



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(February 1, 2017)

BRIAN A. SCHMIDT APPOINTED TO CHORAL POSITION AT BAYLOR

After an extensive national search, Baylor University and Dr. Gary Mortenson, Dean of the School of Music, have announced the appointment of Brian A. Schmidt, D.M.A., as Associate Professor of Choral Music. Dr. Schmidt holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota, and Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in Choral Conducting from the University of North Texas.

“The Baylor School of Music is delighted to welcome Dr. Brian Schmidt as the director of Baylor’s A Cappella Choir and Chamber Singers, and as a teacher of choral literature and conducting for both graduate and undergraduate music majors,” Dean Mortenson said. “Brian will work closely with Dr. Lynne Gackle, Director of Choral Activities, with choral faculty Stephen Gusukuma and Randall Bradley, and with our outstanding vocal studies division, to provide meaningful musical experiences for the four hundred students who sing in our choirs. Dr. Schmidt brings a wealth of professional and educational knowledge to this position. We eagerly anticipate the start of his tenure with us in August of 2017.”

As founder and artistic director of the South Dakota Chorale, Brian Schmidt has guided the ensemble to rapid growth and recognition, including the release of several commercial albums in collaboration with Grammy award-winning producer Blanton Alspaugh. At Duke Chapel, he is the founder and conductor of the Bach Cantata Series and has led the Duke Vespers Ensemble in performances at the 2016 Southern Division Convention of the American Choral Director’s Association (ACDA) and Boston Early Music Festival in 2013 and 2015.

“I have been so impressed by the amazing talent and outstanding character among Baylor’s faculty and students,” Dr. Schmidt said. “Among the faculty, there is an overwhelming desire to provide transformational educational experiences for the students. Among the students, I sense a genuine eagerness to become immersed in these experiences and rise to challenges. I have a deep passion for guiding musicians in the pursuit of excellence, and I am equally inspired by the opportunity to continually develop my own skills through working with such an amazing body of faculty and students. I am honored to build upon the remarkable history of the Baylor A Cappella Choir and Chamber Singers, and work with colleagues to cultivate future developments for the choral program at large.”

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BRIAN SCHMIDT/TR-1/DV