

UW-Parkside Music Prof. heads choral directors

Kinchen named Wisconsin choral directors' president

University of Wisconsin-Parkside Music Professor and Director of Choral Activities Dr. James B. Kinchen Jr., is the new president of the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association (WCDA). He began his two-year term July 1, 2007, after serving two years as the organization's president-elect.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities at the university, Dr. Kinchen conducts the Voices of Parkside, the Parkside Chorale, the Parkside Jazz Ensemble, and the Master Singers, a group of university students and community singers from the Racine and Kenosha area. Auditions for the 2007-2008 Master Singers group will be held in Sept. 10, at 6 p.m.

A UW-Parkside faculty member since 1989, Dr. Kinchen received the university's Faculty Distinguished Service Award in 2006. He also received the university's highest teaching honor, the Stella Gray Teaching Excellence Award, in 2003.

Dr. Kinchen has conducted at Carnegie Hall in New York City on three memorable occasions. He made his debut there in April 1998. In 2004, he conducted a chorus of 190 singers from around the country in Gabriel Faure's "Requiem." He was back at Carnegie Hall on Mar. 20, 2006, to conduct singers from Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, New Jersey and Wisconsin in Vivaldi's "Gloria." He is the seventh conductor in the history of the Milwaukee Choristers, a community chorus founded in 1933. He has been the Choristers' music director since 1993.

In addition to WCDA, Dr. Kinchen also is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, the Music Educators National Conference, the International Choral Music Federation, Chorus America, National Collegiate Choral Organization, and is an Associate at the Black Center for Music Research.

The WCDA is a non-profit professional organization whose membership of more than 600 is composed of choral musicians from Wisconsin schools, colleges, universities, churches, community and professional groups, and the music industry.

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