



The Power of Harmony.

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CONTACT: Craig Popkess
214/526-3214, X106
cpopkess@turtlecreek.org

Turtle Creek Chorale Announces New Artistic Director Jonathan Palant Assumes Position on August 1st

DALLAS – March 27, 2007 – Mr. Peter Anderson, Board Chair of the Turtle Creek Chorale, announced today that Mr. Jonathan Palant will become the new Artistic Director of the organization on August 1, 2007. The announcement came immediately after Mr. Palant's selection was conveyed to the Chorale membership.

Mr. Palant succeeds Dr. Timothy Seelig, who will retire at the end of this season.

Co-Chairmen of the Artistic Director Search Committee, Doug Mitchell, Chorale President, and David Cegelski, Board Member, submitted the Chorale's evaluations of the final three candidates to the Board of Directors following a national search which concluded this past weekend with each candidate's audition with the full Chorale.

Commenting on his selection, Mr. Palant stated, "I am both humbled and thrilled to have been named the next Artistic Director of the Turtle Creek Chorale. I look forward to continuing the level of excellence demonstrated by the Chorale over its 27-year history. I have the utmost respect for the Chorale's membership and wholeheartedly believe in its mission statement. I also look forward to becoming an active member of the greater Dallas arts community. With very large shoes to fill and with high aspirations, I promise to give my all to this organization and to the City of Dallas."

Mr. Anderson commented on the selection, saying, "The process produced three superb candidates, and the Chorale has found the perfect fit. Jonathan Palant is the most wonderful choice for this position, and Dallas is going to be very proud of our selection."

Mr. Mitchell commented, "The membership was impressed with all three finalists and enjoyed rehearsing with each of them. They connected with Jonathan's warmth and

humor, his passion for making music and his vision to continue and expand the Chorale's mission."

Mr. Cegelski stated, "I believe Jonathan will be an excellent match for the TCC. He will bring new life, ideas, and creativity that ensures the artistic legacy and excellence will continue to flourish under his leadership. His vision for expanded programs, intergenerational concerts, and further outreach to the Dallas community are an excellent match to our mission to educate, entertain, unite, and uplift."

The search process began last Fall and attracted candidates from across the United States. The six-month selection process included several interviews, video/DVD conducting examples, a 2007-08 Season Design Proposal, and culminated in the auditions with the singing members last weekend.

Mr. Palant is currently Adjunct Assistant Professor of Choral Music at Madonna University in Livonia, Michigan, and past conductor of the Madonna Chorale. He is a Graduate Assistant at Michigan State University in East Lansing, where he conducts the Collegiate Choir and the Men's Glee Club of Michigan State. This May, Mr. Palant will receive a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting at Michigan State University. His Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting was received from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and his Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education is from the University of Michigan.

Mr. Palant has previously conducted the Roxborough Community Men's Chorus and the Spruce Street Singers in Philadelphia, was assistant director of the Cleveland Choral Arts Society, and was a member of the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus. He has led choirs on tours of Denmark, Sweden, England and Puerto Rico.

Mr. Palant is an accomplished composer, director, and musical arranger. Both the University School in Cleveland and the Michigan State University Men's Glee Club have performed his works. Alliance Music is set to release his arrangement of the Chinese folk song *Da Hai Ah, Gu Siang* by Wang Li-Ping later this year.

A Boston native, Mr. Palant has a long history in music, having started as a percussionist with the Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra, Boston University

Tanglewood Institute, and the Young Artist Orchestra. He has performed under the direction of Leonard Bernstein, Leonard Slatkin, Seiji Ozawa, Larry Radcliffe, and David Hoose.

He has taught at the secondary level in California and Ohio. His concert band at San Pasqual High School in Escondido, CA, was featured in the Dreamworks/SKG film, *Almost Famous*.

Mr. Palant continues to be active in the music community and profession as a State Chairman for the American Choral Directors Association in Michigan. He is also a member of the College Music Society, Intercollegiate Men's Choruses, and MENC, The National Association for Music Education.

Mr. Palant will assume the duties of Artistic Director from Dr. Seelig who is concluding his 20th season this summer with special concerts on June 22, 24 and July 8. Dr. Seelig will be the honored guest of a Roast and Toast at the Lakewood Theatre on July 7, the day prior to his *Fond Farewell* concert at the Meyerson Symphony Center.

The Turtle Creek Chorale is celebrating 27 years as the most-beloved men's community chorus in America, with 36 Compact Disc releases. The Chorale's 200+ members volunteer more than 100,000 hours annually to community service and performances. Community partners include WFAA, the Dallas Morning News, SRJ Marketing, American Airlines, Gil's Elegant Catering, and the Hilton Park Cities. In 2005, the Chorale was the subject of an award-winning documentary, *The Power of Harmony*.

Available for Interview on this subject:

Peter M. Anderson, Chairman of the Board of Directors

Doug Mitchell, President of the Turtle Creek Chorale and Co-Chair of
The Artistic Director Search Committee

David Cegelski, Board Member and Co-Chair of
The Artistic Director Search Committee

To interview Mr. Palant, please contact Craig Popkess or Peter Anderson.

More information on the Chorale is available at:
www.turtlecreek.org

1 Attachment: Photo of Jonathan Palant

