



1516 NE 143rd Street
Seattle, WA 98125-3232

Seattle Choral Company announces 30th Anniversary Season

Highlights include four subscription season concerts, local premiere by Bob Chilcott, “Carmina Burana” with guest artists VENTIDITA, Rachmaninov “Vespers,” release of a new holiday CD, 26th annual gala auction, and more.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Freddie Coleman
(206) 365-8765, ext 3
freddie@seattlechoralcompany.org

EDITOR NOTE: Downloadable, high-resolution photos are available here:
<http://www.seattlechoralcompany.org/PressRoom.aspx>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEATTLE, September 22, 2011 – Now celebrating their 30th anniversary season, the 75 talented men and women of the Seattle Choral Company have been capturing the attention of audiences in greater Seattle. The past two seasons have included notable collaborations with the Seattle Youth Symphony (Mahler’s “Resurrection Symphony”), the Seattle Girls’ Choir (Rutter’s “Mass of the Children”), the Seattle Symphony (under conductors Steven Reineke and Marvin Hamlisch), and composer Mateo Messina in a major benefit for Children’s Hospital. In addition, the SCC presented an acclaimed performance of Brahms’ “A German Requiem,” the Seattle premiere of Eric Whitacre’s “Winter” with sitar virtuoso Josh Feinberg, and the New Year’s Eve debut of Orff’s “Carmina Burana” at the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center, in Bellevue.

Details of the 30th anniversary season of the region’s leading symphonic chorus were announced by Conductor and Artistic Director Freddie Coleman. The four-concert, nine-performance season runs from December 3, 2011 through June 9, 2012 at various venues in Seattle and Bellevue.

-more-

Members of the professional-caliber ensemble come from all over the Puget Sound area. Audience members and critics have come to expect a soaring, rich sound, remarkable versatility, and concerts of great beauty and depth.

HERE ARE THE SEATTLE CHORAL COMPANY'S 2011-2012 SEASON CONCERTS:

PROGRAM 1: "A Cathedral Christmas" (holiday concert and sing-along)

Saturday, December 3, 2011, at 2:00 p.m.

Bastyr University Chapel

14500 Juanita Drive NE, Kenmore

Friday, December 9, 2011, at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 10, 2011, at 8:00 p.m.

Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral

1245 10th Ave East, Seattle

PROGRAM – Bob Chilcott: "Advent Antiphons" (*Seattle premiere*); Frank Ferko: "A Festival of Carols"; and carols of the season by distinguished American choral composers Eric Barnum, Abbie Betinis, Jackson Berkey, Bern Herbolsheimer, and Steven Sametz. With guest artists: Jennifer Ceresa, soprano, and Bethany Man, Harp

Now in its fourth year, "A Cathedral Christmas" has become a tradition shared by friends and loved ones. The Seattle Choral Company again presents a December program of holiday carols, spacious sounds, and memories that will carry everyone through the season.

One hour before the start of the program, SCC singers will be on hand to provide program information and exhibits about the music and the SCC. One half-hour before the program begins, Maestro Freddie Coleman will lead the audience in a carol sing-along.

To purchase single tickets to "A Cathedral Christmas," please call **Brown Paper Tickets** at **(800) 838-3006** or visit **www.seattlechoralcompany.org**.

Advanced purchase: \$25 (general), \$20 (65+), \$10 (under 25).

Tickets at the door: \$27 (general), \$22 (65+), \$12 (under 25).

(All tickets are for non-reserved seating.)

**PROGRAM 2: “New Year’s Eve with the Seattle Choral Company”
(featuring “Carmina Burana”)**

Saturday, December 31, 2011

Two performances!

7:00 – 8:00 p.m. and 9:30 – 10:30 p.m.

The Theatre at Meydenbauer Center

11100 NE 6th Street, Bellevue

PROGRAM – Carl Orff: “Carmina Burana,” with piano duo VENTIDITA (Deborah Dewey and Lisa Bergman), soprano Jennifer Ceresa, tenor Paul Karaitis, and baritone Benjamin Harris.

For decades, music lovers have thronged to the concert hall to ring in the New Year in the style of Old Vienna with programs of Strauss waltzes. On December 31, 1991, the Seattle Choral Company began marking the occasion by presenting some very different but equally popular music—Carl Orff’s “Carmina Burana.” This New Year’s Eve concert was an unqualified success last December when it came to the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center for the first time. Orff’s masterpiece is perfect for a New Year’s Eve celebration!

Revelers may attend either the early or the late performance, depending on evening plans. At the conclusion of each performance, "Auld Lang Syne" will be led by the entire cast.

“Carmina Burana” will be presented in the composer’s chamber version for two pianos and percussion.

To purchase single tickets to “New Year’s Eve with the Seattle Choral Company” please call **Brown Paper Tickets** at **(800) 838-3006** or visit **www.seattlechoralcompany.org**.

Reserved seating for both performances: \$65 (center), \$55 (side).

**PROGRAM 3: “Classics Concert”
(featuring works by J.S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, and Anton Bruckner)**

Saturday, March 31, 2012, at 2:00 p.m.

Saint Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral

1245 10th Ave East, Seattle

PROGRAM – Anton Bruckner: “Mass No. 2 in E minor, for choir and winds”; Felix Mendelssohn: “Three Sacred Pieces, Op. 23”; Johann Sebastian Bach: “Motet BWV 230, Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden.”

Our mid-season concert is a feast for the musical palate, beginning with the brilliant precision of J.S. Bach, and continuing with Bach-inspired motets by Felix Mendelssohn. Cap it off with Anton Bruckner's exquisite and seldom performed "Mass in E minor" for two large choirs and wind band—a devout work combining moments of a cappella tranquility with passages of soaring beauty and power.

To purchase single tickets to "**Classics Concert**," please call **Brown Paper Tickets** at **(800) 838-3006** or visit **www.seattlechoralcompany.org**.

Advanced purchase: \$25 (general), \$20 (65+), \$10 (under 25).

Tickets at the door: \$27 (general), \$22 (65+), \$12 (under 25).

(All tickets are for non-reserved seating.)

PROGRAM 4: "Rachmaninov Vespers"

Sunday, June 3, 2012, at 2:00 p.m.

Bastyr University Chapel

14500 Juanita Drive NE, Kenmore

Friday, June 8, 2012, at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 9, 2012, at 8:00 p.m.

Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral

1245 10th Ave East, Seattle

PROGRAM – Sergei Rachmaninov: "Vespers (All-Night Vigil), Op. 37"

Rachmaninov's "Vespers" is a masterpiece of Russian choral sonority, draped in rich, warm harmonies. First performed in Moscow in 1915, this extended a cappella work is unquestionably one of Rachmaninov's finest achievements; a work of extraordinary beauty and drama that many consider to be the crowning glory of Russian choral music.

To purchase single tickets to "**Rachmaninov Vespers**," please call **Brown Paper Tickets** at **(800) 838-3006** or visit **www.seattlechoralcompany.org**.

Advanced purchase: \$25 (general), \$20 (65+), \$10 (under 25).

Tickets at the door: \$27 (general), \$22 (65+), \$12 (under 25).

(All tickets are for non-reserved seating.)

2011-2012 THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY SUBSCRIPTION TICKETS

Concert tickets for the Seattle Choral Company's 30th season are available for purchase as a series, or as single concerts. Subscribers to three or four concerts will receive a 15% discount off single concert prices. To purchase the subscription series please call the Seattle Choral Company Ticketline at **206-363-1100** or visit www.seattlechoralcompany.org for more details.

Group Discounts

Group discounts begin for groups of 8 or more. Groups of 15 or more from nonprofit and educational organizations may receive a discount of 50% off single ticket prices. For details, call the Seattle Choral Company directly at **206-363-1100** or e-mail tickets@seattlechoralcompany.org.

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

The acclaimed Seattle Choral Company is in demand as guest artists, on recordings, and collaborates with our region's finest performing arts organizations.

Seattle AIDS Memorial – “30 Years of Sorrow, Comfort and Hope”

The Seattle Choral Company will appear as guest artists at the Seattle AIDS Memorial, which will take place on Saturday, September 24, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Mark's Cathedral on Capitol Hill (1245 Tenth Avenue East). Subtitled “30 Years of Sorrow, Comfort and Hope,” the event marks the 30th anniversary of the first HIV/AIDS diagnosis as well as the 25th anniversary of the first AIDS Walk in Seattle. As a multi-faith observance, it will include Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Buddhist readings, a time of candlelight remembrance, contemporary poetry and song; the Seattle Choral Company and Cathedral musicians will perform. The Seattle AIDS Memorial is free and open to all. For more information, visit www.saintmarks.org or call (206) 323-0300.

New Holiday Recording.

Following our December 2011 holiday concert, “A Cathedral Christmas,” the Seattle Choral Company will issue a commercial CD recording of the entire concert program. The recording will be able for public sale in the spring of 2012, at the conclusion of our 30th anniversary season. The album will feature attractive new holiday choral works by contemporary American and English composers. Further information and how to order will be listed on our website: www.seattlechoralcompany.org.

26th Annual Dinner Show, Auction & Dance

“Seattle Magazine” has rated the Seattle Choral Company's Annual Dinner Show, Auction, and Dance among Seattle's best charitable events, with its “fast paced dinner show that includes SCC vocalists and live band.” This is our biggest benefit event of the season and the theme this year is “**Blue Hawaii.**” Patrons will enjoy live music provided by the Phil Demaree Ensemble and a live musical revue sung by members of the SCC.

-more-

“Blue Hawaii” will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Bellevue (900 Bellevue Way NE) on Saturday, May 12, 2012, from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

ABOUT THE SEATTLE CHORAL COMPANY

Founded in 1982 by Conductor and Artistic Director **Freddie Coleman**, the Seattle Choral Company has become the region’s leading symphonic chorus and one of Seattle’s most accomplished and respected choral organizations. Now celebrating their 30th season, the Company attracts over 100 volunteer singers, numerous professional instrumentalists, and distinguished performing artists from around the Pacific Northwest, including a faculty of resident vocal soloists.

Under Maestro Coleman’s direction, a number of contemporary choral works have been performed in Seattle for the first time, including Arvo Pärt’s **“Te Deum,”** Morten Lauridsen’s **“Lux Aeterna,”** Philip Glass’ **“Itaipú,”** and Roxanna Panufnik’s **“Westminster Mass.”** The SCC has also premiered several commissioned works for chorus and orchestra, including William Hawley’s **“Songs of Kabir”** and **“Seattle”** (which was composed for the City of Seattle’s 150th Anniversary), and **“Dos Sueños,”** by Seattle composer **Bern Herbolsheimer**.

The Seattle Choral Company has recorded five compact discs since 1994: **“The Moon Is Silently Singing,”** **“When the Morning Stars Sang Together,”** **“Carmina Burana,”** **“Unearthed,”** and **“Cartographer,”** as well as soundtracks for PBS and NBC, and film trailers for such films as “Pirates of the Caribbean,” “The Alamo,” “Master and Commander,” “Minority Report,” and “Spider-Man 2.”

The SCC has appeared with Pacific Northwest Ballet on many occasions for performances of **“Hail to the Conquering Hero”** and **“Carmina Burana.”** The chorus has also joined the Seattle Symphony Orchestra at Benaroya Hall for performances of **“Those Glorious MGM Movie Musicals,”** Gershwin’s **“Porgy and Bess Suite,”** Bernstein’s **“West Side Story”** selections, Nobuo Uematsu’s **“Final Fantasy,”** as part of **“Holiday Pops with Doc Severinsen”** and with **Marvin Hamlisch**, and more recently appearing in **“Broadway Rocks,”** **“Play! A Video Game Symphony,”** and staged scenes from **“The Music Man,”**

In May of 2010, the SCC appeared as guest artists of the acclaimed Seattle Youth Symphony in Gustav Mahler’s 2nd Symphony **“Resurrection.”** In November of 2010, the SCC was invited to join composer Mateo Messina at Benaroya Hall in his production of **“Primal Symphony,”** a major musical event that benefits the uncompensated care fund at Seattle Children’s Hospital.

Support for the Seattle Choral Company’s 30th season comes from:

4Culture, ArtsFund, Classical KING FM, Microsoft, and

The Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs.

###