FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Santa Fe, New Mexico, February 3, 2017: The Santa Fe Desert Chorale (SFDC) today announced plans for its 35th Anniversary Summer Season comprised of fourteen concert performances and two film screenings. The programming theme for the 2017 Summer Festival is *Liberté and Justice*. Leading the Chorale as Music Director for his ninth season is Joshua Habermann.

**Music from a Secret Chapel**, a vocal chamber music program, will open the season on July 19, 2017 at the intimate Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel in Santa Fe. Featuring eight of the Santa Fe Desert Chorale’s early music specialists, the program explores the music of William Byrd who lived and composed as a Catholic in Protestant England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Sistine Chapel composers, including Giovanni Palestrina, will be included on the program. Opening night festivities include a reception and dinner at Quail Run Resort in Santa Fe. The program will be repeated on July 23, August 2 and August 8, 2017 in Santa Fe, and on July 29, 2017 in Albuquerque. Free public talks will be given by Dr. Harris Ipock before each concert, except on July 29, 2017. (Please see attached schedule and venue listing for details.)

**Liberté: Music of Resistance and Revolution** was created and will be conducted by Joshua Habermann, Music Director. The program takes its name from the eighth movement of Francis Poulenc’s exacting *a cappella* work *Figure Humaine* which was set to texts by poet Paul Éluard written during the Nazi occupation of France. The second programming block focuses on music from the Terezin Concentration Camp. Works sung during the “Singing Revolution” (1987-1991) that forced the expulsion of the Soviets out of Estonia completes the program. Baltic composers Cyrillus Kreek, Veljo Tormis and Arvo Pärt will be heard in this program celebrating freedom and the indomitable nature of the human spirit. Performances of *Liberté* are scheduled for August 1 and 11, 2017 in Santa Fe and on August 5, 2017 in Albuquerque. **Steven Ovitsky, Executive Director of the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival** will give free public talks before each concert. The documentary film **The Singing Revolution** will be shown on July 29, 2017 at the Center for Contemporary Arts in Santa Fe. Trustee Emerita, Brahna Lauger Wilczynski, will introduce the screening which will also feature a musical sampling by SFDC vocalists.

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Guest conductor, Dr. André J. Thomas will lead the Justice program, which will feature an appearance by award-winning soprano NaGuanda Nobles, and a world premiere by composer and pianist Brandon Boyd. Mr. Boyd’s composition will be set to poetry written by participants in the Santa Fe County Youth Development Center’s “Voces de Libertad” program led by poet Demetria Martinez. The program of spirituals and gospel music will be performed on August 8 and August 13 in Santa Fe, and on August 12, 2017 in Albuquerque. Brandon Boyd will give the pre-concert talks before each performance. When I Rise, the documentary on the life of opera singer and civil rights icon Barbara Conrad, will be shown at the Center for Contemporary Arts in Santa Fe on August 7, 2017. Filmmaker Dr. Don Carleton of the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas (Austin) will give a talkback following the screening of the film which was premiered on Independent Lens on PBS.

The Hope of Loving, written by 2016 Composer-in-Residence Jake Runestad, gives title to the final program of the season. Pianist Nathan Salazar and a string septet from the Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus join sixteen members of the Santa Fe Desert Chorale conducted by Music Director Joshua Habermann in performing John Corigliano’s Fern Hill. Set to a poem by Dylan Thomas, Fern Hill recalls a time that was “young and easy.” Tarik O’Regan’s Triptych rounds-out this program celebrating today’s leading choral composers. Dr. Matthew Tresler, Assistant Music Director of the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, will give free public talks before the concerts which will take place in Santa Fe on July 27, July 30 and August 10, 2017.

Ticket prices range from $75 to $20 in Santa Fe and $55 to $20 in Albuquerque. Discounted subscription plans are available as of February 3, 2017. Information and orders may be placed online at www.desertchorale.org or by telephone at (505)988-2282. Single tickets will go on sale to the public on March 16, 2017. For information on group sales, ADA seating, or to purchase specially-priced student tickets, please call Box Office Manager, Emma Marzen, at (505)988-2282 ext. 1.

For images, or to arrange an interview with Joshua Habermann, please contact Janice L. Mayer, Executive Director at (505)988-2282, or Janice@desertchorale.org.

Mission:

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.
Performance Schedule and Venues by Program:

**Music from a Secret Chapel (MSC):**
Joshua Habermann, Leader
Dr. Harris Ipock (Pre-concert Lecturer)*

Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 8:00 pm, Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel, 50 Mt Carmel Road, Santa Fe**

Sunday, July 23, 2017 at 4:00 pm, Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel, Santa Fe
Saturday, July 29, 2017 at 8:00 pm, Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque (No Pre-concert Lecture) 318 Silver Avenue, Albuquerque

Wednesday, August 2, 2017 at 8:00 pm, Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel, Santa Fe
Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at 8:00 pm, Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel, Santa Fe

**The Hope of Loving (THL):**
Joshua Habermann, Music Director and Conductor
Dr. Matthew Tresler (Pre-concert Lecturer)*

Thursday, July 27, 2017 at 8:00 pm, The Church of the Holy Faith, 311 East Palace Avenue, Santa Fe
Sunday, July 30, 2017 at 4:00 pm, The Church of the Holy Faith, Santa Fe
Thursday, August 10, 2017 at 8:00 pm, The Church of the Holy Faith, Santa Fe

**Liberté: Music of Resistance and Revolution (LRR):**
Joshua Habermann, Music Director and Conductor
Steven Ovitsky, (Pre-concert Lecturer)*

Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at 8:00 pm, The Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, 131 Cathedral Place, Santa Fe
Saturday, August 5, 2017 at 8:00 pm, Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque
Friday, August 11, 2017 at 8:00 pm, The Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, Santa Fe

**Justice (J):**
Dr. André J. Thomas, Guest Conductor
Brandon Boyd, Composer (Pre-concert Lecturer)*

Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 8:00 pm, Christ Church, 1213 Don Gaspar Avenue, Santa Fe
Saturday, August 12, 2017 at 8:00 pm, Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque
Sunday, August 13, 2017 at 4:00 pm, Christ Church, Santa Fe

**Films:**
*The Singing Revolution* with SFDC Singers Musical Sampling (SR)
Saturday, July 29, 2017 at 4:00 pm, Center for Contemporary Arts, 1050 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe

*When I Rise* with talkback with filmmaker Don Carleton (WIR)
Monday, August 7, 2017 at 4:00 pm, Center for Contemporary Arts, Santa Fe

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Performance Schedule and Venues by Date:

Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 8:00 pm (MSC)  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel,  
50 Mt Carmel Road, Santa Fe**

Sunday, July 23, 2017 at 4:00 pm (MSC)  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel,  
Santa Fe

Thursday, July 27, 2017 at 8:00 pm (THL)  
The Church of the Holy Faith,  
311 East Palace Avenue, Santa Fe

Saturday, July 29, 2017 at 4:00 pm (SR)  
Center for Contemporary Arts,  
1050 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe

Saturday, July 29, 2017 at 8:00 pm (MSC)  
(No Pre-concert Lecture)  
Cathedral of St. John  
318 Silver Avenue, Albuquerque

Sunday, July 30, 2017 at 4:00 pm (THL)  
The Church of the Holy Faith,  
Santa Fe

Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at 8:00 pm (LRR)  
The Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi,  
131 Cathedral Place, Santa Fe

Wednesday, August 2, 2017 at 8:00 pm (MSC)  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel,  
Santa Fe

Saturday, August 5, 2017 at 8:00 pm (LRR)  
Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque

Monday, August 7, 2017 at 4:00 pm (WIR)  
Center for Contemporary Arts, Santa Fe

Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 8:00 pm (J)  
Christ Church,  
1213 Don Gaspar Avenue, Santa Fe

Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at 8:00 pm (MSC)  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel,  
Santa Fe

Thursday, August 10, 2017 at 8:00 pm (THL)  
The Church of the Holy Faith,  
Santa Fe

Friday, August 11, 2017 at 8:00 pm (LRR)  
The Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi,  
Santa Fe

Saturday, August 12, 2017 at 8:00 pm (J)  
Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque

Sunday, August 13, 2017 at 4:00 pm (J)  
Christ Church, Santa Fe

*Pre-concert Lectures occur 1.5 hours prior to concert start time.  
**Pre-concert Talk as part of opening dinner festivities at Quail Run Resort.
About the Santa Fe Desert Chorale:

Founded in 1982 by 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 entering his ninth season as Music Director, Joshua Habermann leads the 24-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 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.

The Santa Fe Desert Chorale presents both summer and winter festivals of concerts featuring a wide range of literature from around the world. The 2017 Summer Festival Season will take place from July 19 through August 13, 2017. The 2017 Winter Festival Season, “Home for the Holidays,” is scheduled from December 16 to December 23, 2017 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 Creativity for Peace, 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 Orchestra 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.

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About the performers:

Brandon A. Boyd (Composer, Pianist and Pre-concert Lecturer, Justice) is an active composer/arranger, conductor, pianist, and teacher. His choral research areas of interest include community service partnerships and he currently co-directs three community FSU partnerships. He is a member of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), National Association for Music Education (NAfME), National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM), American Guild of Organists (AGO), and Chorus America. Currently a Ph.D. candidate in Choral Music Education at Florida State University, he earned a M.M. in choral conducting from Florida State and a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education and Piano Performance from Tennessee State University.

Don Carleton (Filmmaker talkback: When I Rise) has been Executive Director of The University of Texas at Austin's Dolph Briscoe Center for American History since its creation in 1991. From 1979 until 1991, Dr. Carleton was head of the University's Eugene C. Barker Texas History Center. After earning his doctorate in U.S. History from the University of Houston, Carleton served as founding director of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC), an urban history archives project sponsored by Rice University, the University of Houston, and the City of Houston. At HMRC, he established The Houston Review: A Journal of History and Culture of the Gulf Coast.

Among his many published books and articles, Dr. Carleton's Red Scare (Texas Monthly Press, 1985) won the Texas State Historical Association's Coral Tullis Award for the most important book on Texas published in 1985. His book, A Breed So Rare: The Life of J. R. Parten, Liberal Texas Oil Man, 1896–1992 (Texas State Historical Association, 1998) received the Texas Institute of Letters award for the book written by a Texan in 1998 that has made the greatest contribution to knowledge. Dr. Carleton’s most recent book is Conversations with Cronkite (University of Texas Press, 2010).

He was the Executive Producer of the award-winning historical video documentary When I Rise, which was premiered on Independent Lens on PBS (www.WhenIRiseFilm.com). He also was the Executive Producer of the recently completed documentary film, Cactus Jack: The Political Legacy of John Nance Garner (2013).
Joshua Habermann (Music Director and Conductor) is in his ninth season with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale. Since joining the ensemble he has raised the Chorale’s artistic profile and broadened its programming to include choral-orchestral masterworks as well as cutting-edge a cappella programs.

Maestro Habermann 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, Oregon), and Conspirare (Austin, Texas). 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, where 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 1996-2008 Joshua 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 received international engagements in Havana, Cuba, and undertook concert tours in Germany and 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, Oregon, multiple appearances at the California Music Educators Convention, and an appearance at the American Choral Directors Association regional convention in 2008.

From 2008-2011 Mr. 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, Maestro Habermann led the Master Chorale of South Florida in performances of masterworks such as Mendelssohn’s Elijah, Haydn’s Creation, and Mozart’s Requiem.
Harris Ipock (Lecturer, *Music from a Secret Chapel*) is the Resident Conductor of the Harvard Glee Club and has led the ensemble’s tours to Asia as well as across the United States. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from the Eastman School of Music, a Master of Music from East Carolina University and Bachelor of Music from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The baritone is in his ninth season performing with SFDC.

NaGuanda Nobles (Soprano Soloist, *Justice*) The soprano has enjoyed success on both the concert and opera stages. She has garnered praise for her “big, warm soprano with a lovely shimmering top that she uses to ravishing effect.”

An alumna of the prestigious Pittsburgh Opera Center, Miss Nobles performed a wide range of repertoire with the company: from Handel’s Atalanta in *Xerxes* to Puccini’s Liu in *Turandot*. Other opera highlights include the High Priestess in *Aida* at The Dallas Opera, Sister Rose in Jake Heggie’s *Dead Man Walking* with Austin Lyric Opera and Clara in Gershwin’s *Porgy and Bess* at Atlanta and Dayton Opera companies.

NaGuanda Nobles made her Boston Symphony Orchestra debut with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, as soprano soloist in Wynton Marsalis’ *All Rise*, under the baton of Maestro Kurt Masur. The Florida native performed as soloist in *An Evening with Gershwin* concert with the Tallahassee Community Chorus and Symphony and on the *Soul of America* tour throughout Germany with the Berlin Rundfunkchor, both conducted by Dr. André J. Thomas.

First place winner in the Fritz and Lavinia Jensen Foundation Competition and the Irene Dalis Vocal Competition, NaGuanda Nobles was also named the 2008 Shreveport ‘Singer of the Year.’ The soprano received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in voice performance from Florida State University, where throughout her college years she was a featured soloist in the Florida State University Singers, directed by Dr. André J. Thomas.

Steven Ovitsky (Lecturer, *Liberte: Music of Resistance and Revolution*) is Executive Director of the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. For 10 years he was a regular faculty member for the Chicago Jewish Community Center’s Elderhostels teaching courses on Jewish music. He continues to speak on a wide range of Jewish music topics and was the 2016 keynote speaker for the Albuquerque Jewish Community Center Day of Jewish Learning. Ovitsky is music director of the “Audie” award winning recordings of *The Dybbuk* starring Theodore Bikel, Edward Asner and Carl Reiner; *Sweeney Todd and the String of Pearls*; and *St. Joan*. Mr. Ovitsky is the shofar soloist in a recording of *Tekiatot* by Weisgall with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra as part of the Milken Foundation Archive of Jewish-American Music.
Nathan Salazar (Pianist, *The Hope of Loving*) 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 over 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 Miss 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 *New American Song@Songfest*. A native of Los Alamos, Nathan Salazar attended the University of Kansas, and holds a Master of Music degree in Collaborative Piano from the University of Michigan where he studied with Martin Katz.

André J. Thomas (Conductor, *Justice*) the Owen F. Sellers Professor of Music, is Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Choral Music Education at The Florida State University. Honored by The African Diaspora Sacred Music Program as a “Living Legend,” Dr. Thomas has curated the *Justice* program drawing from his recent book (*Way Over in Beulah Lan’; Understanding and Performing the Negro Spiritual*). He is in demand as a choral adjudicator, clinician, and director of Honor/All-State Choirs throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, New Zealand, and Australia.

His international conducting credits are extensive. They include conductor/clinician for the International Federation of Choral Musicians, summer residency of the World Youth Choir in the Republic of China and the Philippines, winter residency of the World Youth Choir in Europe, and a premier performance by an American choir (The Florida State University Singers) in Vietnam. He has been the guest conductor of such distinguished orchestras and choirs as the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in England, and guest conductor for the Berlin Radio Choir in Germany. Since 1988 he has also served as Artistic Director of the Tallahassee Community Chorus.

Dr. Thomas has also distinguished himself as a composer/arranger. Hinshaw Music Company, Mark Foster Music Company, Fitzsimmon Music Company, Lawson Gould, Earthsongs, and Heritage Music Company publish his compositions and arrangements. Dr. Thomas has produced two instructional videos: *What They See Is What You Get* on choral conducting, with Rodney Eichenberger, and *Body, Mind, Spirit, Voice* on adolescent voices, with Anton Armstrong.

Dr. Thomas has conducted choirs at the state, division, and national conventions of the Music Educators National Conference (MENC) and American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). He is a past president of the Florida ACDA, and the past president of the Southern Division of ACDA.

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A previous faculty member at the University of Texas, Austin, Dr. Thomas received his degrees from Friends University (B.A.), Northwestern University (M.M.), and the University of Illinois (D.M.A).

Matthew Tresler (Lecturer, The Hope of Loving) is Assistant Music Director of the SFDC, Academic Chair of Music and Director of Vocal Music at Irvine Valley College (CA). Dr. Tresler holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting, University of Miami; Master of Music and Bachelor of Music in Voice, Northern Arizona University. He is in his 18th season as a tenor performing with the Chorale.

Brahna Lauger Wilczynski (Presenter, The Singing Revolution), a Trustee Emerita of the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, will introduce the screening of The Singing Revolution, drawing on her first-hand experience in Estonia at the time of the movement. An avid music-lover, professionally she has been a social work clinician and administrator in psychiatric, medical, forensic and school settings, as well as maintaining a private clinical practice. She has been a member of the faculty at Fordham and Columbia Graduate Schools of Social Work. Having served for ten years on the New York State Board of Social Work, she became national President of the Association of Social Work; she is currently completing five years on the New Mexico State Board of Social Work Examiners of which she is now chairman. She has taught professional ethics throughout the U.S. to social workers, psychologists and counselors. Dr. Wilczynski continues to consult on professional clinical and ethical issues.
2017 Summer Chorale Roster

**Soprano**
Sophie Amelkin
Sarah Hawkey
Sarah Moyer
Rebecca Myers-Hoke
Emily Noël
Kathlene Ritch

**Alto**
Dianna Grabowski
Kate Maroney
Sarah Nickerson
Keely Rhodes
Elisa Sutherland
Mitzi Westra

**Tenor**
George Case
Erik Gustafson
Patrick Muehleise
Tyler Ray
Steven Soph
Matthew Tresler

**Bass**
James Bass
John Buffett
David Farwig
Harris Ipock
Sam Kreidenweis
Enrico Lagasca

Instrumentalists:
Brandon Boyd, Piano
Nathan Salazar, Piano
David Felberg, Violin◊
Nicolle Maniaci, Violin◊
Carla Kountoupes, Violin◊
Kimberly Fredenburgh, Viola◊
Christine Rancier, Viola◊
Dana Winograd, Cello◊
Frank Murry, Bass◊
Electric Bass, tba
Percussion, tba

◊ Member of The Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus
(http://santafesymphony.org)