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**New York City Master Chorale celebrates the holiday season with
*An A Cappella Christmas***

NEW YORK, November 16, 2012 – On Saturday, December 8 at 8 pm, under the direction of Artistic Director Thea Kano, the New York City Master Chorale (www.nycmasterchorale.org) will kick off its seventh season with a holiday concert entitled *An A Cappella Christmas*. The Chorale will perform a variety of *a cappella* pieces, including Arvo Pärt’s *Magnificat*, Morten Lauridsen’s *Ave Maria*, and Edwin Fissingers’s *Lux Aeterna*. The concert, to be held at New York City’s Church of St. Mary the Virgin, will also include favorite holiday melodies in a variety of arrangements and styles, featuring several outstanding soloists from the Chorale.

“I am excited about this repertoire, as it is challenging for the singers, and the extraordinarily beautiful melodies and harmonies will be refreshing to our audience.” says Dr. Kano. “The dense writing of the Pärt and Fissinger is a perfect complement to the light arrangements in the second half of the concert, and will make for a wonderful celebration of the holiday season.”

Tickets to this concert are on sale online at www.nycmasterchorale.org/box and will be available at the door on December 8, as available.

In addition to this concert, the Chorale has been invited to perform as part of St. Patrick’s Cathedral’s 33rd annual *A City Singing at Christmas* on Thursday, December 20 at 7 pm. The concert features the St. Patrick’s Cathedral Choir, the Young People’s Chorus, and the New York City Master Chorale. The Chorale will perform works from *An A Cappella Christmas* at the event. Tickets to this concert are free and will be given out on a first come, first serve basis.

In further celebration of the holidays, members of the Chorale will be caroling at Housing Works Bookstore’s third annual marathon reading of Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* on Saturday, December 15 at 12 noon. The marathon reading will follow the caroling and will begin at 1 pm. The event is free.

NEW YORK CITY MASTER CHORALE HOLIDAY SEASON PERFORMANCES:

An A Cappella Christmas The New York City Master Chorale

WHEN: Saturday, December 8, 2012 at 8:00 pm

WHERE: The Church of St. Mary the Virgin (145 West 46th Street), between Sixth Avenue and Seventh Avenue, accessible by via the 1, 2, 3, 7, N, Q, R, and S trains to 42nd Street/Times Square or the B, D, F, and M trains to Rockefeller Center.

TICKETS: \$25 for students/seniors and \$35 for general seating. Tickets may be purchased online at nycmasterchorale.org or by calling the New York City Master Chorale Box Office at 917.326.1422. Tickets are also available at the door prior to the concert, as space permits.

A City Singing At Christmas St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir, Young People's Chorus, New York City Master Chorale

WHEN: Thursday, December 20, 2012 at 7:00 pm

WHERE: St. Patrick's Cathedral (Fifth Avenue between East 50th and East 51st Streets), accessible by via the E, M to Fifth Ave/53rd St., the 6 at 51st St., or the B, D, F, and M trains to Rockefeller Center.

TICKETS: Free. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-serve basis

Housing Works Bookstore: Third Annual Marathon Reading of *A Christmas Carol* Caroling by New York City Master Chorale

WHEN: Saturday, December 15, 2012 at 12:00 pm

WHERE: Housing Works Bookstore (126 Crosby Street), accessible by via 6 to Bleeker Street, the N, R to Prince Street, or the B, D, F, M to Broadway-Lafayette.

TICKETS: Free.

About Conductor Thea Kano

Thea Kano is the founding artistic director and conductor of the New York City Master Chorale. Dr. Kano is known for her expressiveness and dynamic conducting and her Chorale has been praised for its balance and richness in tone. She has prepared choruses for Zubin Mehta and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and has prepared the New York City Master Chorale for performances with the Astoria Symphony and the Park Avenue Chamber Symphony. Dr. Kano's ensembles have performed at the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Disney Hall, Église Saint-Sulpice (Paris), and on the National Mall for the 2008

inaugural ceremonies. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting from the University of California, Los Angeles, where she studied with Donald Neuen and Paul Salamunovich.

About New York City Master Chorale

Founded in 2005, the New York City Master Chorale consists of 75 trained musicians from the greater New York City area who seek to broaden public interest in fine choral music by performing a full range of musical styles at the highest level of quality. The Chorale presents an annual concert series at the venues throughout New York City, including the Church of Saint Paul the Apostle, The Riverside Church and Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center. In addition, the Chorale has been invited to sing in many of New York City's most prestigious venues, including Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Avery Fisher Hall and Carnegie Hall. The Chorale made its European debut at Église Saint-Sulpice in Paris, France in 2011. The Chorale is noted for its excellent performances of the entire range of the choral repertoire. As an integral component of its mission, the Chorale also provides education and outreach initiatives to New York City schools and community organizations.

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