



Indianapolis Children's Choir
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Ruth Dwyer to Retire from Indianapolis Children's Choir

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS – After 33 years of working devotedly as the Director of Education and recently as the Composer in Residence for the Indianapolis Children's Choir, Ruth E. Dwyer is retiring before the rehearsals begin for the 2021-2022 Concert Season.

"Ruth has been a wonderful educator and mentor for our singers and directors," said Joshua Pedde, Artistic Director. "The ICC celebrates Ruth's 33 years of impacting the lives of students and music educators not only throughout central Indiana but the United States. We are so grateful to Ruth and her dedication to the ICC's mission; her legacy will continue through our current directors. On behalf of the ICC, we wish Ruth much happiness as she begins her retirement, and we look forward to a successful Season."

Dwyer is internationally recognized as a treble and children's choir specialist and Kodály educator. She is celebrating nearly 30 years as the Founder and Artistic Director of the Columbus Indiana Children's Choir, a co-operative effort of the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Orchestra and the Indianapolis Children's Choir. Her ensembles have performed for the Indiana Music Educators Association (IMEA), the AOSA National Conference, in New York City's Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall, across North America, and throughout Spain and Central Europe. She has prepared ensembles for performances with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Butler Ballet, the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, Indianapolis Opera, and numerous other organizations.

"It has been a tremendous honor to be a teacher, conductor, composer, and friend of the Indianapolis Children's Choir and Columbus Indiana Children's Choir," Dwyer said. "I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to the ICC Staff and Board of Directors who so long ago saw the potential in a young enthusiastic conductor and music educator. My time with ICC has given me tremendous opportunities for which I am forever grateful. Through my experiences with the ICC, I have grown as a musician, a teacher, and a leader. ICC is not only a life-changing experience for our singers, but also, for all of us involved as staff, family, and volunteers."

Dwyer has received many accolades throughout the course of her career, including the Organization of American Kodály Educator's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Golden Baton Award, the IMEA Elementary Music Teacher of the Year, the Hoosier Musician Award, and the Indianapolis Public Schools' Rising Star award. She is an accomplished choral composer, arranger, and

editor of the Ruth Dwyer Choral Series with Colla Voce Music, LLC distributed by Canticle Distributing Company. Additionally, she has authored and published three curriculum books for the ICC and is a frequent guest author for the Hal Leonard choral textbooks series. Dwyer will continue to work as a contract musician and will be conducting at the 2022 ACDA Midwestern Conference, 2022 OAKE National Honor Choir, and the 2024 Texas International Choral Festival.

The ICC will host several farewell receptions throughout the season in Dwyer's honor. The first reception will be held on October 9, 2021, at Robert Parks United Methodist Church in Indianapolis at the conclusion of the *Simple Gifts* concert and the second will be held on December 19, 2021, at Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis at the conclusion of the *Sounds of the Season: Comfort and Joy* concert. Additionally, Dwyer will make a guest appearance with the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic in December and May. All family, friends, colleagues, singers, parents, alumni, and well-wishers are invited and welcome to attend the concerts and receptions.

The ICC Board of Directors and leadership team worked with Dwyer over the last year to prepare for her retirement, which includes the promotion of two current artistic staff members. Melissa Garcia will assume the direction of ICC's Kantorei choir, as well as continue to serve the Columbus Indiana Children's Choir as the director of all choirs. Leeann Starkey will now serve as Composer in Residence and director for ICC choirs, which will include Lyric choir beginning this season.

About the Indianapolis Children's Choir

Currently in its 36th season, the Indianapolis Children's Choir has grown to become one of the largest children's choirs in the world. Led by Artistic Director Joshua Pedde, the ICC serves more than 2,500 central Indiana children from ages 18 months through 18 years. The Indianapolis Children's Choir nurtures and inspires student achievement through quality music education and the pursuit of artistic excellence in choral music performance. To enroll a child, attend a concert, or make a financial donation in Ruth Dwyer's honor, visit icchoir.org or call 317.940.9640.

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