



SEATTLE NEWS RELEASE CHORAL COMPANY

1516 NE 143rd St Seattle, WA 98125-3232

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Media Contact: Freddie Coleman

Phone: 206-365-8765, ext 3

Email: coleman@seattlechoralcompany.org

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<http://www.seattlechoralcompany.org/PressRoom.aspx>

Seattle Choral Company presents “Brahms Requiem” at Benaroya Hall

SEATTLE, WA—The Seattle Choral Company, under the direction of **Freddie Coleman**, is pleased to announce its return to Benaroya Hall in April of 2010. The Seattle Choral Company (SCC) is the Puget Sound region’s leading symphonic chorus, an ensemble of 100 voices, known for presentations of a wide range of historical and contemporary choral masterworks. The Company is currently celebrating its 28th season.



Johannes Brahms

On April 24, 2010, the Seattle Choral Company presents perhaps the greatest choral work of the 19th century—Johannes Brahms’ “*Ein deutsches Requiem*” (*A German Requiem*). A musical and spiritual marvel, this masterwork will leave no heart unmoved by its powerful message of hope and consolation. On the same program, the SCC will also perform Antonin Dvořák’s “*Te Deum*.”

The concert will be presented on Saturday, April 24, at 2:00pm at Benaroya Hall (S. Mark Taper Auditorium) in downtown Seattle.

Completed in 1868, Brahms’ “*A German Requiem*” is not a traditional Requiem Mass, but rather an extended message of comfort, acceptance, and serenity for all living humanity. The words convey feelings of hope and consolation; they’re more concerned with comforting the living than praying for the soul of the departed. “*Blessed are they that mourn,*” begins the chorus, “*for they shall be comforted.*”

When asked about the work’s title, Brahms confessed that he could have called his creation “A Human Requiem”—since he intended to offer a universal message to all people. The message seems particularly fitting for the world we live in today. This is what makes “*A German Requiem*” such an exceptional work, one that is ranked among the loftiest music ever given to the world.

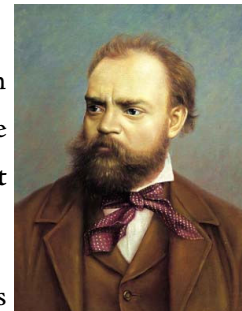
According to SCC Conductor and Artistic Director, **Freddie Coleman**, “Johannes Brahms was not a religious man, and he avoided the traditional Catholic Mass for the Dead as inspiration for this unique requiem. We don’t know where Brahms got the idea for an original, non-liturgical choral piece of this sort, but his early work on it may have helped him grieve over the loss of his friend, the composer Robert Schumann, and later, the loss of his mother.

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Brahms brilliantly assembled the text from Martin Luther's German translation of the Bible. When he completed this masterpiece—by far the largest work he had ever composed—Brahms expressed his deep satisfaction by stating: ‘Now I am consoled. I have surmounted obstacles that I thought I could never overcome and I feel like an eagle, soaring ever higher and higher.’”

Included with Brahms’ masterpiece will be the exuberant and stirring “**Te Deum**” of Antonin Dvořák, written to commemorate the composer’s arrival in America in 1892 as director of the National Conservatory in New York. Though smaller in scale than his more well-known “**Stabat Mater**” and “**Requiem**,” the “**Te Deum**” displays some of Dvořák’s finest music.



For the performance of both Brahms’ “**A German Requiem**” and Dvořák’s “**Te Deum**,” the chorus and full orchestra will be joined by soloists **Jennifer Ceresa**, soprano, and **Victor Benedetti**, **Antonin Dvořák** baritone.

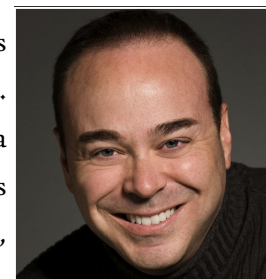


Jennifer Ceresa

Soprano **Jennifer Ceresa** returns for her second season as the Seattle Choral Company’s Resident Soprano Soloist and is now the SCC’s Assistant Music Director. A native of Boise, Idaho, Ms. Ceresa’s professional development has been cultivated in the greater Seattle area, where she studied piano, voice, and choral conducting with Richard Asher, and served as both piano teacher and interim choral conductor at Edmonds Community College. Among her numerous operatic and oratorio performance credits are the roles of Baby in “The Ballad of Baby Doe,” Laurie in “The Tender Land,” Leila in “The Pearl Fishers,” and solos in J.S. Bach’s “St. Matthew Passion” and “St. John Passion,” Handel’s “Messiah,” and Mozart’s “Mass in C minor.” She has also appeared as guest soloist with the Boise Master Chorale in Duruflé’s “Requiem” and Dvořák’s “Stabat Mater.”

Ms. Ceresa has been a teacher of voice and piano for sixteen years and is currently on the voice faculty at Pierce College in Puyallup. She will be appearing in the chorus of Seattle Opera’s “La Traviata,” “Il Trovatore,” and “Falstaff” during the 2009-2010 season.

Baritone **Victor Benedetti** has become known around the country as a performer who combines his vocal gifts with an innate stage presence that enables him to bring characters of all types to life. Mr. Benedetti made his debut with New York City Opera in the title role of “Don Giovanni,” a performance that awarded him New York City Opera’s Debut Artist of the Year Award. He has also performed with Washington National Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Florentine Opera, Indianapolis Opera, Minnesota Opera and Lyric Opera of Kansas City. Internationally, he recently performed Escamillo in Bizet’s “Carmen” in his European debut with Oper der Stadt Bonn and he sang with Singapore Lyric Opera. Benedetti’s roles have included Escamillo in “Carmen,” Count in “Le Nozze di Figaro,” Papageno in “The Magic Flute,” Father in “Hansel und Gretel,” Guglielmo in “Cosi fan tutte,” Marcello in “La Bohème,” Sharpless in “Madama Butterfly,” Germont in “La Traviata,” Enrico in “Lucia di Lammermoor,” and Silvio in “I Pagliacci.”



Victor Benedetti

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Also an active concert artist, Mr. Benedetti has performed the baritone solos in Brahms’ “Ein deutsches Requiem,” Beethoven’s “Symphony No. 9,” and Vaughan Williams’ “A Sea Symphony.” Recent concert engagements have included his Carnegie Hall debut in Haydn’s “Lord Nelson Mass” and Handel’s “Messiah,” and his first performances of Orff’s “Carmina Burana” and the title role in Mendelssohn’s “Elijah.”

Mr. Benedetti received a Bachelor and Master of Music from Northwestern University and then joined the prestigious Lyric Opera Center for American Artists of the Lyric Opera of Chicago. He was a competition winner of the Liederkrantz Foundation, George London Foundation Awards, received First Prize with the Sullivan Foundation, and was a finalist for the Placido Domingo Operalia in Tokyo.

Ticket Information

Reserved ticket prices for “**Brahms Requiem**” are: **\$45, \$40, \$30, \$25 and \$20.**

To purchase single tickets to “**Brahms Requiem**” please call the Benaroya Hall Box Office at **(206) 215-4747** or visit <http://www.seattlechoralcompany.org>. Tickets for this concert are also available for in-person sales at the Benaroya Hall box office, located at Benaroya Hall, on Third Avenue and Union Street in downtown Seattle.

Group Discounts

Group discounts begin for groups of eight or more. Groups of 15 or more from non-profit 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.**

WEB PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.seattlechoralcompany.org>

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 28th 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.



Freddie Coleman

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**.

Presented by the Seattle Choral Company

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 II."**

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 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,"** and as part of **"Holiday Pops"** with both **Doc Severinsen** and with **Marvin Hamlisch.**



Support for the Seattle Choral Company's 28th season comes from:
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