

Morristown's YouTube music minister calling it quits at Redeemer

by George!

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Along with its magnificent bell-towers and spires, Morristown's religious community is blessed with many towering musical figures. One of them, [Wayne Burcham-Gulotta](#), has just announced he is stepping down after four years as music director and organist at the Church of the Redeemer.

Wayne's departure will be felt around the world--his [weekly YouTube videos](#) of the Redeemer choir are approaching one million hits. We asked him why he is saying amen to his duties at the Episcopal church:

MorristownGreen.com: A few weeks ago, Redeemer's rector, Phillip Wilson, announced his departure after 22 years on South Street. Now you are leaving after four years as music director/organist. What's going on at Redeemer?

Wayne Burcham-Gulotta: Let me first correct your question. Phillip announced his retirement intentions two years ago. His last Sunday was June 7th. Redeemer is alive and well.



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Wayne Burcham-Gulotta, who made Morristown's Church of the Redeemer a main attraction on YouTube, is stepping down after four years as music director at the church.

MG: Why are you leaving? Wasn't this a dream job for you? What's next?

Wayne Burcham-Gulotta:

These have been wonderful years. The most difficult part of this decision was because of the friendships that Joe, my husband, and I developed over the last seven years as congregational members, and the bond that I developed over the last four years as Music Director with our wonderful and talented choir and musicians.

Their dedication and talent is a Music Director's dream. I don't

have any plans beyond Sept. 6th.

MG: You put Redeemer on the cyber-map with YouTube postings of music services. Any day now, Redeemer videos will register their millionth hit. Is it bittersweet for you to leave at such a milestone?

Wayne Burcham-Gulotta: Oh yes. I couldn't have dreamed when I posted that first trial video two years ago how our YouTube videos would literally be seen around the world. It might be expected that the latest "pop music star" would get a million hits. But church music? Who knew!

MG: How has YouTube enhanced Redeemer's ministry? What have you learned from this online experience, and what advice would you give to other churches contemplating a greater Internet presence?

Wayne Burcham-Gulotta:It's impossible to quantify what this has done. I have to say that knowing that what one does on Sunday morning will probably end up on YouTube for the world to see has kept us on our toes, so to speak. It has made us better musicians.



Venkatesh Hariharan

The Church of the Redeemer in Morristown.

MG: You took an unconventional path to the organ bench, coming from the business world. Tell us a little about that journey, how you made the career change, and what lessons you learned that might help/inspire others?

Wayne Burcham-Gulotta: While in my adult life I have generally made my living outside the music world, all of my training and education was actually in music. Bachelor of Music from the University of Iowa in organ and church music and two years of graduate studies at the University of Minnesota in composition and organ.

MG: What are your proudest achievements during your tenure at Redeemer?

Wayne Burcham-Gulotta: More than doubling the size of the choir, use of instruments in the services, improvements in the music facilities, finding a donor for a Steinway in the choir room, and of course our YouTube offerings.

MG: Has your successor been chosen yet? When is your final service--and do you have any special plans for it?

Wayne Burcham-Gulotta: My departure was only announced last Sunday, July 26th. A search committee from within the parish will handle finding the next Music Director. My final Sunday will be Sept. 6th -- lots of special music in the planning.

MG: Thank you, Wayne, and all the best to you.



Photo courtesy of Wayne Burcham-Gulotta

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Wayne Burcham-Gulotta and the choir of Morristown's Church of the Redeemer, an Episcopal congregation.