



Nebraska Choral Arts Society

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PRESS RELEASE

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Nancy Engdahl Robson named Nebraska Choral Arts Society Artistic Director

For Immediate Release

April 9, 2008

WHAT: Reception to congratulate Nancy Engdahl Robson on new appointment
Featuring NCAS children's choir Camerata, led by Robson

WHEN: Monday, April 14, 2008 – 7:45 p.m.

WHERE: St. Michael Lutheran Church, 13232 Blondo St.

MEDIA RSVP: Cameras encouraged. Please contact Marjorie Maas at 402.991.1560 to confirm attendance and/or to arrange interviews with Robson

Omaha, Neb. – The Nebraska Choral Arts Society Board of Directors announces Nancy Engdahl Robson as the new artistic director of the organization. At a reception to be held on Monday, April 14 at St. Michael Lutheran Church, NCAS members and supporters will formally congratulate her on the appointment. This reception is in coordination with a “Bon Voyage” sendoff concert for one of Robson’s choirs, Camerata, as they go on tour of Colorado Springs.

Most recently serving NCAS as interim artistic director, Nancy Engdahl Robson is a native of Omaha, an avid musician and an elementary music educator at Black Elk Elementary School in Millard. She also serves as department head for elementary music in the Millard Public Schools and conductor of the Millard Minnesingers, a high ability learner choir of 4th and 5th graders. Her talents have helped direct children’s voices of NCAS since 1984, when the organization began including youth. She currently conducts the NCAS Camerata and Jubilate children’s choirs. She will continue with these two choirs and take on season planning and artistic staffing responsibilities.

Of her appointment, Dr. Louis Pol, chairman of the NCAS Board of Directors, shares, “We were fortunate to have someone with incredible experience, great knowledge of choral music, and close relationship with our organization already with us who wanted to lead from an artistic perspective. Her dedication to furthering choral music and her pure energy are astounding. When you’re around Nancy you feel the zeal of a person who has been doing this for the first time. It will be a joy for our audiences, conductors and singers to be led by and collaborate with her.”

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Regarding her approach to the organization's leadership, Robson states, "NCAS has a strong team of wonderful conductors right now, and I will gladly help keep their efforts and our mission viable. I look forward to broadening the organization with a more in-depth approach to community interaction and strengthening our existing relationships."

Renee Spicka, executive director of NCAS, explained that when the Board of Directors began seeking a new artistic director in January, it examined what a national search would entail and considered what qualities would best serve the organization. Over the subsequent months—upon seeing how well Robson was managing other conductors and repertoire, and considering her longtime vested nature in the Omaha area and larger national choral communities—it became clear Robson's leadership would positively affect NCAS in the needs they had determined. The Board of Directors ceased other search plans, and Robson was asked to fill the position.

Robson received her Bachelor of Music degree in vocal and instrumental (flute) music in 1977 from St. Olaf College where she was a member of the internationally famed St. Olaf Choir. She received her Master of Music degree from the University of Iowa in 1984. She has previously conducted "Sing Around Nebraska" for Omaha school children as well as served as a guest conductor and clinician extensively throughout the Midwest. Robson was named the Arts Educator of the Year during Arts on the Green 2000 by the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce.

Ann Olney, a representative from the Board of Directors and a long time NCAS constituent as a parent of three former singers under Robson's direction, says, "Nancy brings a wealth of experience to the Nebraska Choral Arts Society as a lifelong music educator and as a founding conductor of the children's choruses of NCAS. Her background and her passion for the choral arts make her an artistic director who is uniquely qualified to promote the NCAS mission in the Omaha community. She has the conductor's gift of challenging the singers artistically while creating an unforgettable experience for the audience."

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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. Led by a fully-professional staff, eight choirs make up the Nebraska Choral Arts Society and perform 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 Europe, Asia and Africa. For more information, visit www.choirmusic.org.

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