



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HAMILTON CHILDREN'S CHOIR ANNOUNCES NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Melanie Tellez appointed Artistic Director of Hamilton Children's Choir

HAMILTON, ON, JUNE 29, 2022 - The Board of Directors of Hamilton Children's Choir is thrilled to announce that after conducting an international search, Melanie Tellez has been appointed HCC Artistic Director, effective July 1, 2022. Applications were received from choral conducting experts in Canada, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, and the United States.

A graduate of the University of Alberta (Master of Music in Choral Conducting), Tellez has been a member of HCC's artistic team since 2010. Appointed Assistant Artistic Director in 2015, she has become one of the primary architects of HCC's internationally renowned pedagogical and performance model.

Upon learning of her appointment, Tellez remarked, "I am thrilled and grateful to lead this new chapter in HCC's story. I believe that the future of HCC's success lies in reaching toward and supporting young singers of all kinds within our community. To me, this means that our programming can provide achievement and artistry along with intentional paths toward connection, raising new and underserved voices. I believe that Hamilton offers a wealth of organizations, collectives, and populations in our city that remain unexplored for artistic and cultural collaboration. I am excited to steer an HCC which welcomes young people to grow together, while they celebrate being themselves."

Originally from Nova Scotia, Melanie Tellez is highly regarded across the country as an inspiring and energetic choral artist and music educator specializing in adolescent vocal pedagogy and performance. Since settling in



Ontario, Tellez has made an impact working with leading organizations such as: McMaster University; Toronto Children's Chorus; High Park Choirs of Toronto (now Young Voices Toronto); Chorus Niagara Children's Choir, and Hillfield Strathallan College.

Melanie Tellez takes over from Zimfira Poloz who served as AD for almost 20 years. "This is a great day for Hamilton Children's Choir," said Poloz. "Melanie is an excellent choice because she offers high-calibre musicianship, a nuanced and developed pedagogical skill set, an open, nurturing personality, as well as the abundant positive energy the HCC's Artistic Director needs."

"As Hamilton Children's Choir prepares for its upcoming 2022-2023 season, we are off to a great start with Melanie's appointment," said Patricia LeClair, HCC's Executive Director. "While our organization has managed to overcome the limitations the pandemic has presented us these past two years, we are very much looking forward to the next season when we will be able to operate as the close-knit community we enjoyed pre-COVID, under the leadership of someone as accomplished and passionate as Melanie Tellez."

ABOUT HAMILTON CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Hamilton Children's Choir is a community-based children's choral music education program that welcomes any young person who has a love of singing.

In its 48th year of choral artistry, Hamilton Children's Choir offers seven progressive choral education and performance programs currently enjoyed by almost 200 young singers between the ages of 4 and 24.

Each choir program is purposefully designed to foster creative expression, personal development, and social growth by providing young singers with exceptional vocal music instruction, music theory, performances and touring opportunities.

HCC is dedicated to creating life-changing musical experiences, exploring fresh approaches to choral music that reduce barriers, strengthening the choral artform and demonstrating the philosophy that 'excellence has no age'.

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