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**SANTA FE DESERT CHORALE WINTER FESTIVAL 2009 LED BY MUSIC DIRECTOR JOSHUA HABERMANN FEATURES THREE PROGRAMS IN SANTA FE AND ALBUQUERQUE.**

The Santa Fe Desert Chorale's 26<sup>th</sup> annual winter season opens December 13 and runs until December 22 under the direction of **Joshua Habermann**. The sixteen members of the Desert Chorale will perform three programs in five different venues in both Santa Fe and Albuquerque over the course of the ten-day season. This will be Habermann's first winter as music director following his critical and popular success this summer in his debut season.

The Desert Chorale celebrates the Festival of Lights with *A Chanukah Celebration* on December 13 at Congregation B'nai Israel in Albuquerque and on December 15 at Temple Beth Shalom in Santa Fe. Early works of the Renaissance and Baroque era composers **Salamone Rossi** and **Louis Saladin** and Romantics **Felix Mendelssohn** and **Franz Schubert**, traditional Sephardic folk songs and contemporary American composer **Eric Whitacre's** *Five Hebrew Love Songs* are some of the featured works on this eclectic celebration of Jewish sacred and secular music.

Winter Festival continues on December 18 with *Carols and Lullabies* at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Santa Fe and on December 20 at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque. Additional Santa Fe performances will take place at the Cathedral on December 21 and at Cristo Rey Church on December 22. The program features American composer Conrad Susa's *Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest*, a setting of Spanish songs for chorus, marimba, guitar and harp. Traditional chants, sacred hymns and carols including "Angels We Have Heard on High", "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day" "Wexford Carol" and the Chorale's traditional candlelight recession to "Silent Night", are included in this holiday musical feast.

*A Family Holiday Christmas*, features popular holiday carols and songs performed by the Desert Chorale and the Children's Choir. This one night only concert for young and old will be presented on December 19 at Cristo Rey Church in Santa Fe. Details of this program will be available in November.

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For more information: [www.DesertChorale.org](http://www.DesertChorale.org).

**ABOUT THE SANTA FE DESERT CHORALE**

*The Santa Fe Desert Chorale is New Mexico's premier professional chamber choir, and each summer and during the December holiday season 16-24 of the finest singers from around the country come to Santa Fe to perform works from the rich choral literature tradition. There are no other summer or winter music festivals in the United States devoted exclusively to choral music that surpass the Desert Chorale's annual two seasons in virtuosity of performance and programming breadth. The CD catalog includes six titles conducted by Linda Mack (2004-2007); four titles conducted by Dennis Shrock (1999-2003) and one early recording from founding artistic director Lawrence Bandfield (1982-1998).*

*Founded in 2002, the Desert Chorale Children's Choir provides an opportunity for children ages 8 to 14 to grow together in their love of music and singing. Public performance is an important component of the program, and each season the children make many appearances in a variety of settings throughout Santa Fe.*