THE SINGERS
Matthew Culloton. Artistic Director

THE SINGERS PRESENT ANNUAL "WHAT SWEETER MUSIC" CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Singers present Christmas carols and seasonal works, including the tuneful and innovative music of Stephen Paulus, who would have celebrated his 75th birthday in 2024.

Saint Paul, MN – November 1 – **WHAT SWEETER MUSIC: Christmas with The Singers [Dec. 8, 14, & 15, 2024]**
The Singers specially remember **Stephen Paulus** – he would be 75 this year – and his remarkable music gifts that became an indelible part of our choral landscape. "*Three Nativity Carols, A Savior from on High,* and *Evensong* are works that reflect his uncanny ability to capture texts and moods so brilliantly," says Artistic Director Matthew Culloton. "Stephen had such a gift for writing accessible, meaningful works that resonate with audiences and artists alike – we miss him greatly, and always look forward to sharing his music with our community."

The Singers' "What Sweeter Music" concerts always include newly commissioned works, and this year those offerings come from former Composer-in-Residence **Joshua Shank** and Artistic Director **Matthew Culloton**. Shank's *Fits & Starts: after Handel* is a reimagining and expansion of the tenor recitative, *Comfort Ye*, from G.F. Handel's *Messiah*. Other composers featured include **Charles Ives** (*Christmas Carol*), who was born 150 years ago, and **Randall Thompson** (*Glory to God in the Highest*), born 125 years ago. Along with carol settings by Paulus and Culloton will be the *Wexford Carol* by **Dale Warland**, who has been a mentor and inspiration to both men.

Joining The Singers will be joined by two of their favorite collaborators: harpist Min Kim and oboist Merilee Klemp.

Tickets: $36.50 at www.singersmca.org and available at the door.
[*Due to capacity audiences, buying tickets in advance is recommended*]
Sunday, Dec. 8, 3:00 PM – Westwood Lutheran, St. Louis Park
Saturday, Dec. 14, 7:30 PM – Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Edina/Minneapolis
Sunday, Dec. 15, 2:00 PM – Nativity of Our Lord, St. Paul
Free parking at all venues

ABOUT THE SINGERS & MATTHEW CULLOTON

The Singers are a 40-voice professional choral ensemble based in St. Paul, Minnesota, founded in 2004 by Artistic Director Matthew Culloton. The Singers deliver compelling and thought-provoking performances and educational opportunities that can bridge cultural differences and invite appreciation of the choral art. The core values that guide the organization as it brings this mission to life are Respect & Openness, Courage, Collaboration, Excellence, and Passion. The ensemble celebrated its 20th Anniversary Season in 2023-2024.

Matthew Culloton brings a love of shared community singing, exacting musical standards, and an engaging sense of humor to the podium. He exhibits an uncanny ability to shape and trust in the individual artistry of the musicians in front of him, resulting in stirring moments of musical synergy and soul. Beloved composer **Morten Lauridsen** wrote to him, "Your glorious performances still resound in my ear and in my heart…it was my great honor to have you do my music, which could not have been in finer hands."

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