



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**New York City Master Chorale celebrates the holiday season with
“The Star of Bethlehem”**

NEW YORK, November 10, 2015 – On Friday, December 11 at 8:00 pm, under the direction of Conductor Dusty Francis, the New York City Master Chorale (www.nycmasterchorale.org) will kick off its tenth season with a holiday concert titled “The Star of Bethlehem.” The Chorale will perform Josef Rheinberger’s *Der Stern von Bethlehem* with organist Michael Hey and a variety of *a cappella* holiday pieces including Samuel Barber’s *Twelfth Night*, Arvo Pärt’s *Bogoroditse Devo* and Bob Chilcott’s *The Shepherd’s Carol*. The concert, to be held at New York City’s Church of St. Mary the Virgin, will also feature the Reaching for the Arts Choir (reachingforthearts.org) under the direction of Jessica Punctatz and several outstanding soloists from the Chorale.

“The diverse repertoire on this program captures the myriad sounds of the holiday in music spanning hundreds of years and thousands of miles,” says conductor Dusty Francis. “I’m particularly excited to present the Rheinberger to an American audience who rarely has the opportunity to hear this lush, romantic telling of the nativity story, which is a staple of the European concert repertoire.”

Tickets to this concert are on sale online at www.nycmasterchorale.org/box and will be available at the door on December 11, as available.

In addition to this concert, members of the New York City Master Chorale have been invited to perform a full-length feature on the SiriusXM Satellite Radio show “The Busted Halo Show.” The show will feature *a cappella* works from “The Star of Bethlehem” as well as other traditional holiday carols. This episode can be found on the Catholic Channel (Sirius XM Channel 129) and will air on Friday, December 18th at 8pm Eastern with additional replays to be determined.

In further celebration of the holidays, members of the Chorale will be caroling at Room & Board’s new flagship store in Chelsea on Saturday, December 6 at 4pm. NYCMC will also perform at Housing Works Bookstore’s sixth annual marathon reading of Charles Dickens’ *A*

Christmas Carol on Saturday, December 12 at 12 pm. The marathon reading will follow at 1 pm and is free and open to the public.

NEW YORK CITY MASTER CHORALE HOLIDAY SEASON PERFORMANCES:

Room & Board, Caroling with the New York City Master Chorale

WHEN: Sunday, December 6, 2015 at 4:00 pm

WHERE: Room & Board, Chelsea (236 W 18th Street between 7th and 8th Avenues) accessible by train via the 1 to 18th Street, the L to 8th Avenue, or the A, C, E, 2, 3 to 14th Street.

TICKETS: Free and open to the public

“The Star of Bethlehem”

The New York City Master Chorale

WHEN: Friday, December 11, 2015 at 8:00 pm

WHERE: The Church of St. Mary the Virgin (145 West 46th Street), between Sixth Avenue and Seventh Avenue, accessible by train 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. A select number of \$50 premium tickets are available. Tickets may be purchased online at nycmasterchorale.org/box. Tickets are also available at the door prior to the concert, as available.

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

WHEN: Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 12:00 pm

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

TICKETS: Free and open to the public.

“The Busted Halo Show” Sirius XM Radio Show

AIR DATE: Friday, December 18th at 8pm Eastern with additional replays to be determined

WHERE: The Catholic Channel (SiriusXM Channel 129)

About Artistic Director 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 Conductor Dusty Francis

Conductor and bass-baritone Dusty Francis enjoys an active career as a performer, clinician, and adjudicator in the New York metropolitan area and across the country. Reflecting his diverse interests, Francis has conducted a breadth of ensembles, including high school, church, community, and university choirs, orchestras, and opera choruses. He currently serves as Music Director of the Park Slope Singers and of the Ars Musica Chorale; Assistant Conductor of the New York City Master Chorale; and Choirmaster and Organist at All Saints Episcopal Church, Leonia. Francis holds the Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Maryland.

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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