FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO, DECEMBER 20, 2019 — Patricia Stanley, President of the Board of Directors of the Santa Fe Desert Chorale (SFDC), one of the nation’s premier professional vocal ensembles, announced today the appointment of Emma M. Marzen as Executive Director, effective January 16, 2020. She succeeds Janice L. Mayer who has served as the Chorale’s Executive Director since June of 2015. The Board of Directors is deeply grateful for Ms. Mayer’s leadership and dedication to SFDC over the past five years.

In making the announcement, Ms. Stanley stated, “We celebrate the homecoming of Emma Marzen as she returns to lead the Desert Chorale family. Having already contributed tremendously to the Chorale’s success, Emma knows its intricacies, is respected and fully supported by the Board, and understands the Chorale’s unique place in the Santa Fe community and arts economy of New Mexico. We are confident that under Emma’s leadership, the Chorale will continue to fulfill its mission ‘to excite, engage and inspire diverse audiences with the beauty and power of great choral music.’”

In accepting the appointment, Ms. Marzen remarked, “It is a true privilege to return to SFDC and take up the mantle of leadership for an organization so dear to my heart. As a lifelong choral singer, it is deeply fulfilling to support the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, a choral ensemble of the finest caliber and a beloved Santa Fe musical institution. I greatly look forward to working with the Board of Directors and Artistic Director Joshua Habermann to further the mission and vision of the Chorale.”

“I am thrilled to welcome Emma Marzen back to the Desert Chorale as Executive Director,” said Artistic Director Joshua Habermann. “Emma is a skilled administrator and a passionate advocate for our art form. I look forward very much to our collaboration.”

Emma M. Marzen currently serves as Board Relations Manager of the Santa Fe Opera, one of the world’s leading opera companies. In her previous role as Assistant Director of the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Emma was responsible for the coordination and execution of development, community engagement, operations, and programming initiatives. She was promoted to this role after less than two years as Box Office Manager and Community Liaison.

Emma holds a Certificate in Professional Fundraising from Boston University, and a Bachelor of Music in Music Business & Entertainment Industries from the University of Miami. While an undergraduate, she managed the Frost School of Music concert facilities and led the Frost School of Music’s student-run record label ‘Cane Records, garnering the 2016 Independent Music Award for Best Album Compilation with its release “For the Record.”

Emma is a professionally trained singer and a native of Baltimore, MD. She and her husband, Sean Johnson, a professional jazz musician and Director of Communications for New Mexico School for the Arts, co-founded and direct Mesa Creative Solutions, LLC, a media, web development, identity and marketing consulting outfit based in Santa Fe, NM.
THE MISSION OF THE SANTA FE DESERT CHORALE, ONE OF THE NATION’S PREMIER PROFESSIONAL VOCAL ENSEMBLES, IS TO EXCITE, ENGAGE AND INSPIRE DIVERSE AUDIENCES WITH THE BEAUTY AND POWER OF GREAT CHORAL MUSIC.

About the Santa Fe Desert Chorale:

Founded in 1982 by Lawrence “Larry” Bandfield, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale is one of the longest continually performing professional music organizations in New Mexico, as well as one of the most distinguished. In his review of the “American Voices” program, Scott Cantrell of The Dallas Morning News wrote “The variety certainly displayed the ensemble’s impressive versatility. Habermann consistently got vivid performances, introspective music elegantly colored and shaped, extrovert fare delivered with great pizzazz. Individual singers got lots of solo exposure.”

Now in his eleventh season, Artistic Director Joshua Habermann leads the Chorale in repertoire spanning seven centuries, from early polyphony to contemporary works. The composition of the Chorale is truly national in scope and the ensemble is recognized as one of the finest American chamber choirs. A recent highlight was an invitational appearance at the American Choral Directors Association National Conference, which was later broadcast by Minnesota Public Radio. In the 2017-2018 season, the Chorale toured to Chicago, Dallas, Fort Worth, Los Angeles, and Oklahoma City, and presented regular winter and summer seasons in New Mexico. Now in its 37th year, the Desert Chorale summer festival season is a centerpiece of the cultural life of Santa Fe, and among the nation’s most significant choral events. The Chorale’s first commercial release, The Road Home, launched at No. 3 on the Billboard Classical Chart following a sold-out CD Launch program in Santa Fe.

Throughout its history, the Chorale has maintained a commitment to give voice to music from Hispanic and Native American communities. Dedicated to advancing the composers of our time, the Chorale has commissioned 23 works by 19 composers; three-quarters of the composers commissioned have been American. In addition, another seven works have been given their world or American premieres by the Santa Fe Desert Chorale. The ensemble performs at historical sites in Santa Fe such as the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi and Loretto Chapel, as well as other venues throughout the Southwest.

The Desert Chorale prides itself on its strong relationships within the community of Northern New Mexico, and enjoys collaborations with the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, Museum of International Folk Art, Museum of Spanish Colonial Art, New Mexico History Museum, Performance Santa Fe, Santa Fe Botanical Garden, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Santa Fe Pro Musica, the Santa Fe Opera, and the Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus, among others.

Community Engagement programming partners the Chorale with other musical, artistic, social services, and educational organizations in Santa Fe and on tour. Other important goals include fostering the next generation of singers and arts administrators.

For more information, please visit desertchorale.org.