



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON ANNOUNCES 2015-2016 SEASON**

Highlights Include Performances with National Symphony Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra and Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

Washington, D.C. – The Choral Arts Society of Washington (Choral Arts) today announced its 2015-2016 season. Highlights of the 51<sup>st</sup> season, which opens on Sunday, November 15, 2015, include guest appearances with the National Symphony Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and Wolf Trap Opera; an annual holiday concert and gala with a special performance from the Singapore Youth Choir; and a new partnership with American University developing interdisciplinary programs.

This season marks Choral Arts' second appearance with The Philadelphia Orchestra, and first appearance under the direction of Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin in Mahler's Symphony No. 8 at the Kimmel Center. The 2015-2016 season also marks the first appearance under the direction of Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's Music Director Marin Alsop in the Verdi Requiem. "This season boasts fantastic new collaborations, celebrates beloved traditions, and beautifully showcases the power and presence of our choral repertoire," Debra L. Kraft, Executive Director.

This season Choral Arts will celebrate its 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Concert and Gala under the gracious honorary patronage of The Ambassador of Singapore Ashok Mirpuri and Mrs. Gouri Mirpuri. The evening includes a special performance by the Singapore Youth Choir in celebration of Singapore's 50<sup>th</sup> year of independence, followed by an elegant dinner and festive dancing.

This is also the second year of the Choral Arts Chamber Singers, which will include a dual recording of John Wesley hymns in Spanish and English through the Wesley Heritage Foundation, with performances at Duke Memorial United Methodist Church in Durham, NC on September 26 and 27.

The Terezin Project, in partnership with American University, will explore the unique role of the arts during the Holocaust and the relationship of aesthetics and impact of values today through the departments of Performing Arts, Philosophy and Religion, Israeli Studies and Jewish Studies. The weeklong residency will include performances of new works, small scale production of *Brundibar* and companion programs featuring "The Ethics" for Violin, Chorus, Percussion and Piano, by violinist/composer Ittai Shapira, to be performed by the Choral Arts Chamber Singers, in April 2016.

Education initiatives including launching a series of young men's singing events focusing on the middle and high school grades and the continuation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Community Initiative, with a performance at the Kennedy Center, Concert for Students, study guides, educational resources and recordings available to teachers, and community ticket initiative.

## **THE FULL 2015-2016 SEASON INCLUDES:**

### **Johannes Brahms: *Ein deutsches Requiem***

Sunday, November 15, 2015 | 4:00 pm

### **A Family Christmas**

Sunday, December 13, 2015 | 2:00 pm

### **A Choral Arts Christmas**

Monday, December 14, 2015 | 7:00 pm (35th Annual Holiday Concert and Gala\*)

Sunday, December 20, 2015 | 8:00 pm

Thursday, December 24, 2015 | 2:00 pm

### ***Living the Dream...Singing the Dream***

#### **A Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Sunday, February 21, 2016 | 7:00 pm

Co-presentation with Washington Performing Arts

### ***Living the Dream...Singing the Dream - A Concert for Students***

Thursday, February 25, 2016 | 11:00 am

GW Lisner Auditorium

### **Sondheim!**

Sunday, May 15, 2016 | 8:00 pm

\* All Choral Arts performances conducted by Artistic Director Scott Tucker in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall unless otherwise noted.

## **GUEST APPEARANCES**

August 7, 2015

### **Puccini: *Madama Butterfly***

Guest appearance with Wolf Trap Opera and the National Symphony Orchestra

Grant Gershon, Conductor

Wolf Trap Filene Center

November 5 - 7, 2015

### **Mahler: *Symphony No. 3***

Anne Sofie von Otter, Mezzo-soprano

Guest appearance with the National Symphony Orchestra

Christoph Eschenbach, Conductor

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

November 27 - 28, 2015

***Home Alone: Film with Live Orchestra***

Guest appearance with the National Symphony Orchestra Pops  
Steven Reineke, Conductor  
Kennedy Center Concert Hall

March 10 - 13, 2016

***Mahler: Symphony No. 8 (Symphony of a Thousand)***

Guest appearance with The Philadelphia Orchestra  
Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Conductor  
Kimmel Center, Verizon Hall

June 17 - 19, 2016

***Verdi: Messa da Requiem***

Guest appearance with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra  
Marin Alsop, Conductor  
The Music Center at Strathmore (Friday, June 17)  
Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall (Saturday, June 18 and Sunday, June 19)

\* Tickets for guest appearances are available through the presenting organization.

**TICKETS**

Choral Arts season ticket packages will be available starting in mid-April.  
Choral Arts single tickets will go on sale in September.  
To subscribe, please visit [choralarts.org](http://choralarts.org) or call 202.244.3669

**ABOUT CHORAL ARTS**

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In its 50 years The Choral Arts Society of Washington established, and now maintains, a dedication to excellence. Choral Arts measures its artistic excellence by numerous factors including its frequent invitations to perform regularly with the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) and other world-class orchestras, including London Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Mariinsky Orchestra. Choral Arts is committed to connecting choral music to the country's growing diversity and partnering with global organizations to develop inspiring programs. Choral Arts also stands on a secure and stable financial and governance foundation.

Founded in 1965 by Artistic Director Emeritus Norman Scribner, and led by Artistic Director Scott Tucker, Choral Arts stands out as a leader among its peers, earning awards, not only for its artistic excellence, but its administrative leadership and educational portfolio. Under the executive direction of Debra L. Kraft, Choral Arts has consistently operated in the black since 2004, remaining fiscally strong in spite of recent economic challenges.

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