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**New York City Master Chorale celebrates the holiday season with  
*A Ceremony of Carols***

**NEW YORK, November 17, 2014** – On Friday, December 19 at 8:00 pm, under the direction of Artistic Director Thea Kano, the New York City Master Chorale ([www.nycmasterchorale.org](http://www.nycmasterchorale.org)) will kick off its ninth season with a holiday concert titled *A Ceremony of Carols*. The Chorale will perform Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, and a variety of holiday pieces, both *a cappella* and with harp accompaniment, including Eric Whitacre's *Lux Aurumuque*, Morten Lauridsen's *O Magnum Mysterium*, and the late Stephen Paulus' *The Holly and the Ivy*. The concert, to be held at New York City's Church of St. Mary the Virgin, will also feature the Oyster Bay High School Mixed Chorus and 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 complex writing of the Britten is a perfect complement to the rich of the Lauridsen and Whitacre 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](http://www.nycmasterchorale.org/box) and will be available at the door on December 19, as available.

In addition to this concert, the Chorale has been invited to perform as part of St. Patrick's Cathedral's 35<sup>th</sup> annual *A City Singing at Christmas* on Thursday, December 18 at 7 pm. The concert features the St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir, the Young People's Chorus, the New York Symphonic Brass, and the New York City Master Chorale. The Chorale will perform works from *A Ceremony of Carols* 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 fifth annual marathon reading of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* on Saturday, December 20 at 12 pm. 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:**

### **A Ceremony of Carols The New York City Master Chorale**

**WHEN:** Friday, December 19, 2014 at 8:00 pm

**WHERE:** The Church of St. Mary the Virgin (145 West 46<sup>th</sup> Street), between Sixth Avenue and Seventh Avenue, accessible by via the 1, 2, 3, 7, N, Q, R, and S trains to 42<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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 Symphonic Brass, New York City Master Chorale**

**WHEN:** Thursday, December 18, 2014 at 7:00 pm

**WHERE:** St. Patrick's Cathedral (Fifth Avenue between East 50<sup>th</sup> and East 51<sup>st</sup> Streets), accessible by via the E, M to Fifth Ave/53<sup>rd</sup> St., the 6 at 51<sup>st</sup> 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: Fifth Annual Marathon Reading of *A Christmas Carol* with Caroling by New York City Master Chorale**

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 20, 2014 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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