

THE SINGERS ANNOUNCES 2019-2020 CONCERT SEASON

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MINNEAPOLIS – JUNE 2020 – Led by **Artistic Director Matthew Culloton**, The Singers' upcoming 2019-2020 season features an array of music composed by many of today's leading voices, including Melissa Dunphy, Abbie Betinis, René Clausen, and Jocelyn Hagen. **Newly appointed Composer in Residence Timothy Takach** will also be featured prominently in concerts and as part of The Singers' educational outreach programs in St. Michael-Albertville and Owatonna. **The Singers are honored to again collaborate with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra** on Handel's *Messiah* led this year by American harpsichordist and conductor Jory Vinikour.

Hailed as “**one of the best choral ensembles in America, if not the entire world,**” The Singers have twice performed at the National Conference of the American Choral Directors Association. They have appeared four times at the internationally renowned Ravinia Festival in Chicago, most recently performing Rachmaninoff's *Vespers* as part of a Robert Shaw tribute program. The ensemble regularly hosts educational and community outreach projects throughout Minnesota, engaging singers and audience members of all ages. Since 2004, The Singers have performed the world premiere of nearly 90 scores by emerging and established composers, and in the 2019-2020 season this support of new music will continue.

JOURNEY HOME – October 19 & 20, 2019: The Singers launch their 16th season with reflections on themes of home, including the Minnesota premiere of Philadelphia-based composer **Melissa Dunphy's American DREAMers**. Dunphy has set the stories of five young Americans who were brought to the country as children, weaving a work that honors their stories and inspires hope and empathy. **Abbie Betinis** teamed with a St. Paul high school student to create the text for *Journey Home*, and the work reminds us that we all long for a place to call our own – our home. Lastly, The Singers give the **world premiere** of a work by **newly appointed Composer-in-Residence, Timothy Takach**.

WHAT SWEETER MUSIC – December 7, 8, & 15, 2019: The combination of cherished carols, beloved Christmas works, and musical surprises has made The Singers' Christmas program an annual favorite for Twin Cities audiences. This year, be moved by **transcendent Russian works**, world premiere **carol arrangements by Matthew Culloton**, and a **musical tribute to René Clausen**, who is retiring from Concordia College where he has inspired generations of choral singers and enthusiasts.

HANDEL: MESSIAH (with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra) – December 19-22, 2019: **The Singers and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra perform Handel's most famous work** (if not history's most popular piece), this year under the direction of **Jory Vinikour**. Tickets will only be available through the SPCO.

MY SOUL'S REPOSE – March 21 & 22, 2020: Husband and wife **Timothy Takach and Jocelyn Hagen co-composed *This is How You Love***, a poignant, *a cappella* oratorio about the depths of relationships – companionship, conflict, and love. Texts are drawn from contemporary poetry and mixed with anonymous passages from couples' therapy sessions. It is a stunning piece, and an incredible compositional accomplishment! The Singers will also present music based on the **biblical poetry from the Song of Songs, including settings by Giovanni Palestrina, Karen Thomas, Jan Sandström, and Stephen Paulus**.

WALDEN POND – May 16 & 17, 2020: Considered by many to be **Dominick Argento's choral masterpiece, *Walden Pond*** employs three cellos and harp to evocatively team with the choir and bring new life to Thoreau's revered text. Works by **John Muehleisen** and **Jake Runestad** also celebrate the human connection to nature through the words of Carl Sandburg, John Muir, and Wendell Berry.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

The Singers look forward to **outstate educational collaborations in Owatonna** (Jan. 31, 2020) and **St. Michael-Albertville** (Feb. 1, 2020), teaming with hundreds of high school singers and Composer-in-Residence Timothy Takach.

Due to the popularity of last year's **Community Sing, Tesfa Wondemagegnehu** will return to introduce new additions and favorites from **The Justice Choir Songbook**, a collection of music about civic, social, and environmental rights.

Season Tickets are on sale now, and Single Tickets will be available on September 9, 2019.
For tickets or more information, visit www.singersmca.org or call 651.917.1948.