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SANTA FE DESERT CHORALE TO OPEN 33RD SEASON ON JULY 9, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Santa Fe, New Mexico, June 25, 2015: The **Santa Fe Desert Chorale (SFDC)** announced the schedule for its 33rd Summer Season today. The season encompasses four programs with sixteen performances, and includes appearances in both Santa Fe and Albuquerque.

The season opens on **Thursday, July 9, 2015** with ***Transcendence***, a program featuring some of the greatest sacred music in the choral repertoire. Music Director Joshua Habermann selected the repertoire to suit the rich acoustics of our venues, the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis in Santa Fe and the Cathedral Church of St. John in Albuquerque. Herbert Howells' luminous *Requiem* stands side by side with works of the German masters: Johannes Brahms, Johann Kuhnau, Felix Mendelssohn, and Heinrich Schütz. Contemporary composers Wolfram Buchenberg's *Ich bin das Brot des Lebens*, and Jaako Mäntyjärvi's *Canticum Calamitatis Maritimae*, which was first performed by the Santa Fe Desert Chorale in 2009, complete the program. Performances are scheduled for: July 9, 10 and 11, 2015 at 8:00pm in Santa Fe and July 12, 2015 at 4:00pm in Albuquerque.

The second and third programs of the season, ***Venetian Splendor*** and ***Serenade to Music***, will be performed in repertory. ***Venetian Splendor*** features vocal chamber works performed by eight of the Desert Chorale's professional singers. **Lutenist Richard Savino** joins in the performances of works from 17th and 18th century Venice. Composers represented include: Chiara Margartia Cozzolani, Baldassare Donato, Andrea Gabrieli, Giovanni Gabrieli, Pietro Antonio Giramo, Francesco Manelli, Claudio Monteverdi, and Barbara Strozzi. Taking its name from Vaughan-Williams' ***Serenade to Music***, the third program explores the music of the British Isles. Sixteen Desert Chorale soloists are joined by **pianist Debra Ayers** and **violinist David Felberg** in the program which also includes works by Benjamin Britten, William Byrd, John Dowland, Edward Elgar, Gerald Finzi, Orlando Gibbons, Robert Pearsall and Richard Shephard. The program concludes with folk songs set by Gustav Holst. ***Venetian Splendor*** may be heard on: July 21, 24, 28, 30 and August 4, 2015 at 8:00pm in the Loretto Chapel, Santa Fe. ***Serenade to Music*** performances take place in the Church of the Holy Faith in Santa Fe on July 23, 25, 29, and 31, 2015 at 8:00pm.

The fourth and final program of the season, ***Hidden Treasures of Byzantium***, features music of the Eastern Orthodox Church. For this program, the ensemble swells to thirty singers who will perform repertoire spanning over five centuries: from ancient chant to lesser-known twentieth century works from the Baltic area, Finland, Greece, Russia, and the United States. The **world premiere of composer Ivan Moody's *Aflame***, which was commissioned by the Santa Fe Desert Chorale in 2014, is the centerpiece of this program. Performances at the Cathedral Basilica in Santa Fe will take place on August 6 and 8, 2015 at 8:30pm and on August 9, 2015 at 4:00pm at the Cathedral Church of St. John in Albuquerque.

Concert ticket prices range from \$20 to \$65, with special discounts for students and groups of 10 or more. For ticket information, please see the attached calendar and visit: www.desertchorale.org, or call the Box Office at (505)988-2282.

THE SANTA FE DESERT CHORALE

311 East Palace Avenue
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
(505) 988-2282
DESERTCHORALE.ORG

For the first time, dinners with presentations by expert lecturers will precede each opening night performance in Santa Fe. Music Director **Joshua Habermann** will introduce the season-opener (July 9, 2015) at La Terraza at La Fonda on the Plaza. **Dr. Candace A. Wagner** will explore the works on the ***Venetian Splendor*** program at a dinner at the Inn and Spa at Loretto (July 21, 2015) and **Dr. Matthew Tresler** will speak about ***Serenade to Music*** at Eloisa in the Drury Plaza Hotel

(July 23, 2015). Composer **Rev. Dr. Ivan Moody** will discuss his composition *Aflame* and the *Hidden Treasures of Byzantium* program (August 6, 2015) at La Posada de Santa Fe. All dinners and lectures begin at 6:00pm. For more information and reservations please visit: www.desertchorale.org.

Mission of the Santa Fe Desert Chorale:

The Santa Fe Desert Chorale seeks to promote the appreciation of choral music. We are committed to enriching the lives of New Mexico residents and visitors through concerts, youth education programs, and community outreach activities, which are presented by an ensemble of professional singers of the highest caliber.

About the Santa Fe Desert Chorale:

As one of the nation's premiere professional ensembles comprising 24 singers from across the country, critics have lauded the Santa Fe Desert Chorale as a first-class performer of excellence in choral music. Currently under the baton of music director Joshua Habermann, the Chorale has assembled in New Mexico for more than 33 years to perform repertoire spanning seven centuries, from Medieval polyphony to contemporary and *avant garde* works. With more than 30 performances each year, the Desert Chorale has been lauded for its ability to sing more than 1,000 years of vocal masterpieces. Performing at historical sites in Santa Fe such as the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis and the Loretto Chapel, as well as other venues throughout Santa Fe and Albuquerque, the Chorale delivers a unique experience that gives audience members an intimate and personal glimpse into the minds of the great composers. Acclaimed performances at the 2015 American Choral Directors Association conference in Salt Lake City were recent achievements.

The Desert Chorale prides itself on performing diverse repertory with the finest professional musicians, an intimate rapport with audience members and supporters, and strong relationships within the community of Northern New Mexico, including collaborations with The Santa Fe Opera, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Santa Fe Symphony and Chorus, Santa Fe New Music, Santa Fe Pro Musica and the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. Youth education and community outreach remain an important part of the Desert Chorale's mission, and have included: All-County Youth Chorus, the Desert Chorale's Children's Choir, public lectures, pre-concert lectures, open rehearsals and performances at community events on the Plaza and elsewhere in the city, at schools and at senior residence communities.

Contact:

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Santa Fe Desert Chorale Summer Season Calendar

Thursday, July 9, 2015 6:00pm	Summer Festival Opening Night Dinner La Terraza at La Fonda on the Plaza 100 East San Francisco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico
Thursday, July 9, 2015 8:00pm	Transcendence Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis 131 Cathedral Place Santa Fe, New Mexico
Friday, July 10, 2015 8:00pm	Transcendence Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis
Saturday, July 11, 2015 8:00pm	Transcendence Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis
Sunday, July 12, 2015 4:00pm	Transcendence The Cathedral Church of St. John 318 Silver Avenue, NW Albuquerque, NM

Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:00pm	Venetian Splendor Opening Night Dinner Inn and Spa at Loretto 211 Old Santa Fe Trail Santa Fe, NM
Tuesday, July 21, 2015 8:00pm	Venetian Splendor Loretto Chapel 207 Old Santa Fe Trail Santa Fe, NM
Thursday, July 23, 2015 6:00pm	Serenade to Music Opening Night Dinner La Posada de Santa Fe 330 East Palace Avenue Santa Fe, NM
Thursday, July 23, 2015 8:00pm	Serenade to Music Church of the Holy Faith 311 East Palace Avenue Santa Fe, NM
Friday, July 24, 2015 8:00pm	Venetian Splendor Loretto Chapel
Saturday, July 25, 2015 8:00pm	Serenade to Music Church of the Holy Faith
Tuesday, July 28, 2015 8:00pm	Venetian Splendor Loretto Chapel
Wednesday, July 29, 2015 8:00pm	Serenade to Music Church of the Holy Faith
Thursday, July 30, 2015 8:00pm	Venetian Splendor Loretto Chapel
Friday, July 31, 2015 8:00pm	Serenade to Music Church of the Holy Faith
Tuesday, August 4, 2015 8:00pm	Venetian Splendor Loretto Chapel
Thursday, August 6, 2015 6:00pm	Hidden Treasures of Byzantium Opening Night Dinner Eloisa at the Drury Plaza Hotel 828 Paseo de Peralta Santa Fe, New Mexico
Thursday, August 6, 2015 8:30pm	Hidden Treasures of Byzantium Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis
Saturday, August 8, 2015 8:30pm	Hidden Treasures of Byzantium Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis
Sunday, August 9, 2015 4:00pm	Hidden Treasures of Byzantium The Cathedral Church of St. John