

This week's Friday Feature features Interim Executive Artistic director, Erik Jacobson. He was hired in September 2017. New to the organization and to the Milwaukee area, this Friday Feature gives him the opportunity to open himself up to the parents and children involved with the Milwaukee Children's Choir. His enthusiasm for educating children is only part of what he loves to do. Hoping to connect with the Milwaukee Children's Choir community on a deeper level, Mr. Jacobson shares about his interests and his background in music.



Where are you from?

I was originally born in San Francisco, CA. My family moved to West Michigan when I was five years old, so I grew up in the Grand Rapids area in Michigan. I spent the 9 years prior to moving to Milwaukee in Kalamazoo, Michigan where I attended Western Michigan University before teaching at Kalamazoo Christian Schools.

What are some of your non-music related hobbies?

I am a huge sports fan. I played some baseball in college and continue to play baseball and softball in recreational/summer leagues. Last summer I played either slow-pitch softball or wooden bat league baseball 5 nights a week all summer. I also love playing basketball and volleyball in various leagues.

What is your favorite food? What food do you crave the most often?

I'm going to go with the classic guy response of pizza for my favorite food. However, the food I crave most often is definitely nachos. The healthy eating my wife and I are currently doing are only making these cravings worse!

Name a few musical accomplishments that you are the proudest of.

Some of my work with various professional groups probably makes me most proud. Collaborating with Seraphic Fire on The Monteverdi Vespers of 1610 was a fantastic experience, as well as working with the amazing VOCES8 throughout the year. Other accomplishments that make me proud or create very fond memories were singing on The Oprah Winfrey Show as backup to Charice Pempengco, singing for the national tour of Star Wars In Concert, or producing the professional production of Gold Company: Rockin' through the Ages at Miller Auditorium with my great college friends Sean Carney and Jillian Newton.

What's the best part about working at the Milwaukee Children's Choir?

In my current role, I would say the most rewarding part is working with some really excellent young musicians. It is a joy to see how well trained the singers of Milwaukee Children's Choir already are and it is a great privilege to continue their training. Music is truly one of the best things in this world and there is nothing better than bringing that to young people who are eager to experience it.

Whether it's educating or entertaining, Mr. Jacobson's love for music is a large part of his identity. As the new Executive Artistic Director, I wanted to give parents and children the opportunity to get to know him a little better. Mr. Jacobson is eager to continue working with the talented children of Milwaukee.