



Joseph Crnko, Music Director

Mr. Crnko is in his 29th year as Music Director of the Northwest Choirs. During his tenure, the Northwest Choirs has grown from a small 50-member group with several concerts a year, to a vital arts organization of 200 members in seven progressively graded ensembles, an annual schedule of more than 40 concerts, a biennial international tour program, and a schedule of professional studio recording engagements. In this time, the Northwest Choirs has established itself as a prominent member of the Pacific Northwest performing arts community sharing the stage regularly with the Seattle Symphony, in addition to other area professional arts organizations.

In 2007, Mr. Crnko joined the Seattle Symphony as Associate Conductor for Choral Activities. In a recent review, the Seattle Times stated, "Trained by associate conductor for choral activities Joseph Crnko, the Chorale's sound quality has improved beyond all measure the past few years. Crnko has been conductor of The Northwest Boychoir for a quarter-century, and perhaps it's his great care not to overstrain young voices — while at the same time eliciting beautiful singing from them — that has brought such success to the Symphony Chorale."

Mr. Crnko regularly conducts orchestral and choral recording sessions for movie and video game soundtracks. Among his many projects are the films *The Last Stand*, *Let Me In*, *Boondock Saints*, *The Celestine Prophecy*, and such video games as *Halo*, *Medal Of Honor*, and *World of Warcraft*. Mr. Crnko holds a Bachelor Degree in Percussion Performance from CSU Sacramento, and a Masters Degree in Instrumental Conducting from the University of Washington, where he studied with conductor Michel Singher. Mr. Crnko lives in Seattle with his wife, Wendee, and their two children, Katharine and Nick.