



Nebraska Choral Arts Society

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PRESS RELEASE

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Symmetry: pipe organ and voices complement, come together

For Immediate Release

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WHAT: **Nebraska Choral Arts Society: “Symmetry” concert**
Featuring Masterworks adult chorus, CAST (Choral Arts Society Teens) and Cantori youth choir

WHEN: Saturday, February 28, 2009 at 7 p.m.

WHERE: Presbyterian Church of the Cross, 1517 South 114th Street, Omaha 68144

COST: Advance Tickets - \$10 Adults, \$8 students/seniors
Day of Concert - \$12 Adults, \$10 students/seniors

For more information and tickets: www.choirmusic.org 402.342.6753

Omaha, Neb. – Symmetry can mean balance, proportion and evenness—but is often thought of as a descriptive visual term. It can mean all those same things in music, and Nebraska Choral Art Society has composed an evening balancing the lush sounds of the pipe organ with the purity of voices.

The “Symmetry” concert, on NCAS’s 2008-2009 “Kaleidoscope” season, is on Saturday, February 28 at 7 p.m. at Presbyterian Church of the Cross located at 1517 South 114th Street in Omaha. Led by their respective conductors, the performance features three of the eight NCAS choirs: Masterworks adult chorus, CAST (Choral Arts Society Teens), and Cantori youth choir.

For an audience member accustomed to hearing vocal music matched with piano – this will definitely be a different concert experience. All pieces are either sung a cappella or accompanied by pipe organ.

“I personally love a cappella music, a lot. And to balance a concert dedicated to that pure sound with organ-accompanied pieces is definitely a joy for me,” said Cantori conductor Zach Vreeman.

He continues, “This concert offers a different atmosphere by virtue of using an organ. Pipe organs are all about sustained sound; they are much more like the human voice than pianos.”

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Some of the pieces to be sung are best suited for organ accompaniment, such as “O Clap Your Hands” and “O Taste and See” by Ralph Vaughn Williams. Additionally, Franz Biebl’s “Ave Maria” will be sung with double choir (CAST and Masterworks).

Expect also to hear a wide array of repertoire from around the world. For instance the audience will hear the vocal portion of Bach’s “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring,” typically a wedding anthem often heard without voices, sung in German. Familiar pieces such as this are juxtaposed with works including Hungarian folk melodies by Kodály, two a cappella Japanese pieces, and uncommon settings of sacred texts.

Kat Doebel conducts CAST, and Tim Marsden conducts Masterworks.

For tickets and more information regarding “Symmetry” in the “Kaleidoscope” series, visit www.choirmusic.org. Advance tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors. Tickets cost \$2 more on the performance date. Questions can be directed to the NCAS offices at (402) 342-6743.

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The Nebraska Choral Arts Society, a non-profit organization founded in 1978, is the umbrella of the Masterworks Chorus, CAST (Choral Arts Society Teens) and the Nebraska Children’s Chorus. Its mission is to share the gift of great choral music, to inspire new generations with the love of singing and broaden its reach to all ages and cultures. Eight choirs make up the Nebraska Choral Arts Society, performing throughout the year in various venues in Omaha and across the country. The most advanced choirs of NCAS have performed internationally in choral music festivals and concerts in Central America, Europe, Asia and Africa. For more information, visit www.choirmusic.org.