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CANTIGAS WOMEN’S CHOIR READIES FOR FALL SEASON WITH DYNAMIC NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AT ITS HELM.

As she takes reins of Hudson County-based choir, Hannah Carr pledges to continue its long-standing tradition of musical excellence, international repertoire, and community service.

HUDSON COUNTY, N.J. – July 18, 2018. For 16 years, Joan Isaacs Litman led Cantigas Women’s Choir as it pursued its mission of exploring cross-cultural understanding and community diversity through singing music from around the world. Upon Litman’s retirement, the choir is pleased to announce that Hannah Carr, DMA candidate in conducting at Rutgers Mason Gross School of Music, will take over as Artistic Director.

Originally from Ireland, Carr holds an MM in conducting from Yale University’s institute of Sacred Music, an Advanced Diploma from the Liszt Academy in Hungary, and a BaA in composition from Trinity College Dublin. The award-winning Carr has considerable experience conducting both youth and adult choirs and presently teaches undergraduate conducting and directs The University Choir, a 100-voice mixed ensemble, at Rutgers Mason Gross.

“With Cantigas, I have found a home in both the love of world and folk repertoire as well as the emphasis on culture and community through its various outreach initiatives and concerts,” Carr says. In addition to its winter and spring concerts in Hoboken and Jersey City, Cantigas regularly performs for the inmates at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women in Clinton, New Jersey; with residents of the Cussack and Alaris Homes in Jersey City; and on behalf of many Hudson County nonprofit organizations supporting the underserved.

“If I could have started the choir myself, it would be one that does interesting world music repertoire, that honors all music as something that reaches culturally beyond the page into life around us, and one that fosters a great sense of community,” Carr continues, adding that this is what she sees in Cantigas and that she is “thrilled and honored” to have taken the baton.

Litman, who founded the choir in the fall of 2002, believes Carr is a great choice as her successor, observing, “Hannah is widely recognized for her choral artistry and deep commitment to world music. I believe her vision, passion, and true spirit of inclusion can help bring the choir to the next level.”

Choir members, who represent a wide range of ethnicities, professions, backgrounds, and ages, with members from 13 to 75 years old, are excitedly preparing for their new season, which begins in September. “We are thrilled to explore new repertoire with Ms. Carr.” says Anna Noyes, Alto. “Her enthusiasm for diverse music and how it connects people compliments what Cantigas is at its core. Long-time fans and newcomers alike will enjoy what we offer in the coming season.”

For more information about Cantigas Women’s Choir and its upcoming performances, please visit www.cantigas.net. The choir practices on Tuesday evenings in Hoboken. Anyone interested in joining should contact Hannah Carr at hannahcarrconductor@gmail.com.

Cantigas Official Web Site: www.cantigas.net

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