



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**New York City Master Chorale presents American A Cappella Concert featuring Choral Classics, Spirituals, Folk Music and Contemporary Compositions**

**NEW YORK, June 6, 2017** – On Thursday, June 22, 2017 at 8:00 p.m., the New York City Master Chorale ([nycmasterchorale.org](http://nycmasterchorale.org)) will present a cappella works by American composers before leaving on a tour to Florence, Italy. Artistic Director Thea Kano and Associate Conductor Dusty Francis will lead the Chorale in favorite classics by Alice Parker, Stephen Paulus, Moses Hogan, Randall Thompson and Eric Whitacre, new works by Julia Barry, and Joseph Turrin, and more. The concert will be held at St. Anthony of Padua Church (155 Sullivan Street at Houston Street).

"At a time when we feel our values are being challenged, we have music to unite us." says Artistic Director Thea Kano. "The American composers represented in this concert chose text that depicts beauty, peace and community--values respected around the world."

Adds Associate Conductor Dusty Francis, "It's an exciting survey of American musical history and styles, spanning early shape-note hymnody to spirituals, folk, gospel, and contemporary classical. The program really runs the gamut."

Tickets to this concert are on sale online at [nycmasterchorale.org/box](http://nycmasterchorale.org/box).

**AMERICAN A CAPPELLA FOR FLORENCE**

**WHEN:** Thursday, June 22, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** St. Anthony of Padua Church (155 Sullivan Street at Houston Street); accessible by subway via the 1 to Houston Street, the C, E to Spring Street, or the A, B, C, D, E, F, M to West 4th Street.

**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](http://nycmasterchorale.org/box). Tickets are also available at the door prior to the concert, as available.

New York City Master Chorale  
Thea Kano, Artistic Director  
Dusty Francis, Associate Conductor

***About Artistic Director Thea Kano***

Thea Kano is the founding artistic director and conductor of the New York City Master Chorale. In addition, she serves as the Artistic Director of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. 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 Associate 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. He currently serves as Music Director of the Park Slope Singers and of the Ars Musica Chorale; Founding Artistic Director of the New Jersey State Children's Chorus; Associate Conductor of the New York City Master Chorale; and Director of Children's Choirs at St. Michael's Episcopal Church. Francis holds the Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Maryland. A native of Ohio, he currently resides in Manhattan.

***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 connect people through choral music by presenting high-quality concerts inspired by the distinct energy, diversity, and talent of New York City. The Chorale presents an annual concert series at venues throughout New York City, including the St. Jean Baptiste Catholic Church, 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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