



Interim Chorale Conductor Appointed at Fort Street Church

Fort Street Presbyterian Church is delighted to announce the appointment of **Dr. Arianne Abela** as Interim Conductor of the Fort Street Chorale for the 2017-2018 season. Dr. Abela will rehearse and conduct the Chorale for their December performances of Handel's *Messiah* on December 2 and 3, as well as the Chorale's May 2018 concert. We will welcome her to Fort Street on Sunday, August 27, as she will sing a solo for our 10:00 a.m. worship, as well as join with the Fort Street Choir, back from its summer hiatus.



Arianne Abela, DMA

Arianne Abela currently directs the Women's Chorale and Choral Union at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI, and serves as the Director of Music at Bethlehem United Church of Christ in Ann Arbor, MI. Abela is the founder and conductor of 3 Penny Chorus and Orchestra, a volunteer orchestra and chorus of 60 that was featured recently in the quarter finals of America's Got Talent (Season 8) at Radio City Music Hall. The ensemble has performed for various charities and fundraisers, was featured on NBC's Today Show, and can be heard on the soundtrack of the film *Walk of Shame*. Abela was selected as one of

ten to participate in the Dallas Opera's inaugural Women's Conductor Institute, and recently was appointed Music Director of Canadian-based opera company, Re:Naissance Opera. She also has been invited to guest conduct upcoming productions of *Falstaff* and *Don Giovanni* for the Detroit-based opera company, OperaMODO. Abela has served as Director of the University of Michigan Residential College Singers, Chorus Master for the University of Michigan Opera productions, under the direction of Martin Katz, Assistant Conductor for University Musical Society's Choral Union, and Assistant Conductor for the University of Michigan Chamber Choir. She has conducted choirs at Yale University, served as Assistant Conductor for the Yale Alumni Chorus on tours to Georgia, Armenia, Turkey, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. As a professional singer, she has appeared with Yale Choral Artists, Sounding Light, Arkora, Yale Schola Cantorum, and Audivi. Abela has a doctorate from the University of Michigan, under the tutelage of Jerry Blackstone, and a master's degree in conducting from the Yale School of Music, under Marguerite Brooks, Jeffrey Douma and Simon Carrington. Originally from San Francisco, California, Abela sang as a member of the San Francisco Girls Chorus for many years.