

The Compline Choir

Peter Hallock, Director

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THE COMPLINE CHOIR NAMES NEXT DIRECTOR

Seattle, Washington — Peter R. Hallock, Founder and Director of the Compline Choir since 1956, announces his retirement. Hallock, who will celebrate his 85th birthday in November, said that a recent car accident caused him to question the wisdom of driving to Seattle and back every Sunday night. The choir and its board of directors, acting on Hallock's recommendation, have named Jason Allen Anderson, age 32, as the group's next director. Anderson, a member of the Choir since 2004, is Associate for Liturgical Arts and Youth Formation at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Issaquah, Washington. He received his Doctor of Musical Arts in choral conducting degree from the University of Washington in 2007. His dissertation, "The Life and Works of Peter R. Hallock (b. 1924)," was the first academic study of Hallock's life and music.

Anderson begins as director immediately. However, Hallock will not be ending his involvement with the Choir entirely. He plans to lead the group on certain occasions and complete some recording projects. "My work is not done," he said, "It will just be taking on a different shape and form." When informed of Hallock's retirement, The Right Reverend Gregory H. Rickel, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, noted, "Dr. Hallock was the first lay person in the Episcopal Church to be given the title of Canon Precentor, which indicates his importance not only as a composer and musician, but also as an evangelist for Christ. His importance can never be fully expressed and we owe him our greatest debt and thanks for being the servant he has been to us all." Anderson, when informed of the Choir's decision to appoint him director, stated: "This is a life-transforming event for me. I am eternally grateful to Peter, the board, and Choir for entrusting me to continue the best traditions of the Choir and preserve the rich legacy of what Peter has created—musically and spiritually—for those who sing or attend Compline." Hallock responded, "I have complete confidence that Jason understands the ethos of Compline and has the musical and personal gifts to lead the Choir." Rickel also stated, "Compline is the most prevalent bridge between the Episcopal Church and this community and is a spiritual treasure even amongst those who cannot and do not find any other spiritual or religious connection in their lives."

ABOUT THE COMPLINE CHOIR:

For 53 years on Sunday evenings at 9:30 PM. a group of men have chanted Compline, the last monastic office of the day, at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Seattle, Washington. Compline has become something of a phenomenon, with upwards of 500 persons attending the service. Many in attendance are under the age of 35; thousands listen to the live 98.1 KING-FM radio broadcast or online via Podcasts. Other churches across the United States from Connecticut to Hawaii have begun their own Compline service. All members of the choir are volunteers. The Compline Choir is an independent registered non-profit organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Visit our website at www.complinechoir.org for more information.

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St. Mark's Cathedral ♦ 1245 10th Avenue East ♦ Seattle, Washington 98102 ♦ complinechoir.org

Founded in 1956 Services broadcast live on KING-FM 98.1