

President Gregory Dell'Omo and the
Rider University Board of Trustees
Rider University
Lawrenceville, NJ

February 1, 2017


Dear President Dell'Omo and Rider University Trustees:

On behalf of the American Choral Directors Association and our over 20,000 members throughout the United States, I am writing to express our appreciation for the current work and the legacy of Westminster Choir College of Rider University. Our Executive Committee and I as Executive Director of our Association appreciate this moment of discernment you are faced with as you oversee the health and welfare of your University. We are aware that you are dealing with important issues related to the future of Westminster Choir College, and to this end we would like to offer our support and affirmation of this significant institution.

Westminster Choir College remains an icon of choral leadership for the United States and the world. Choirs represent millions of engaged individuals who are active participants in the arts, and Westminster Choir College has been at the forefront of choral leadership throughout its existence, and in our estimation, it is as strong as ever. To my knowledge, there is no other institution of higher learning that has the term "Choir" in its name, which is one of the reasons that Westminster's earned and sustained reputation has such iconic importance. Westminster's historic buildings give testimony to the very history of the profession of choral music in the United States with names such as "Flummerfelt", "Williamson", and "Bernstein." Here in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at the National Headquarters of the American Choral Directors Association, we have pictures of these individuals on our walls, and our McMahan Choral Museum displays letters and photos of events that took place under the leadership of Westminster Choir College.

Please know of our support of your important decisions, but also please consider that choral music leadership in the United States and the world is an important niche you own and have been trustees for throughout generations. Like "Steinway" and "Carnegie Hall", in the world of music, "Westminster Choir College" has and remains a brand of excellence in our large choral world. We urge you to prioritize the importance of this work and legacy in your considerations and decisions.

Sincerely,



Tim Sharp, Executive Director
Mary Hopper, National President