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Sounds Good Choir's First Executive Director, Anne Schankin, To Step Down December 31 After Three and a Half Years; Leaves Behind a Legacy of Growth & Stability

(Chicago, IL) — Sounds Good Choir today announced that Anne Schankin, the organization's first Executive Director, will step down effective December 31, 2026, after three and a half years of leadership. For continued leadership, the Board of Directors will hire an interim Executive Director and begin on January 1, 2027.

Sounds Good Choir is the nation's second largest no-audition choral organization for older adults, serving cognitively healthy adults through its Sounds Good choirs and adults with early-stage memory loss and their care partners through its Good Memories choirs.



"What I'll carry with me most are the relationships: with the singers whose joy fills every rehearsal and concert, with the volunteers who show up again and again, with an amazing staff that gives its heart to this work, and with supporters and partners who believe in what we do," said Executive Director Anne Schankin. "I'm proud of what we built together, along with Jon, Sandy and the board: a stronger organization, a wonderful team, and a solid strategic vision and plan to guide the years ahead."

A Legacy of Growth and Stability Under Ms. Schankin's leadership, Sounds Good Choir grew stronger financially and structurally. She kept deficits below budget year after year, even as operating expenses grew. She also improved the organization's financial transparency, rebuilt its accounting to reflect its two programs, initiated a new grants pipeline, and launched a major upgrade of its donor and member database.

Ms. Schankin led the development of the organization's strategic plan, which now guides the board's committees and funding efforts. She strengthened governance with new board committees and outside expertise and built a skilled professional team.

She also guided the expansion of the organization's programs, including the new Sounds Good choir in Edgewater and two new Good Memories choirs in Hinsdale and West Pullman. In 2026, she led the hiring of Christopher Cherry as the first Artistic Director for the Sounds Good choirs, enabling co-founder Jonathan Miller to focus on the rapidly growing Good Memories program.

"We are grateful to Anne for guiding Sounds Good Choir as our first Executive Director," said Board Chair Lynn Clark. "Anne leaves Sounds Good Choir better than she found it: on stronger financial footing, and with the structure, tools and skilled staff to thrive for years to come. Through it all, she supported and encouraged our culture of kindness, even singing alongside our members."

Leadership Transition Ms. Schankin will remain Executive Director through December 31 to ensure a smooth transition. The board will share more about next steps soon. In the meantime, partners and supporters with questions may contact Board Chair Lynn Clark.

The community is invited to join in thanking Ms. Schankin at the organization's December concerts, taking place December 3–19. Details about the upcoming concerts can be found on the website's concert page.

About Sounds Good Choir Sounds Good Choir is the nation's second largest, no-audition choral organization for older adults. The organization offers two distinct choral programs: **Sounds Good,** designed for older adults "55 and better," and **Good Memories,** tailored for individuals living with memory loss and their care partners. Together, this warm, welcoming community of passionate singers rehearses and presents free public concerts throughout the year.

For more information about Sounds Good Choir and its upcoming programs, please visit SoundsGoodChoir.org. Contact staff by phone or email: 630.395.9542 and info@SoundsGoodChoir.org.

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