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**New York City Master Chorale presents “Grant Us Peace” featuring works by Finzi, Schoenberg, Bach, and Holiday Favorites**

**NEW YORK, NOV 14, 2017** – On Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 8:00 p.m., the New York City Master Chorale ([nycmasterchorale.org](http://nycmasterchorale.org)) will present “Grant Us Peace” as the first concert of their 2017–2018 Season of Light. Artistic Director Thea Kano, Principal Conductor Dusty Francis, and Assistant Conductor Laura Inman will lead the Chorale in Finzi: *In Terra Pax*, Schoenberg: *Friede auf Erden*, and Bach “Dona Nobis Pacem” from *B Minor Mass*, as well as arrangements of holiday favorites. They will be accompanied by James Kennerley on the organ. The concert will be held at St. Jean Baptiste Church (1065 Lexington Avenue at 76<sup>th</sup> Street).

"We were inspired to program a theme of peace in response to the conflicts our world continues to face," says Dr. Kano. "Music has the power to heal and bring together cultures unlike any other expression. The diversity and message of these works represent that desire for conflict resolution, while showing off the phenomenal musicianship of the New York City Master Chorale."

"The composers featured on this program were deeply inspired by the texts they've set, and the resulting works are as breathtaking as they are challenging," adds Mr. Francis. "The singers are excited to be revisiting beloved favorites like Bach's "Dona Nobis Pacem" and to be discovering rarely heard masterpieces such as Schoenberg's astonishing *Friede auf Erde*."

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

**GRANT US PEACE**

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** St. Jean Baptiste Church (1065 Lexington Avenue at 76<sup>th</sup> Street); accessible by subway via the 6 to 77th 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, Principal Conductor  
Laura Inman, Assistant Conductor  
James Kennerley, Organ

***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 Principal 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 Principal Conductor of the New York City Master Chorale, Director of Choirs at Collegiate School, and Director of Children's Choirs at St. Michael's Episcopal Church. Recent seasons have included performances at esteemed venues such as Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, and St. Patrick's Cathedral, among others. 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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