

Santa Fe
DESERT
CHORALE
Glorious Voices. Timeless Music.

February 24, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SANTA FE DESERT CHORALE'S 28TH SUMMER FESTIVAL JULY 13TH–AUGUST 13TH FEATURES FIVE PROGRAMS INCLUDING MONTEVERDI'S *VESPERS OF 1610*. Tickets on sale Monday, March 1.

The **Santa Fe Desert Chorale's** 28th annual Summer Festival season opens July 13 under the direction of music director **Joshua Habermann**. The five week festival consists of five programs and thirteen performances returning to familiar venues and a first ever performance in Linda Durham Contemporary Art opening with *Song of Songs*, a program conceived for the soaring acoustic of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi. The season continues with *Mystics and Mavericks* at the intimate Loretto Chapel and *The Romantic Guitar* at the Scottish Rite Center. We also present **HeArt Songs** at Linda Durham Contemporary Art, a program of art songs based on the theme of love presented by members of the Desert Chorale.

The Desert Chorale performs *Vespro della Beata Vergine 1610 (Vespers of the Blessed Virgin 1610)* by Claudio Monteverdi with chamber orchestra at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in honor of the 400th anniversary of the composition of the work and in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Santa Fe (also in 1610).

The Desert Chorale is a chamber ensemble of twenty-four professional singers who travel to Santa Fe from all over the United States and Europe for the annual summer festival. Auditions for this year's ensemble were at a historic level. General Director Don Scott Carpenter stated, "Summer Festival 2010 may be the most exciting season of our 28 year history. Not only does the Desert Chorale continue to present the finest chorale music ever written, but we are also able to take part in celebrating the 400 years of rich history in Santa Fe. As music director Joshua Habermann and I were traveling the country auditioning for this year's festival, we agreed that this year's ensemble will be the finest ever assembled." Tickets go on sale through Tickets Santa Fe on Monday, March 1 by calling 505-988-1234 or www.ticketssantafe.org.

Song of Songs With its rich imagery and mix of sacred and secular elements, the Song of Solomon has inspired some of the most stunning music in the choral repertoire spanning five centuries.

Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi

213 Cathedral Place, Santa Fe
July 13, 22 and August 3 (8pm)

Immanuel Presbyterian Church

114 Carlisle Blvd SE, Albuquerque
July 18 (4pm)

San Francisco de Asis

St. Francis Plaza, Ranchos de Taos
July 25 (4pm)

Mystics and Mavericks Explore the transcendent music of Arvo Pärt and other choral visionaries. The groundbreaking and eclectic soundscapes of Meredith Monk round out a program of otherworldly visions including the world premiere of Robert Kyr's *Santa Fe Vespers 2010*.

Loretto Chapel

211 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe
July 20, 29 and August 4 (8pm)

The Romantic Guitar From early lute songs to Spanish flamenco, the combination of voices and guitar offers limitless variety. A setting of Walt Whitman's intensely moving Civil War poems *A Procession Winding Around Me* by Jeffrey Van and the exciting *Romancero Gitano* on poems of Federico García Lorca are featured works on this enchanting program.

Scottish Rite Center

463 Paseo de Peralta
July 27, August 5 and 10 (8pm)

HeArt Songs Enjoy a rare opportunity to hear members of the Desert Chorale perform duets, trios and quartets on the subject of love. This program from the vast art song literature includes Brahms' famous *Liebeslieder Waltzes* for vocal quartet and four-hand piano.

Linda Durham Contemporary Art

1807 Second Street #107, Santa Fe
August 8 (4 and 8pm)

Vespers of 1610 Composed in 1610, the same year as the founding of the Santa Fe diocese, Monteverdi's masterpiece earned him the job of music director at St. Mark's Basilica in Venice. Soaring Renaissance melodies fuse with Baroque pageantry in a virtuoso tour de force. The sounds of instrumental fanfares and vocal flourishes will fill the Cathedral as we celebrate the 400th anniversary of this glorious masterwork and of our city.

Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi

213 Cathedral Place, Santa Fe

August 13 (8pm)

Venice in Santa Fe Gala Join us for both our season finale performance of Monteverdi's *Vespers* and a gala dinner at Santa Fe's elegant five star Amavi Restaurant. Savor the tastes of Venice with a sumptuous meal prepared by award-winning chef David Sellers along with musical entertainment and a live auction. Included in the gala ticket price is a premium seat to the concert and VIP parking at the Cathedral.

Amavi Restaurant (5:30pm)

221 Shelby Street, Santa Fe

Cathedral (8pm)

August 13

For more information: 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 one title conducted by Joshua Habermann (2009), one title conducted by Don Scott Carpenter (2009), one title conducted by Simon Carrington (2008), 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.