

## **WALTER GRAHAM TO LEAD MASTERSINGERS**

The Palmetto Mastersingers are pleased to announce that Walter Graham, veteran Columbia choral conductor and theater performer, will become the new Artistic Director of the all-male chorus. Graham will replace Lillian Quackenbush, who is retiring after leading the Mastersingers for five years. Graham will begin his work with the Mastersingers effective November 1.

“I am honored and thrilled to have been named the new Artistic Director of the Palmetto Mastersingers,” Graham said. “The Mastersingers has a long, admirable tradition of performing outstanding choral music. I look forward to continuing this tradition while adding some new flare to the concerts! It brings me great joy to work with such a wonderful group of singers to entertain audiences across the Midlands and beyond.”

Graham currently serves as coordinator of visual and performing arts at Richland One School District. He holds bachelor of music and master of music: choral conducting degrees from the University of South Carolina. He has directed several school choruses, as well as directing and acting in area theaters. In 2016, he was selected as one of “Top Twenty Under 40” by The State Media Company as an outstanding young professional helping to build the Midlands.

The Palmetto Mastersingers have been entertaining audiences in Columbia, in South Carolina, nationally and internationally since 1981. Dr. Arpad Darazs, then on the music faculty of the University of South Carolina, organized the group with the idea that there should be an opportunity for men to continue presenting outstanding choral music after leaving the college environment. The Mastersingers have performed in the Notre Dame in Paris, St. Peter’s in the Vatican, St. Mark’s in Venice, St. Stephen’s in Budapest, and other venues in France, Germany, Italy, Russia, China, and Canada. The group is officially designated as “South Carolina’s Musical Ambassadors.”