

Musica Sacra Taps Ass't Music Director

By Susan Elliott, *MusicalAmerica.com*

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Musica Sacra, the Manhattan-based professional chorus founded by Richard Westenburg in 1964, has named its first ever assistant music director in Michael Sheetz, a protégé of Kent Tritle, music director of the group. The two men also work together at Manhattan School of Music, Sheetz's alma mater, where Tritle is director of choral activities.

"I met Michael Sheetz when he served as my accompanist for the Symphonic Chorus at the Manhattan School of Music four years ago," said Tritle in his comments. "I immediately knew that he was an especially gifted musician."

Sheetz holds a Master of Music in Collaborative Piano and a Choral Conducting Certificate, both from Manhattan. He earned his BA in music and drama from Vassar College.

Because Tritle is so busy elsewhere—as Music Director of the Oratorio Society of New York, Director of Cathedral Music and Organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Music Director of Great Music in a Great Space, Director of Choral Activities at Manhattan School, organist of the New York Philharmonic and the American Symphony Orchestra—Sheetz will have his hands full. For Musica Sacra, his responsibilities include preparing the chorus, serving as cover conductor and rehearsal accompanist, and co-chairing the group's community programs.

Sheetz is also accompanist for the Fairfield County Chorale and in the summer serves as chorus master and music coordinator at La Lingua Della Lirica in Italy.