



Eliza Snortland, Vocal Director

Mainstage Musical Team Feature

Where do you currently live, and what do you do?

I live in Hugo, MN and teach high school choir in White Bear Lake, MN.

Have you ever worked at or been a part of Trollwood previously?

This is my eighth summer serving as the vocal director for the Mainstage Musical, and I spent four summers in the cast for the show when I was in high school!

In one sentence, describe your job.

As the vocal director, I teach the ensemble and featured soloists how to creatively and healthily sing their material in the show, and I collaborate with the director, choreographer, rehearsal pianist, and orchestra director to craft the best version of the music in *Cinderella*!

What skills are necessary for a person in your position?

Vocal directors need to be creative musicians, joyful team players, and thoughtful teachers of ensemble and solo singing.

What is your background in the performing arts?

I earned my Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Music Education from St. Olaf College, and my Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Northern Arizona University.

Why do you think theatre is important?

Theatre provides our society with a diverse and complicated way to explore the human experience. Really good theatre can encourage us to break out of our patterns and think and feel at a higher level.

What's the most challenging part of your position?

I think the most challenging part of the job is turning pages for the rehearsal pianist when we have a really windy day down at the amphitheatre!

What makes you most excited about this particular show?

I love the themes of *Cinderella*. This show explores the power of love and magic, and after taking off the summer of 2020, I think our community is ready for a little Trollwood magic!



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What do you enjoy most about working at Trollwood?

I love working with a team of people (both students and staff) who all seek to raise their artistic standards and bring joy to their work!

Favorite song from Cinderella?

Ah! This is an impossible question for me, but I guess I'll say, "Ten Minutes Ago (Reprise)," which is sung by the full cast at the end of the ball, just before intermission. Rodgers and Hammerstein have written a beautiful score filled with compositional complexity, and this piece really demonstrates the emotional heights of musical theatre!