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## THE SANTA FE DESERT CHORALE

311 East Palace Avenue  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 988-2282  
[www.desertchorale.org](http://www.desertchorale.org)

**Santa Fe Desert Chorale Announces 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour to Dallas, Fort Worth, and Oklahoma City.**

***American Voices* program reflects four centuries of American repertoire.**

**Commercial recording of the program to be released by Avie Records and distributed by NAXOS.**

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Santa Fe, New Mexico, September 21, 2017: The Santa Fe Desert Chorale (SFDC)** announced the programming and scheduling for its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary tour to Dallas, Fort Worth, and Oklahoma City. In making the announcement, **Music Director Joshua Habermann** said, "I am thrilled to present the Desert Chorale to the Dallas/Fort Worth choral community that has been my home for the last seven years."

The *American Voices* concert repertoire performed by the all-professional Santa Fe Desert Chorale spans three centuries: from Shaker music of the 1800s to works by leading 21st century choral composers including **Sydney Guillaume, Shawn Kirchner, Morten Lauridsen, and Stephen Paulus**. It includes a world premiere, *Reflections* by **Jake Runestad** set to journal writings by Henry David Thoreau. In writing about *Reflections*, the composer said, "the beauty of American music is that it is filled with the influence of traditions from the diverse cultures that make up our community. This new work, while attempting to capture what makes America unique, is inspired by the diversity of our collective experiences and comments on an element of life as a citizen of this ever-changing cultural landscape." The Runestad work was commissioned by the Santa Fe Desert Chorale and underwritten in part by Jane Clayton Oakes.

The Santa Fe Desert Chorale will perform at **St. Paul's Cathedral in Oklahoma City, OK on Friday, October 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**, at the **Kimbell Art Museum's Renzo Piano Pavilion in Fort Worth, TX on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.**, and on **The David R. Davidson Tower Arts Series at Highland Park United Methodist Church on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.** The Fort Worth performance is dedicated to the memory of **Marlene Nathan Meyerson**, and is sponsored in part by the Marlene Nathan Meyerson Family Foundation and the David Nathan Meyerson Foundation. The *American Voices* Tour received leadership support from the Carol Franc Buck Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. American Airlines is the official tour airline of the Santa Fe Desert Chorale. Ticket prices range from \$20 to \$40 (with reduced student ticket prices) depending on the venue. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit [www.desertchorale.org](http://www.desertchorale.org) or call (505) 988-2282.

Following the three public tour performances, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale will give two abbreviated concerts for the students in the Choral & Elementary Music program in The Visual and Performing Arts Department of the **Dallas Independent School District**, which is under the direction of its Director, Bradley Olesen, Ph.D. The opportunity for the students to hear the professional choir in performances at Highland Park United Methodist Church supports the department's goal to "increase, improve, and implement quality enrichment opportunities for all students during both in-school and out-of-school time." The school performances will take place on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., and are closed to the general public.

Additionally, 16 members of the Chorale, Dr. Joshua Habermann, and Artistic Coordinator, Dr. Kyle Nielsen will be in residence at the **College of Music at the University of North Texas (UNT) in Denton, TX on October 26, and 27, 2017** where they will lead choral singing and choral conducting workshops. The residency is under the direction of Dr. Richard Sparks, a Professor of Music and Chair, Division of Conducting and Ensembles and Dr. Allen Hightower, Director of Choral Studies at UNT.

The tour culminates with a commercial recording of the American program, and will take its title from Stephen Paulus' composition *The Road Home*. **The first commercial release in SFDC's history will be recorded at Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, TX, released on the Avie label, and distributed by NAXOS. Six-time GRAMMY® Award recipient Elizabeth Ostrow is the Producer and Brad Michel, recipient of the *BBC Music Magazine Award for Technical Excellence in Recording* and numerous *Gramophone Awards*, is the Engineer.** The recording is underwritten by Faith Strong of California.

Composer Shawn Kirchner spoke about the Chorale and inclusion of his tri-part work *Heavenly Home* on the recording: "My relationship with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale began in July 2013 when I spent several days with Dr. Joshua Habermann and the choir in preparation for their summer performances of my composition *Heavenly Home: Three American Songs*. (*Heavenly Home* is a choral cycle based on three 'classic' 19<sup>th</sup> century gospel songs that utilizes the virtuosity of an advanced choir, with many textural layers, rich harmonies, and improvisatory elements.)" He continued, "the collaboration was very successful due to Dr. Habermann's interpretive gifts and the talented singers' great 'feel' for the piece. The success was also enabled by something every choral director who programs concerts knows: There is a unique, palpable connection that audiences experience when listening to traditional American music." He added, "as one of the nation's leading choirs, their unique artistic contributions and high quality programming 'raise the bar' and inspire the whole choral community. A recording project of American choral music will both document their achievement and further their 'reach,' enabling more to partake of their inspired choral artistry."

An exclusive patron tour that includes not only the Chorale's concerts, but specially-arranged cultural and culinary experiences in Dallas and Fort Worth, will take place in conjunction with the Chorale's tour.

Please see information on key participants, arrangers and composers, and detailed concert information attached.

**SANTA FE DESERT CHORALE MISSION STATEMENT:**

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.

For more information on the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, please visit: [desertchorale.org](http://desertchorale.org)

Press Contact:

For more information, images, or to arrange press seats, please contact

Janice L. Mayer, Executive Director

[Janice@desertchorale.org](mailto:Janice@desertchorale.org) and (505) 988-2282, ext. 5

**SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE:**

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Friday, October 20, 2017	7:00 p.m.	<i>American Voices</i>	St. Paul's Cathedral 127 NW 7 <sup>th</sup> Street Oklahoma City, OK 73102
Saturday, October 21, 2017	2:00 p.m.	<i>American Voices</i>	Renzo Piano Pavilion Kimbell Art Museum 3333 Camp Bowie Blvd. Fort Worth, TX 76107
Sunday, October 22, 2017	6:00 p.m.	<i>American Voices</i>	The David R. Davidson Tower Arts Series Highland Park United Methodist Church 3300 Mockingbird Lane Dallas, TX 75205
Monday, October 23, 2017	All Day	Recording	Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center 2301 Flora St, Dallas, TX 75201
Tuesday, October 24, 2017	All Day	Recording	Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center 2301 Flora St, Dallas, TX 75201
Wednesday, October 25, 2017	10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.	DISD School Programs	Highland Park United Methodist Church 3300 Mockingbird Lane Dallas, TX 75205
Thursday, October 26, 2017	All Day	Residency	College of Music University of North Texas 415 Avenue C Denton, TX 76201
Friday, October 27, 2017	All Day	Residency	College of Music University of North Texas 415 Avenue C Denton, TX 76201
Tuesday, February 13, 2018	7:00 p.m.	CD Launch & Concert	Cristo Rey Church 1120 Canyon Road Santa Fe, NM 87501

## **KEY PARTICIPANTS:**

### **ABOUT THE SANTA FE DESERT CHORALE:**

Founded in 1982 by Lawrence “Larry” Bandfield, 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. The Chorale was a recipient of the 2006 Mayor’s Award for Excellence in the Arts and in 2016 was named the “Best Choral Group of Santa Fe” by the *Santa Fe Reporter*. Scott Cantrell of *The Dallas Morning News* characterized the Chorale as presenting “stunning singing...incredible power.”

Now in his ninth season as Music Director, Joshua Habermann leads the 25-voice professional Chorale in repertoire spanning seven centuries, from medieval polyphony to contemporary works. The composition of the Chorale is truly national in scope and the ensemble is recognized among the finest American chamber choirs.

Throughout its history, the Chorale has maintained a commitment to give voice to music from Hispanic and Native American communities. Dedicated to advancing the composers of our time, the Chorale has commissioned twenty-two works by eighteen composers; three quarters of the composers commissioned have been American. In addition, another seven works have been given their world or American premieres by the Santa Fe Desert Chorale. The ensemble performs at historical sites in Santa Fe such as the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi and the Loretto Chapel, as well as other venues throughout the Southwest. A recent highlight was an invitational appearance at the 2015 American Choral Directors Association National Conference in Utah, which was later broadcast by Minnesota Public Radio. In the 2017-2018 season, the Chorale will tour to Chicago, Dallas, Fort Worth, Los Angeles, and Oklahoma City.

The Santa Fe Desert Chorale presents both summer and winter festivals of concerts featuring a wide range of literature from around the world. The 35th Anniversary Winter Festival program, “Home for the Holidays,” is scheduled from December 16<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup>, with performances in Albuquerque, Los Alamos, and Santa Fe.

The Desert Chorale prides itself on its strong relationships within the community of Northern New Mexico, and enjoys collaborations with the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, New Mexico History Museum, NDI-NM, Performance Santa Fe, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Santa Fe Symphony and Chorus, Santa Fe Pro Musica, and The Santa Fe Opera, among others. Community engagement is an integral part of the Desert Chorale’s mission.

### **TOUR VOCAL ROSTER:**

<b>Soprano</b>	<b>Alto</b>	<b>Tenor</b>	<b>Bass</b>
Sophie Amelkin	Sarah Brauer	Matt Alber	Cameron Beauchamp
Esteli Gomez	Dianna Grabowski	JD Burnett	John Buffett
Lindsay Kesselman	Sarah Nickerson	George Case	David Farwig
Sarah Moyer	Keely Rhodes	Erik Gustafson	Sam Kreidenweis
Emily Noel	Elisa Sutherland	Bradley Naylor	Enrico Lagasca
Kathlene Ritch	Mitzi Westra	James Reese	John Proft
Alissa Ruth			

### **JOSHUA HABERMANN**

Joshua Habermann, Music Director, is in his ninth season with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale. Since joining the Chorale he has raised the ensemble's artistic profile and broadened its programming to include choral-orchestral masterworks as well as cutting-edge *a cappella* programs.

He has led honor choirs and choral festivals in North and Latin America, Europe, and Asia. As a singer (tenor) he has performed with the Oregon Bach Festival Chorus (Eugene, OR), and Conspirare (Austin, TX). Recording credits include three projects with Conspirare: *Through the Green Fuse; Requiem*, a GRAMMY® nominee for best choral recording in 2006; and *Threshold of Night*, a GRAMMY® nominee for best choral recording and best classical album in 2009.

In 2011, Joshua Habermann was named Director of the Dallas Symphony Chorus, the official vocal ensemble of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, now in its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary season. As Director, he prepares the 200-voice chorus for classical and pops series concerts. Highlights with the DSO include performances of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, Verdi's *Requiem*, Berlioz' *Te Deum*, and Britten's *War Requiem*, which was performed for the national meeting of the American Choral Directors Association in 2013.

From 2008-2011 Joshua Habermann was Director of Choral Studies at the University of Miami Frost School of Music, where he led the graduate program in conducting and directed the Frost Chorale. Notable projects in Miami included an appearance at the Florida Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association convention, and collaborations with the New World Symphony and conductor Michael Tilson Thomas in music of Ives, Schubert, and Beethoven. During this same period Dr. Habermann led the Master Chorale of South Florida in performances of masterworks such as Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Haydn's *Creation*, and Mozart's *Requiem*.

From 1996-2008 Habermann was Assistant Conductor of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, and Professor of Music at San Francisco State University, where under his direction the SFSU Chamber Singers undertook international engagements in Havana, Cuba, and concert tours in Germany, the Czech Republic, and China. In 2006 he led a collaboration between the SFSU Chamber Singers and the Orchestre des Jeunes de Provence in music of Poulenc and the *Requiem* of Maurice Duruflé in concerts throughout France. National invitations include the Waging Peace Festival in Eugene, OR, multiple appearances at the California Music Educators Convention, and an appearance at the American Choral Directors Association regional convention in 2008.

A native of California, Joshua Habermann is a graduate of Georgetown University and the University of Texas at Austin, where he completed doctoral studies in conducting with Craig Hella Johnson. He lives in Dallas with his wife Joanna, daughter Kira, and son Kai.

### **JEFF LANKOV, PIANO**

Pianist Jeff Lankov has been described as “alternately ferocious and sensitive” (*The New York Times*), “a fearless musician” (*The Dallas Morning News*), “a master of concert programming” (*Star-Telegram* – Fort Worth, TX), “a worthy, sensitive, and skillful advocate” (*D Magazine*) and “a pianist of great passion and verve” (*Portland Tribune*), with “performances of brilliance and dedication...there seems to be nothing that eludes his grasp” (*New York Concert Review*).

Mr. Lankov’s repertoire includes works by composers as diverse as John Adams, Blind Tom, John Cage, Michael Finnissy, George Gershwin, Scott Joplin, and Astor Piazzolla, along with music for toy piano and prepared piano and Mr. Lankov’s own solo-piano transcriptions of Stravinsky’s *Le Sacre du Printemps* and *The Firebird*. His multimedia programs combine music with theatrical elements, visual art, and computer-generated sounds and images, often in unusual juxtapositions that explore the synthesis of popular and classical forms. As a solo recitalist and collaborative pianist, Jeff Lankov frequently performs avant-garde works in concert halls such as Carnegie Hall, New York Symphony Space, and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Additionally, he performs in popular genres at venues including Radio City Music Hall and Broadway theatres.

Mr. Lankov holds a Ph.D. in Piano Performance from New York University, where he served on the piano faculty and studied with Marilyn Nonken. Jeff Lankov has collaborated extensively with Robert Xavier Rodríguez, whose piano works he has edited for G. Schirmer and recorded on the Albany label.

### **JANICE L. MAYER, SFDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/RECORDING EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

Janice Mayer joined the Santa Fe Desert Chorale as Executive Director in June 2015. She began her career in the performing arts as a National Opera Institute Fellow at the New York City Opera during Beverly Sills’ tenure as General Director. Over the next two decades, she served as National Group Sales Director of The Shubert Organization, Inc., Associate Director of Marketing Promotion at the Metropolitan Opera, Director of Artistic Planning and Communication of the Van Cliburn Foundation, Associate Director of Classical Action: Performing Arts Against AIDS, and as Executive Director of both Musica Sacra, Inc. (NY) and Executive Director of Caminos del Inka, Inc. (TX).

After seven years as a Vice President and Manager at Columbia Artists Management, Inc., she established Janice Mayer & Associates LLC, an international artist management firm dedicated to advancing the vocal arts. As chief administrator of the firm for eleven years, she managed the careers of composers, conductors, and vocalists worldwide. She is also Founding President of Backshore Artists Projects, Inc., a nonprofit chamber music commissioning organization that has coordinated world premieres, additional performances, and recordings of works by composers such as William Bolcom, Shih-Hui Chen, Jake Heggie, Thea Musgrave, and Joan Tower. She has served as Executive Producer of *Let Evening Come*, *Briefly It Enters*, and *Cabaret Songs Vol. 3 & 4* - William Bolcom, Composer, with Benita Valente and Joan Morris (Centaur); *Flesh & Stone*; *The Songs of Jake Heggie* - Jake Heggie, Composer, with Frederica Von Stade, Joyce Castle, Mary Phillips, and Eugenia Zukerman (Americus Records, Inc.); *The Hawthorn Tree* - William Bolcom, Composer, with Joyce Castle (Americus Records, Inc.).

Her consulting clients have included: Boston Lyric Opera, Bridge Records, The Harlem School of the Arts, Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, Kurt Weill Foundation, ML Falcone Public Relations, OPERA America for the NEA Opera Honors, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Copyright Society of the United States, and the U.S. State Department Cultural Fellows Program.

Ms. Mayer has served on grant review panels for the National Endowment for the Arts, Arts Westchester (NY), the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and the Kurt Weill Foundation. She has adjudicated vocal competitions including the Joy in Singing Competition in New York City, the McCammon Competition at Fort Worth Opera, and The Juilliard School Vocal Honors Recital Award Competition.

The first artist manager elected to the Board of Directors of OPERA America, she was awarded a 2006 Bravo Award for service to the opera community and a 2007 Bravo Award of distinction for outstanding service to the Board of Directors. She also served on the Board of Directors of the North American Association of Performing Arts Managers and on the National Conference Committee of Chamber Music America.

Janice Mayer holds a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies and History from Connecticut College, where she was the recipient of the Fielding Memorial Award as the outstanding woman in the graduating class, and a Master of Public Administration with a specialization in Arts Administration from New York University. She was a participant in the select NEA Journalism Institute in Classical Music and Opera, completed the Interim Executive Director Training Program at the Support Center for Nonprofit Management, and was certified as a mediator by Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts. She has taught as adjunct arts administration faculty at both Purchase College, State University of New York and New York University.

#### **BRAD MICHEL, ENGINEER**

Brad Michel, recording engineer and session producer for Harmonia Mundi USA and owner of Clarion Productions is known worldwide for his vivid and lifelike portrayal of classical and acoustic music. Trained as a classical musician at both Northwestern University and the Eastman School of Music, his fascination with the creative combination of microphones and music developed while working in the studios at Eastman. A recording professional for almost 30 years, Brad Michel previously held positions at The Boston University School of Music and Soundmirror Inc.

Now working with Harmonia Mundi USA for over 20 years, he has been involved in hundreds of productions for the label, and together with Robina Young, Harmonia Mundi Executive Producer and Artistic Director, make up one of today's most prolific and respected recording teams. Lauded by both the music and audio press, past recordings have earned distinctions including The *BBC Music Magazine* Award for Technical Excellence in Recording, numerous *Gramophone* Awards, *Gramophone* Critic's Choice Awards, multiple GRAMMY® Awards and nominations, Classic FM Record of the Year (England), Juno Award (Canada), Diapason d'Or, Cannes Classical Award (France), Der Deutscher Schallplatten Preis (Germany), and The Edison Award (The Netherlands). Recordings are frequently included on audiophile lists including *Stereophile's* Record of the Month and Records to Die For, and *The Absolute Sound's* Golden Ear awards.

Brad Michel has collaborated with groups including, The English Concert, The Academy of Ancient Music, Stile Antico, Anonymous 4, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Frieburger Barockorchester, Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, Conspirare, Taflemusik, and the Tokyo String Quartet, and with solo artists including Andrew Manze, Richard Egarr, Paul Hillier, Daniele Gatti, Kristian Bezuidenhout, Jon Nakamatsu, Olga Kern and Paul O’Dette.

**ELIZABETH OSTROW, PRODUCER**

Elizabeth Ostrow has produced over 85 recordings, six of which have won GRAMMY® Awards in categories including Best Orchestral Performance, Best Opera, Best Chamber Performance, and Best Contemporary Composition. She has recorded numerous discs with the Boston Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Symphony, the New York Philharmonic, the St. Louis Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and the Orchestra of St. Luke’s. She has produced over 40 world premiere recordings, including many with major American composers, including the GRAMMY®-nominated recording of Jennifer Higdon’s *Cold Mountain* and Mason Bates’ *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* with the Santa Fe Opera.

Other artists she has worked with include Trinity Choir, the Emerson Quartet, Boston Symphony Chamber Players, Emanuel Ax and Edgar Meyer, Marc-Andre Hamelin, Joyce Yang, and Augustin Hadelich.

As Audio Director for various “Great Performances” and other public television programs, she recorded the first televised *Nixon in China* with the Houston Grand Opera (winner of an Emmy award), *The Aspern Papers* with the Dallas Opera, *Pavarotti and the Italian Tenor*, and *New Moon*.



**RECORDING AND CONCERT REPERTOIRE:**

<i>In The Sweet By and By</i>	Joseph P. Webster (1819-1875)
Shaker Music <i>The Lark</i> <i>The Nightingale's Song</i> <i>Deal Gently with thy Servants</i> <i>Encouragement</i>	Traditional (c. 1800)
<i>Heavenly Home: Three American Songs</i> "Unclouded Day" "Angel Band" "Hallelujah"	Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970)
<i>Dominus Vobiscum</i>	Sydney Guillaume (b. 1982)
<i>Reflections</i>	Jake Runestad (b. 1986)
<i>Mid-Winter Songs</i> excerpts "Lament for Pasiphaë" "Mid-Winter Waking" "Intercession in Late October"	Morten J. Lauridsen (b. 1943)
<i>The Road Home</i>	Stephen Paulus (1949-2014)
<i>I'll Be On My Way</i>	(arr. Kirchner)
<i>I'll Be Seeing You</i>	Phil Mattson (b. 1938)

## **ARRANGERS AND COMPOSERS:**

### **Sydney Guillaume**

Haitian-American composer Sydney Guillaume's compositions have been praised by the *Miami Herald* for their "impressive maturity and striking melodic distinction." The composer is in high demand for commissioned works from renowned choirs such as The University of Miami Frost Chorale, The Nathaniel Dett Chorale, Seraphic Fire, Illinois Wesleyan University Collegiate Choir, The Young New Yorkers Chorus, The Miami Children's Chorus, and Kokopelli Choir. His music has been performed at ACDA, All-State conventions, and abroad.

Taking great pride in his Haitian roots, Sydney Guillaume hopes that his music will serve as an ambassador for his country and foster an awareness of the beautiful culture that exists amidst the economic and political turmoil. Beyond choral music, he also writes film scores for Loyola Productions, a non-profit creative media company, aiming to promote awareness of cultural and social justice issues.

In 2004, he was named the Outstanding Graduate for the Department of Music Theory and Composition at the University of Miami Frost School of Music, where he received his Bachelor of Music in Composition with an emphasis in Media Writing and Production. Having arrived in the United States from Port-au-Prince at the age of 11, Sydney currently resides in Los Angeles. For more information, please visit [www.sydneyguillaume.com](http://www.sydneyguillaume.com)

### **Shawn Kirchner**

Shawn Kirchner is a composer and songwriter active in the musical circles of Los Angeles. In 2012, he was appointed Swan Family Composer in Residence of the Los Angeles Master Chorale, which commissioned his 2007 setting of the Neruda sonnet, *Tu Voz*. In 2010 The Master Chorale premiered his "bluegrass triptych," *Heavenly Home: Three American Songs*, receiving praise in the *Los Angeles Times* as "effectively" written works of "sophistication." He is best known worldwide for his setting of the Kenyan song *Wana Baraka*, which was featured in a performance by the Nairobi Chamber Choir in Diamond Jubilee celebrations for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Windsor Castle in 2012.

He studied at Manchester College, where he earned a B.A. in Peace Studies under Kenneth Brown, and was mentored in songwriting by the poet/songwriter Steve Kinzie. He spent his junior year abroad, studying Chinese language, literature, history, and music at the Dalian Foreign Language Institute in Dalian, China. The native of Cedar Falls, IA earned a M.A. in Choral Conducting from the University of Iowa, where he studied with William Hatcher and Richard Bloesch. In recent years, Shawn Kirchner has been mentored in choral arranging and music philosophy by Alice Parker.

He is published by Boosey & Hawkes, Oxford University Press, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, and Shawn Kirchner Publishing. For more information, please visit Mr. Kirchner's website: [www.shawnkirchner.com](http://www.shawnkirchner.com)

### **Morten Johannes Lauridsen**

Named an American Choral Master by the National Endowment for the Arts (2006), Morten Johannes Lauridsen is also a recipient of the National Medal of Arts (2007). In a White House ceremony, the President acknowledged "his composition of radiant choral works combining musical beauty, power and spiritual depth that have thrilled audiences worldwide."

His works have been recorded on more than 200 CDs, five of which have received GRAMMY® Award nominations. A recipient of numerous grants, prizes, and commissions, Lauridsen chaired the Composition department at the USC Thornton School of Music from 1990–2002 and founded the School's Advanced Studies program in Film Scoring. He has held residencies as guest composer/lecturer at over 70 universities and has received honorary doctorates from Whitman College, Oklahoma State University, Westminster Choir College and King's College, University of Aberdeen, Scotland. He was Composer-in-Residence of the Los Angeles Master Chorale (1994–2001) and has been a Professor of Composition at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music for more than 40 years. His principal publishers are Peermusic (New York/Hamburg) and Faber Music (London).

A native of the Pacific Northwest, Mr. Lauridsen worked as a Forest Service firefighter and lookout (on an isolated tower near Mt. St. Helens) and attended Whitman College before traveling south to study composition at the University of Southern California with Ingolf Dahl, Halsey Stevens, Robert Linn, and Harold Owen. He began teaching at USC in 1967 and has been on their faculty ever since. The composer now divides his time between Los Angeles and his summer residence on a remote island off the northern coast of Washington State. For more information, please visit [www.mortenlauridsen.net](http://www.mortenlauridsen.net)

### **Phil Mattson**

Phil Mattson is a pianist, arranger/composer, conductor, and teacher. He has written many arrangements for vocal jazz ensemble and choir. The Manhattan Transfer, Chanticleer, The Real Group, The Dale Warland Singers, and The Four Freshmen are some of the ensembles that have commissioned his arrangements. Mr. Mattson has also edited the arrangements of GRAMMY® Award-winning vocal arranger and renowned vocalist, the late Gene Puerling, for publication. Phil Mattson served as Vocal Jazz Director for The Stan Kenton Clinics and as ACDA National Repertoire and Standards Chair for Vocal Jazz. He has been nominated for two GRAMMY® Awards.

As an educator, he has served as Director of Choral Activities at Foothill College (CA) and Gonzaga University (WA). He has also taught at Pacific Lutheran University (WA) and The School for Music Vocations (IA). He completed undergraduate studies in Philosophy/Religion and Music at Concordia College (MN), *summa cum laude*, and graduate work in Choral Literature and Conducting at The University of Iowa as an NDEA Fellow. Currently he resides in Studio City, CA and works as a vocal coach, accompanist, conductor, teacher, and arranger. His works are published by Hal Leonard, Oxford Music Press, and are self-published by the composer at [www.philmattson.com](http://www.philmattson.com).

### **Stephen Paulus**

Stephen Paulus' musical style was described by *The New York Times* as "lush and extravagant," and *The New Yorker* described him as a "bright, lyrical inventor whose music pulsates with a driving, kinetic energy." He was a recipient of both NEA and Guggenheim Fellowships. The composer wrote over 600 works for chorus, opera, orchestra, chamber ensemble, solo voice, concert band, piano, and organ, receiving premieres and performances throughout the world as well as GRAMMY® nominations for Best Contemporary Classical Composition in 2015 and Best Choral Performance in 2016. *Stephen Paulus: Three Places of Enlightenment, Veil of Tears* and *Grand Concerto* won a GRAMMY® Award for Best Classical Compendium in 2016.

Beginning in 1979, fresh out of graduate school with a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, he was commissioned by the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis and later went on to write a total of 12 operas with performances coming from the Boston Lyric Opera, Washington Opera, Minnesota Opera, Sacramento Opera, and The Berkshire Opera Company.

In addition to the 55 orchestral works to his credit, Paulus wrote over 400 works for chorus ranging from his Holocaust oratorio, *To Be Certain of the Dawn*, recorded by Minnesota Orchestra on the BIS label, to the poignant anthem, *Pilgrims' Hymn*, sung at the funerals of Presidents Reagan and Ford. Both works were written with his frequent collaborator and friend, librettist Michael Dennis Browne. His works have received thousands of performances and recordings from such groups as The New York Choral Society, L.A. Master Chorale, Robert Shaw Festival Singers, VocalEssence, and Dale Warland Singers. Notable works for vocalist and orchestra include commissions for Elizabeth Futral, Deborah Voigt, Thomas Hampson, and Samuel Ramey.

Stephen Paulus was a passionate advocate for the works and careers of his colleagues. In 1973 he co-founded the Minnesota Composers Forum, now known as the American Composers Forum, the largest composer service organization in the U.S. He also served as the Symphony and Concert Representative on the board of ASCAP from 1990 until 2014.

### **Jake Runestad**

Jake Runestad received commissions from Washington National Opera, Netherlands Radio Choir, Louisiana and Dayton Philharmonics, Seraphic Fire, Virginia Arts Festival, Spire Chamber Ensemble, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, and GRAMMY® Award-winning Conspirare.

Steeped in a belief that music has the power to initiate positive change, Jake creates musical works that are socially conscious and explore authentic human emotions and experiences. Conductors, performers, and audiences continue to praise his music for its ability to connect with the head and the heart. As a result, he was awarded a 2017 McKnight Fellowship, and a 2016 Morton Gould Young Composer Award from the ASCAP Foundation for his extended work *Dreams of the Fallen*. His works have also received awards from the American Composers Forum, ASCAP, the Peabody Conservatory, New Music USA, the Otto Bremmer Foundation, VocalEssence, the Virginia Arts Festival, the National Association for Music Education, the Association for Lutheran Church Musicians, and the American Choral Directors Association. Jake Runestad's *The Peace of Wild Things* won the Nathan Davis Prize for Composition in 2012 and his *I Will Lift Mine Eyes* was voted one of Minnesota Public Radio's Top 25 Choral Works in 2014.

He holds a Master's degree in composition from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University where he studied with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts. Originally from

Rockford, IL, Jake Runestad is currently based in Minneapolis, MN and his music is published by Boosey & Hawkes and JR Music. For more information please visit Mr. Runestad's website: [www.jakerunestad.com](http://www.jakerunestad.com)

#### **Joseph Philbrick Webster**

The New Hampshire native wrote over a thousand ballads and many hymns during his lifetime which spanned the Antebellum Period, the Civil War, and the post-war periods. Educated at Pembroke Academy and the Boston Academy of Music, Joseph P. Webster became the leader of the New York City musical ensemble the Euphonians, for which he composed songs. Over the course of his life he was a businessman and educator, until he fully supported himself as a composer beginning in the 1850s. Many of Webster's manuscripts, as well as the royalty records of *In The Sweet By and By*, were lost in the Chicago Fire of 1871 while stored in his publisher's offices. Following the fire, Joseph Webster's health declined and he died in Wisconsin in 1875.

The Academy Award-winning 1941 movie *Sergeant York* renewed the popularity of the hymn *In The Sweet By and By* (which was set to words by Sanford F. Bennett), almost a century after it was composed. Joseph P. Webster's most famous secular song, *Lorena* (words by Henry D. L. Webster), is also heard in three notable films: *Gone with the Wind*, *The Searchers*, and *The Horse Soldiers*, thereby perpetuating his musical legacy.