

*Our Mission:*

The Gateway Men's Chorus affirms and promotes gay culture and acceptance through excellence in musical performance and education.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Robert Stumpf Named Next Gateway Men's Chorus Artistic Director**  
*Minneapolis-Based Conductor Will Assume New Role in St. Louis August 1, 2015*

St. Louis (May 27, 2015) – St. Louis's Gateway Men's Chorus announces today that Robert Stumpf will succeed Al Fischer as the organization's next Artistic Director, effective August 1, 2015. Stumpf currently serves as the Assistant Conductor for the Minneapolis-based Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus. Outgoing Artistic Director Al Fischer leaves GMC after nine years of service to GMC as he prepares for a move to Yakima, Washington, where he has taken a full time teaching job, and will be joining his husband Charlie Robin, who was recently named CEO of the Capitol Theatre.



Incoming Artistic Director Robert Stumpf has gained extensive experience throughout his career, earning his master's degree in conducting from Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois. Prior to the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, he taught at the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois, where he was Director of Bands, conducted the Singing Saints, and taught courses in music theory, music education, and applied music. He has created and led ensembles across the Midwest, and has been recognized for his success in building both the size of his ensembles and the size of his audience with a combination of quality instruction and inventive selection of repertoire.

Professor Stumpf was selected through a national search which began in January, 2015. "We are extremely excited that a conductor with Robert's depth of experience, enthusiasm, and skills at the podium will be leading the artistic vision of the Gateway Men's Chorus as we move into the final two years of our current strategic plan," commented board president Joe Gfaller. "This transition enables the chorus to build on the strengths that Al Fischer helped to develop during his tenure, while also positioning us for exciting new growth in the years to come."

Stumpf added, "I'm excited to bring a new perspective as well as learn from the wonderful guys already here. I'm looking forward to building on the foundation laid here in St. Louis and being a part of this great organization."

Several informal cocktail events will be planned at the homes of GMC donors to welcome Stumpf to the St. Louis community during the month of August. For more information on joining GMC for one of these small parties, please contact Executive Director, Tori Gale, at 314-287-5669 or [exec.dir@gmcstl.org](mailto:exec.dir@gmcstl.org). Stumpf's first concert with GMC will be *Make the Yuletide Gay*, on December 11 and 12, 2015. Tickets will be available for purchase in the fall.

[About the Gateway Men's Chorus](#)

Since April 1988, the Gateway Men's Chorus has been performing to the delight of thousands throughout the St. Louis region with the mission of affirming and promoting gay culture. In 2012, Gateway Men's Chorus was awarded the Focus St. Louis "What's Right With The Region" award for improving racial equality and social justice. Since its inception, the Chorus has grown to approximately 100 members and has become one of the most successful male choral arts organizations in St. Louis both in musical repertoire and longevity.

The mission of Gateway Men's Chorus is to affirm and promote gay culture and acceptance through excellence in musical performance and education. The organization furthers this mission by producing beautiful male choral music and presenting a positive image of gay men. The Gateway Men's Chorus annually produces a three-concert season, highlighting a diverse blend of musical styles and entertaining performances. The organization also participates in a large number and wide range of special events and community outreach activities throughout the year. The group is open to singers of all backgrounds who sing within male vocal registers.

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