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**MUSIC OF THE BAROQUE ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF ANDREW MEGILL
AS CHORUS DIRECTOR; CO-PRINCIPAL TRUMPET CHARLES GEYER TO RETIRE**

CHICAGO, May 5—Music of the Baroque today announced the selection of Andrew Megill as the organization's new chorus director.

Professor of Conducting and Director of Choral Studies at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), Megill is one of the most sought-after choral directors in the country today, leading some of North America's finest professional vocal ensembles, including the Montreal Symphony Orchestra Chorus and the Carmel Bach Festival Chorale. Megill said of his appointment, "I'm thrilled to join the Music of the Baroque family, and to become a part of its long legacy of musical excellence. I am excited to collaborate with the singers in the MOB Chorus, who, like their counterparts in the orchestra, are extraordinary musicians and artists, and be a part of a such a storied organization committed to exploring the dramatic energy and spiritual depths of the greatest masterpieces of the Baroque (and beyond!)."

Dame Jane Glover, Music of the Baroque's music director, commented, "Andrew Megill's reputation as a choir trainer, across the United States and indeed beyond, is legendary: he understands voices and how to combine them, and he is a formidable musician. He and I have in the past collaborated on other projects, and I could not be more delighted now to welcome him to the MOB team."

Andrew Megill's appointment as chorus director comes after an extensive search following the 2019 retirement of William Jon Gray after nine years in the role. In addition to

preparing the chorus, Megill will also curate and conduct Music of the Baroque's annual holiday brass and choral program in December, having made his conducting debut with the ensemble in these concerts last season.

Music of the Baroque also announced the retirement of Charles Geyer, who has served as the organization's co-principal trumpet alongside his wife, Barbara Butler, since 1975. "Charlie has been a part of Music of the Baroque, almost unbelievably, for nearly half a century," Glover remarked. "Of course he has earned his retirement! But we will greatly miss his pivotal and stylish contributions to our specialized sound, the wisdom of his experience, and his winning personality." "The Brothers Haydn" on May 8 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts and May 9 at the Harris Theater downtown mark Geyer's final appearances with the ensemble. For more information about these concerts, visit baroque.org/brothershaydn.

In addition to Music of the Baroque, Geyer's incredible career includes the positions of principal trumpet with Lyric Opera Chicago, the Houston Symphony and co-principal trumpet of the Grand Teton Music Festival. He was a member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra trumpet section for 12 seasons, and has also held professorships at the Eastman School of Music and Northwestern University. He is currently Professor of Trumpet at Rice University.

About Music of the Baroque

Under the direction of internationally acclaimed British conductor Dame Jane Glover Music of the Baroque occupies a special place in the rich cultural life of Chicago. Long recognized as one of the region's top classical groups, Music of the Baroque's professional chorus and orchestra is one of the leading ensembles in the country devoted to the performance of 18th-century works. The ensemble recently announced details of its 52nd season, which includes Handel's final oratorio, *Jephtha*; Bach's St. Matthew Passion; pianist Gabriela Montero; guest conductor Patrick Dupré Quigley; and more.

Over the past five decades, Music of the Baroque has presented premiere performances of many early masterpieces, including Monteverdi's operas and 1610 Vespers, Georg Philipp Telemann's *Day of Judgment*, Mozart's *Idomeneo* and numerous Handel operas and oratorios. The ensemble has drawn particular praise throughout its history for its performances of the major

choral and orchestral works of J. S. Bach and Handel, Mozart, and Haydn.

Opera News calls Music of the Baroque “one of Chicago’s musical glories” and the *Chicago Sun-Times* writes, “Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra may be the big guys on the local classical music scene, but in terms of sheer quality of performance...Music of the Baroque inhabits the same stratosphere.”

Music of the Baroque draws audiences from across the Chicago metropolitan area, performing regularly at the Harris Theater in Millennium Park in downtown Chicago and the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, as well as at intimate Chicago and suburban churches. Listeners across the country enjoy the work of Music of the Baroque through radio broadcasts and recordings on 98.7WFMT Radio.

Through its "Strong Voices" program, Music of the Baroque conducts arts education to support and enhance music education programs at Chicago public high schools. Music of the Baroque is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. For more information about Music of Baroque, visit baroque.org.

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