



ST. MICHAEL'S CHOIR SCHOOL

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Strong Tradition of Faith & Leadership Continues at St. Michael's Choir School Staff Changes Reflect Ongoing Commitment to Excellence in Education

TORONTO (July 30, 2009) – St. Michael's Choir School (SMCS) is pleased to report some exciting personnel changes to the leadership of the long-standing institution that has served the faith community since 1937.

Fr. John-Mark Missio, Director of the Choir School since 2004, has been asked by Archbishop Thomas Collins to further his education and obtain a doctoral degree with the intention of serving as a liturgy resource to the Archdiocese of Toronto upon his return. He is currently pursuing studies at the Liturgical Institute of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois. The Archbishop has extended his gratitude to Fr. Missio for his dedicated service to SMCS.

Fr. Peter Tammearu has been appointed the Rector of the Choir School. He holds a doctorate in music, and has taught at the Choir School, the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto and at The Florida State University. The Rector will provide a pastoral and musical presence in the school, focusing the extraordinary talents and resources of the students and staff of St. Michael's Choir School on the challenging mission of serving the liturgical needs of the Cathedral and of preparing young men for roles of leadership in the Catholic community.

Ms. Katheryn Trainor has been appointed Administrative Director of SMCS and will manage the business affairs of the institution. The Administrative Director will guide and oversee the critical areas of governance, financial management and human resources in addition to community and public relations. Ms. Trainor, until this appointment, served as Business Manager for SMCS since 2007.

The Choir School also extends its gratitude to departing organist Christopher Ku, who is pursuing a doctorate in Musicology at Oxford University in England. Mr. Ku has faithfully served the Choir School since 2003. We welcome William O'Meara as new Cathedral Organist upon Christopher's departure in September.

Mr. O'Meara has had a distinguished career in Toronto as a performer and liturgical musician, and will now serve as organist at the principal liturgies and major celebrations of St. Michael's Cathedral. He will also serve as the principal accompanist for the choral activities of the school, when the choirs perform outside the Cathedral, in concerts, tours, and recordings. In service to the Archdiocese of Toronto, and to the community in general, the Cathedral Organist is also a steward of the Church's treasury of sacred music. By teaching advanced organ pupils at the Choir School, he will serve to preserve and transmit the traditions which have been at the heart of the Choir School's vocation for more than 70 years.