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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MLK Chorale Announces Search for New Director

Choral group honoring Dr. King's legacy seeks to regroup following pandemic hiatus

(CINCINNATI – March 7, 2022) – The Board of Cincinnati's Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition is pleased to announce that a search for a new director of the MLK Chorale has been launched. Like so many other choral organizations, the MLK Chorale made the tough decision to suspend activities as the Covid pandemic unfolded. "The time has come to rebuild the MLK Chorale, and we are seeking the right person to grow the Chorale and continue the tradition of choral excellence and commitment to the principles of Dr. King that have always been the hallmark of the group," muses MLK Coalition member Jenny Spring.

The MLK Chorale is a diverse, interracial, interfaith, intergenerational, inclusive community choral group founded and co-directed by Dr. Catherine Roma and Bishop Todd O'Neal in 1991. As a branch of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition, the Chorale's primary performance is on MLK Day at Music Hall. The Chorale sang for the ground-breaking of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in 2002, and for its dedication in 2004, as well as at community events honoring MLK Day, Emancipation Day, and Black History Month. The Chorale received 2 gold medals at the World Choir Games in 2012. Following Roma's and O'Neal's retirement, Steve Milloy (2014-2018) and Lois Shegog ((2019-2022) have served as directors.

Members are eager to return for MLK Day 2023 and hope to see the MLK Chorale grow. Current singers love singing with the Chorale and are enthusiastic about rebuilding the group. "I love to sing and especially enjoy singing with the MLK Chorale. It's been something that my loving mother and I did together. She sadly passed in 2021," shared Chorale member Nina Jackson. "Although my mother will not be with me, I've been fortunate to make several friends who I can continue to share in the experience with. There are wonderful people from many different ages, cultures, and religions. Together, we make beautiful music."

Members of the community who love to sing are encouraged to join the MLK Chorale. Members have a wide range of vocal singing experiences and abilities. Auditions are not needed for participation, but prior choral singing experience is highly recommended.

Click here for more position description: <u>MLK CHORALE DIRECTOR POSITION</u> <u>LISTING</u>