.”

“Andrew is dynamic, musically savvy and brimming with ideas and insights about the future of the field and the role of the San Francisco Girls Chorus in that future,” said Artistic Director Lisa Bielawa. “He brings an expansive new energy to our team and both Valérie and I celebrate this opportunity to work alongside him as we chart new territory together.”

“I am honored and delighted to join this incredible organization,” said Bradford. “For decades, the San Francisco Girls Chorus has been a cultural gem in the Bay Area arts community, renowned for its commitment to excellence in performance and education. I look forward to working closely with Lisa, Valérie, and the entire Board and staff as we build on SFGC’s already remarkable record of achievement and take the Chorus

to new heights.”

A New York native, Bradford brings a wealth of experience in arts management and comes to SFGC from the Atherton-based chamber music festival, Music@Menlo, where he has served as Director of Development. Prior to Music@Menlo, Bradford served as Executive Director of the Colorado Music Festival & Center for Musical Arts in Boulder, and Executive Director of the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra in Chicago. He has also worked in fundraising, marketing, and operations for the Kennedy Center, National Symphony Orchestra, Aspen Music Festival, Houston Symphony, and San Francisco Classical Voice.

Trained as a cellist, Bradford holds a bachelor’s degree from the New England Conservatory of Music and a master’s degree from the University of Michigan, where he was recipient of a graduate fellowship and studied music and management. He is also a graduate of the prestigious Arts Management Fellowship program at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Committed to volunteer service, Bradford currently serves on the Board of Directors of the California Music Center/Irving M. Klein International String Competition, and is a former Board member of the Scientific and Cultural Collaborative (Denver, CO) and the Illinois Council of Orchestras.

Following an historic 37th anniversary season, the San Francisco Girls Chorus has furthered its status as an internationally celebrated professional choral ensemble with its performance for the NY PHIL Biennial Festival of new music in June 2016. Under the artistic direction of Lisa Bielawa and Valérie Sainte-Agathe, the SFGC has been called “impressive” by *The New York Times* and “irresistible” by the *San Jose Mercury News*. Past seasons have included such prestigious performances as the Inauguration of President Barack Obama and in 2010, the ensemble won its fourth and fifth GRAMMY Awards for Mahler’s Eighth Symphony with Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony. In 2013 it toured to Berlin, Germany, to participate in Artistic Director Lisa Bielawa’s large-scale spatial symphony, Tempelhof Broadcast, and performed as part of the San Francisco iteration of the ambitious piece, Crissy Broadcast, in October 2013. Under the direction of Music Director and Principal Conductor Valérie Sainte-Agathe, SFGC performs regularly with the San Francisco Symphony and San Francisco Opera, and has appeared with many other renowned cultural organizations including the KRONOS Quartet, Simon Bolivar Orchestra, New Century Chamber Orchestra, ODC/Dance, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, the Oregon Bach Festival, and the Tokyo Philharmonic. In April 2017, the Chorus will perform with The Knights orchestra at the SHIFT Festival of American Orchestras at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. In 2018, the Chorus will be presented with the Philip Glass Ensemble at New York’s Carnegie Hall and at Davies Symphony Hall in SF.

Press photos are available at <http://sfgirlschorus.org/images-for-press/> or by contacting the press contacts below.

PHOTO CREDITS

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