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**Cal Performances and  
Student Musical Activities at UC Berkeley announce  
Dr. Paul Flight,  
Director of UC Choral Ensembles**

**Beginning July 3, Dr. Flight will oversee eight student groups:  
Cal Chorale, Cal Jazz Choir, California Golden Overtones, Men's Octet,  
Noteworthy, Perfect Fifth, BareStage Productions, and UC Alumni Chorus**

**June 14, 2023 Berkeley**—Cal Performances and UC Berkeley's Student Musical Activities (SMA) announce the appointment of Dr. Paul Flight as the new Director of [UC Choral Ensembles \(UCCE\)](#) where he will oversee eight music groups: [Cal Chorale](#), [Cal Jazz Choir](#), [California Golden Overtones](#), [Men's Octet](#), [Noteworthy](#), [Perfect Fifth](#), [BareStage Productions](#), and [UC Alumni Chorus](#). UCCE is

part of SMA, the center for extracurricular music on the UC Berkeley campus (a subsidiary of Cal Performances) and also home to the [University of California Marching Band \(Cal Band\)](#) and [UC Jazz Ensembles](#). Serving an average of over 200 students each academic year, UCCE provides Berkeley students with many learning and performance opportunities, including the development of musical and vocal skills and the exploration of a wide variety of musical styles. Performances range from formal concerts with professional soloists and orchestras to participation at Cal Spirit rallies.

Of the appointment, Flight said, “I am absolutely delighted to come to UC Berkeley to take up directorship of UC Choral Ensembles and am excited to begin working with the students and alumni alike. I know I will be inspired by the energy and enthusiasm of the students and I look forward to leading and supporting music-making in the choral program and to developing many new musical connections.”

A noted choral conductor, teacher, and singer, Flight brings a wealth of expertise to UC Choral Ensembles. He is the founding director of Berkeley-based Chora Nova and artistic director of Schola Cantorum San Francisco, an early music ensemble, groups with which he has programmed exciting, rarely performed repertoire: this year, the US premiere of the chamber scoring of Gustav Holst's Sanskrit masterpiece, *The Cloud Messenger* with the former group, and ensemble works by the Venetian virtuoso singer-song-writer Barbara Strozzi with the latter.

Over the past 17 seasons, he has served as artistic director of the California Bach Society, an amateur chamber choir that the *San Francisco Classical Voice* praised as a group “capable of every expressive nuance.” In addition to his new role at Berkeley, Flight will continue as artistic director of the Bach Society. He is a former member of such distinguished ensembles as the Waverly Consort, Theatre of Voices, Pomerium Musices, and the New York Collegium. For nine years, Flight was principal conductor of the Madison Early Music Festival. He has been a visiting professor of music at UC Berkeley, where he directed the music department’s top choral ensembles, and at Mills College, where he lectured on opera and music history and form, and conducted an operatic double-bill production of Gustav Holst's *Savitri* and Darius Milhaud's *Les malheurs d'Orphée*. He has also been Lecturer in Music and Director of Choral Activities at Smith College.

Flight earned his doctorate from Indiana University, where he studied conducting with Robert Porco. His research focused on the Venetian composer Giovanni Croce (1557–1609). While a doctoral student, Flight and friends formed the Concord Ensemble, an award-winning male sextet

whose debut recording, *The Victory of Santiago: Voices of Renaissance Spain*, earned the group the prized “5-Star” distinction in *Goldberg Magazine*. The group performed with Sting at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, as part of his *Songs from the Labyrinth* tour featuring works by Elizabethan lutenist and songwriter John Dowland.

As a renowned countertenor, Flight has performed works by John Adams, Leonard Bernstein, and Unsuk Chin with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Scottish Symphony, the Berkeley Symphony, and the Norwegian State Opera, as well as at the Cincinnati May Festival. He sang the title role in Philip Glass’ *Aekmaten* for Oakland Opera Theater in 2003 and made his debut at the Kennedy Center in 2008, singing the first countertenor role in Adams’ *El Niño*. In August 2010, he made his debut at the Edinburgh International Festival, singing the third countertenor role in the oratorio, and in 2018, he completed the hat trick by singing the second countertenor role at the Teatro Municipal in São Paulo, Brazil.

Flight succeeds Dr. Mark Sumner, who led UCCE from 1997 until his retirement in 2022. Dr. Rebecca Seeman served as interim director for the 2022–23 academic year. The new director assumes his role on the UC Berkeley campus on July 3. More about UCCE can be found at [ucchoral.berkeley.edu](http://ucchoral.berkeley.edu).

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