

**Rebecca Renee Winnie** joined the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music faculty in the fall of 2016 and is charged with developing a comprehensive choral program. Previously, she was the Choir Director at Homestead High School in Mequon, Wisconsin and in three suburban Chicago communities where she directed the curricular choirs, co-curricular ensembles and musical theatre productions. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Choral and Instrumental Music Education and completed her Master's Degree in Choral Conducting at the same institution. Ms. Winnie has served the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association and the Wisconsin Music Educators Association in a variety of capacities including guest conducting, chairing special projects, serving as coordinator of Honor Choirs, creating state repertoire lists, writing articles, self-publishing performing editions of historical choral music, presenting state and division convention sessions, and serving on the Wisconsin Comprehensive Musicianship through Performance Committee which provides professional development to music educators. Ms. Winnie has been awarded the Civic Music Association of Milwaukee Certificate of Excellence in Choral Music Instruction, the Mequon-Thiensville Outstanding Educator Award, and the Herb Kohl Fellowship Award.

### **Why Music?**

As a teacher of music, I believe it is my mission to share the power, discipline, and joy of musical expression with students. In performing ensembles, powerful musical moments are experienced together as a community and these are different from those of a soloist – for the community can create something even more precious. Indeed, there is a unique synergistic strength in an ensemble – one where we become greater *together*. The development of musical skills and understandings; the teaching of performance discipline; the study of diverse choral music repertoire of the highest quality; the in-depth look at the wonder of the art; the connections with history, culture and humanity – all of these endeavors are enhanced and made more profound by the *community* of the ensemble. Though aesthetic education is most certainly present in the perfect beauty of mathematics and sciences, in the expressivity of the language arts, and in the complexity of human interaction in social structures, it is in the fine arts – and specifically for my students in the choral art experience – that we encounter a special aesthetic: the beauty, the joy, and power of individual voices coming together to create something ineffable.