



**World  
Choir  
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cincinnati usa



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## **CCM's director of Choral Studies to serve as 2012 World Choir Games artistic director**

*Earl Rivers has been World Choir Games adjudicator, lecturer, artistic director*

**CINCINNATI (OH)** – Earl Rivers, director of Choral Studies at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, has been named Artistic Director for the Cincinnati Organizing Committee of the 7<sup>th</sup> World Choir Games (WCG | 2012), which will be held in Cincinnati USA from July 4-14, 2012. Dr. Rivers is also professor of music and head of CCM's Division of Ensembles and Conducting.

Dr. Rivers fills a position previously held by Erich Kunzel, the popular Cincinnati Pops Orchestra conductor who died in September 2009. Maestro Kunzel was named the *In Memoriam* Artistic Director of the 2012 World Choir Games and was instrumental in securing the event for Cincinnati.

"I am very honored and excited to help make the 2012 World Choir Games an outstanding global event," Dr. Rivers said. "Having attended the 2010 Games in China, I know how unique the event is and saw how choral music truly brings people together from all over the world. Having dedicated my professional career to the development of the choral arts, this is an exciting opportunity; for it to be in Cincinnati makes this even more exciting."

Dr. Rivers will advise the Cincinnati Organizing Committee on artistic elements of the World Choir Games and serve as honorary chair of the WCG | 2012's Music Advisory Committee. The World Choir Games is the largest international choral festival in the world. Cincinnati is the first American city to ever host this event. Dr. Rivers attended the 6<sup>th</sup> World Choir Games in July 2010 in Shaoxing, China, as a lecturer and adjudicator and is the U.S. artistic director for Interkultur, the Germany-based organization that produces the WCG.

"It is an honor for Cincinnati to have Earl Rivers so involved in the 2012 World Choir Games," said Dan Lincoln, president & CEO of the Cincinnati USA Convention & Visitors Bureau and director of World Choir Games 2012, Inc. "We are fortunate to have such a valuable resource in our community, and we look forward to Dr. Rivers' advice, counsel and guidance."

*U.S. News and World Report* ranks Dr. Rivers' CCM graduate conducting program among the top five in the country. Dr. Rivers has received Chorus America's "Michael Korn Founders Award for Development of the Choral Art," honoring a lifetime of significant contributions to the professional choral art. For 20 years, he was music director and conductor of the Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati, a professional chamber choir that won multiple awards for "Adventuresome Programming of Contemporary Music." He has several years of international experience in China, South Korea, and Taiwan guest conducting, leading master classes and adjudicating.