



Boyer College
of Music and Dance
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NEWS

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ALAN HARLER TO RETIRE AFTER 29 YEARS

January 22, 2010 -- Alan Harler, Laura H. Carnell Professor of Music, Chair of Choral Activities and Director of the Temple University Concert Choir, has announced he will retire at the end of the 2009-2010 academic year after teaching at Temple since 1981.

A strong advocate for new American music, Harler has served as Artistic Director of the [Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia](#) since 1988, during which time he has commissioned 43 new compositions. He is an active conductor outside of Philadelphia, having performed regularly at the Festival Casals in San Juan, Puerto Rico and the Aspen Choral Institute. He has given master classes and conducted performances in Taiwan and China under the sponsorship of the Taiwan Philharmonic Association.

"Alan is undoubtedly the driving force behind the success of Boyer's choral programs. His artistic vision, dedication to teaching and advocacy for excellence at the college and university are unparalleled. Although he will be greatly missed by his colleagues and students, his legacy will continue for years to come."

Harler has prepared choruses for many of the country's leading orchestras and conductors including Ricardo Muti, Charles Dutoit, Christoph Eschenbach, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Klaus Tennstedt, Zubin Mehta, Lorin Maazel, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, David Robertson and Max Rudolph.

He counts the teaching experience as one of the most important creative elements of his work. "One of the strongest characteristics of a good conductor is the ability to teach. You teach as you conduct. I'm really a teacher at heart," he says.

Harler is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including: Temple University's [Creative Achievement Award](#); the Michael Korn Founders Award for Development of the Professional Choral Art; an Honorary Lifetime Membership for Distinguished Contribution to Musical Life of Philadelphia given by the Musical Fund Society of Philadelphia; and, the Elaine Brown Award for Life-long Service to Choral Music, given by the Pennsylvania Division of the American Choral Director's Association.