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THE SANTA FE DESERT CHORALE

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**SANTA FE DESERT CHORALE TO PRESENT SOLD-OUT
COMMUNITY SING, *SANTA FE SINGS!*, CONDUCTED BY MUSIC
DIRECTOR JOSHUA HABERMANN.**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF PARTICIPANTS IN MASTERCLASS TO BE LED BY
DAVID HOLLOWAY.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Santa Fe, New Mexico, May 10, 2016: Executive Director, Janice L. Mayer announced today that Santa Fe Sings!, a community engagement program of The Santa Fe Desert Chorale, is completely sold-out.

Open to singers of all backgrounds, "Santa Fe Sings!" is a multi-generational community sing organized by the Santa Fe Desert Chorale in fellowship with choral singers residing in New Mexico. The event will take place on **Saturday, May 21, 2016 from 10:00 am -1:00 pm at Palen Hall at The Church of the Holy Faith** (311 East Palace Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501).

One hundred and twenty-five participants ranging from 8th graders to amateur singers over 80 years of age will join together in a joyful exploration of choral music led by Music Director Joshua Habermann. Composers Samuel Barber, Aaron Copland, Heinrich Isaac and Antonio Salazar, as well as arranger Alice Parker, will be represented in the repertoire for the community sing.

In the afternoon, from 2:00-4:00 pm, David Holloway, internationally-renowned baritone and Director of the Apprentice Program at the Santa Fe Opera, will lead a public masterclass on vocal technique; demonstrating with emerging singers who will have been pre-selected by noted mezzo-soprano and voice teacher Nina Hinson. Invited to participate in the masterclass are: soprano, Mary Brzezinski (age 25) from Windermere, FL, a Master of Music student; soprano Connor Murphy-White (23) from Greenville, AL, a Master of Music student; mezzo-soprano Autumn Scott, (20) from Albuquerque, NM, a sophomore; and baritone Joseph Mitchell (22) from Belen, NM, a senior. All of the masterclass participants are students at the University of New Mexico.

Nathan Salazar, a native of Los Alamos, has been engaged as the collaborative pianist for the day.

The consortium of sponsors for *Santa Fe Sings!* includes foundations, local businesses, and individuals. The Santa Fe Desert Chorale expresses its gratitude to the McCune Charitable Foundation, Chocolate Maven, Clafoutis French Bakery & Restaurant, The Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Santa Fe, and Whoo's Donuts. The Church of the Holy Faith has donated the space for the event. Individual sponsors include: Lynn Bickley, Mary Ferguson, Roxanne Howe-Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Jones, Lynn Lee, and Eugene and Priscilla Zimmerman.

About the Santa Fe Desert Chorale:

The mission of the **Santa Fe Desert Chorale**, one of the nation's premier professional vocal ensembles, is to excite, engage and inspire diverse audiences with the beauty and power of great choral music.

Now entering its 34th season, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale is one of the longest continually performing professional music organizations in New Mexico, as well as one of the most distinguished. A recipient of the 2006 Mayor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, in 2015 the *Santa Fe New Mexican* named the ensemble one of the Best of Santa Fe in the Music Performance category. Scott Cantrell of *The Dallas Morning News* characterized the Chorale as presenting "stunning singing...incredible power," during the 2015 Summer Festival.

Now in his eighth season as Music Director, Joshua Habermann leads the 24-voice professional Chorale in repertoire spanning seven centuries, from Medieval polyphony to contemporary works. The critically-acclaimed ensemble performs at historical sites in Santa Fe such as the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis and the Loretto Chapel, as well as other venues throughout the Southwest. A recent highlight was an invitational appearance at the 2015 American Choral Director's Association National Conference in Utah which was later broadcast by Minnesota Public Radio.

The Santa Fe Desert Chorale presents both summer and winter festivals of concerts featuring a wide range of literature from around the world. The 2016 Summer Festival Season will take place from July 19 through August 15, 2016.

The composition of the Chorale is truly national in scope with artists drawn from coast-to-coast; many sharing the stage with peer groups from Boston's Handel and Haydn Society to the Los Angeles Master Chorale, and including Chanticleer, Conspirare, and Seraphic Fire.

The Desert Chorale prides itself on its strong relationships within the community of Northern New Mexico, and enjoys collaborations with the Creativity for Peace, Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, New Mexico History Museum, National Dance Institute – New Mexico, Performance Santa Fe, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Santa Fe Symphony and Chorus, Santa Fe Pro Musica, and The Santa Fe Opera. Community engagement is an integral part of the Desert Chorale's mission.

Joshua Habermann, Music Director

Joshua Habermann is in his eighth season with Santa Fe Desert Chorale. He raised the ensemble's artistic profile and broadened its programming to include choral-orchestral masterworks and cutting-edge

a cappella programs. Dr. Habermann serves concurrently as Director of the Dallas Symphony Chorus and Music Director of the Santa Fe Desert Chorale. A member of the Board of Directors of Chorus America, Joshua Habermann is in demand for choral workshops all across the United States and throughout the world. He recently led workshops on American choral music in Cuba and Sweden. Prior posts include serving as Assistant Conductor of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, and Director of Choral Studies at University of Miami. Joshua Habermann is a graduate of Georgetown and UT Austin (DMA). For more information, please visit desertchorale.org

Since 2005, **David Holloway** has served as the Director of the Santa Fe Opera's Apprentice Singer's Program, which was founded in 1957. The program is internationally recognized as one of the finest programs of its type. Each year, David Holloway works with a team to audition over 1000 singers for the Apprentice Singer's Program. He is also the Artistic Director El Paso Opera in Texas. Mr. Holloway was previously the Head of Voice at Chicago College of Performing Arts where he served for eleven years. He sang seven seasons with the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, and for ten years, he was leading baritone at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Düsseldorf. He sang the Toreador in *Carmen* during two seasons at the Glyndebourne Opera Festival, a performance which was filmed and is available on DVD. He performed with the New York City Opera and major opera companies across the United States with a repertoire of over seventy-five major roles.

Pianist **Nathan Salazar** has been featured in performances at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor (MI), The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C., and Carnegie Hall in New York City. He made his orchestral debut in 2004 with the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra. His musical travels have taken him to England, Scotland, Italy, and Russia, as well as all across the United States. He performed in the International Festival of Spanish and Latin American Music where he worked with Teresa Berganza. In January 2014, he was invited to be a part of Marilyn Horne's 80th birthday celebration through the series "The Song Continues" at Carnegie Hall, where he worked with Ms. Horne, Martin Katz, and the legendary Christa Ludwig. He received a fellowship to Songfest in Los Angeles in 2013, where he studied with pianists Margo Garrett, Graham Johnson, and Martin Katz, and worked with composers Jake Heggie, John Musto, and Libby Larsen. He recently took part in Songfest's first commercial recording, which will be available in 2016. A native of Los Alamos, Nathan Salazar attended the University of Kansas, and holds a Master of Collaborative Piano from the University of Michigan where he studied with Martin Katz.

For more information on the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, please visit: desertchorale.org

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