

Read at the end of the rehearsal, Tuesday, 8/1/26.

Before we leave, I want to share an important decision with you. I have decided that the 2026–27 season will be my final season as conductor of the St. George Chamber Singers. I will continue through our concerts in May 2027, so this is not an immediate goodbye. We still have much beautiful music to make together.

This choir has meant a great deal to me— after more than three decades at Wheaton Conservatory, this musical rebirth that has been a gift from God, completely unexpected and undeserved. I am deeply grateful for your musicianship, commitment, and friendship.

I conducted my first choir in 1962 at age 19 and in April of 2027, I will turn 84. That means that I have plied my trade for roughly 65 years.... a tenure for which I am extremely grateful. Upon completion of this concert year, I will have exceeded the age at which my three most important mentors—Robert Shaw, Don V Moses, and Robert Fountain—ended their public conducting. So, I have only gratitude for the blessings of good health and the great music you have brought to me.

The board has been informed of my decision and is deliberating on the process of succession. Following academic tradition, I will have no role in choosing the next conductor. My hope is that the St. George Chamber Singers will remain a legacy of which I can be justly proud.

I wanted you to hear this from me now so that the transition can be thoughtful and orderly—and so that we can make our final season together one of which we will all be proud.

Blessings,
Paul Wiens
Conductor and Artistic Director