



Singing City Artistic & Music Director Jeffrey Brillhart to Retire in June 2023

Philadelphia, PA (August 30, 2022) – Singing City announces that longtime Artistic & Music Director Jeffrey Brillhart will step down at the end of the 2022-23 season in June 2023.

Jeffrey was appointed the fourth Artistic and Music Director of Singing City in June 1999, having served as Associate Director in the 1998-99 season, when he worked closely with then Music Director Joseph Flummerfelt. Mr. Brillhart has provided artistic leadership for a rich program of concerts, educational instruction in local schools, and outreach to diverse communities. He directs the choir and oversees all aspects of Singing City's musical initiatives. During his tenure with Singing City the choir has traveled to Cuba, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Brazil, the Balkans, South Africa, and most recently, Mexico.

Under his leadership, the choir has presented more than three-hundred concerts, collaborating with The Philadelphia Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Black Pearl Orchestra, and Symphony in C and with such internationally renowned artists as Helmuth Rilling, Dave Brubeck, Nick Page, Moses Hogan, André Thomas, Anton Armstrong, Weston Noble, Rossen Milanov, and Melanie DeMore. In April 2007, he conducted Singing City with the Kronos Quartet at the Kimmel Center in the Philadelphia premiere of "Sun Rings," an oratorio commissioned by NASA. In November 2016, he was awarded the Elaine Brown Prize for Choral Excellence by the ACDA-PA. Singing City received the The Brazeal Wayne Dennard Award from Chorus America in June 2019, which "honors the life and achievements of educator, conductor, and arranger Brazeal Dennard by recognizing individuals or organizations whose work builds upon his commitment to diversity, inclusiveness, and furthering African-American and other diverse choral traditions through performance, research, or the creation of new compositions of significance." Later that year, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* named Singing City among the Best of Classical Music.

Executive Director Lauren Anderson commented, "Jeff's leadership of Singing City over these last 24 years took the choir's level of artistry to new heights while always remaining rooted in its mission of bringing diverse people together through the medium of choral music. The repertoire has been both exciting and meaningful, exposing people across Philadelphia and the world to a rich tapestry of composers, poets, and other artists. He has given so much to all of us and we wish him every happiness as he embarks on new adventures."

Reflecting on his retirement, Jeff said, "I am excited that this coincides with Singing City's 75th anniversary and that I'll be a part of making that celebration the glorious occasion it deserves to be. And I am excited that next spring will mark my 25th year with the choir, first as associate conductor and then as music and artistic director. I'm proud of the fact that in these past 24 years I have missed only one concert. So, what's next? I have several major projects I am working on at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian

Church, where I will celebrate 40 years in January 2023 as Director of Music and Fine Arts, and I will continue to teach at Yale. Beyond that, I look forward to more university residencies, something that I have started accepting over the past several years. I have a third book in the wings. I hope to resume composing, something that I have had no time for at all over these past 16 or so years. To that end, I'm proud to have contributed a piece in collaboration with one of our longest term members, Roz Ominsky, the librettist for the work.

Singer Peter Gabriel wrote that, 'From the pain comes the dream. From the dream comes the vision. From the vision comes the people. From the people comes the power. From the power comes the change.' Well, this has been Singing City's story from the very beginning. From the pain of racial discrimination, we have moved to the triumph of people of all ages, races, religions, and economic backgrounds coming together. The story is still being written. I'm proud to have been with you as one of the authors of that continuing story and I look forward to what will unfold in the years to come."

About Singing City

Philadelphia's Singing City was founded in 1948 by Dr. Elaine Brown as an integrated choir. The Choir was born out of the Fellowship House movement, and is deeply committed to social justice, equity, and using music as an instrument for social change. For over half a century, Singing City has been Philadelphia's premier avocational chorus, committed to bringing people of diverse races, creeds and backgrounds together under the common purpose of music making.

In addition to its deep commitment to inclusion and community building, Singing City has consistently achieved the highest levels of performance practice and artistry. The chorus has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Leningrad Philharmonic, and Israel Philharmonic, and has to its credit a number of critically acclaimed national and international concert tours and festival appearances. The 80-member strong chorus is led by Artistic & Music Director Jeffrey Brillhart and continues to fulfill its original mission, which today encompasses an educational program for youth, T-VOCE (Teen Voices of the City Ensemble), and programs for under-served populations.

Mission

Through Performance, Arts Education, and Fellowship, Singing City is a force for social impact, bringing people together and lifting the human spirit through the artistry of choral music.

Vision

People throughout the Philadelphia region find fulfillment and inspiration through music, fellowship, and service to their community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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