



Bay Area Chorus
of Greater Houston
Keith Dixon, Musical Director

PO Box 890704
Houston, Texas
77289-0704

281.326.1286
info@bayareachorus.org
www.bayareachorus.org

LIZ CORLEY, President
SALLY SCHOTT, Coordinator
Planning & Development
TOM PARISH, Business Manager

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JANUARY 30, 2012

THREE CHOIRS COLLABORATE TO PRESENT CHORAL MASTERPIECES AT THE CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART

Houston, Texas--**A Tapestry of Voices: Collaboration** is presented by the Bay Area Mixed and Women's Chorus and the Cypress Creek Community Chorale, with a special guest performance by the award-winning Moores School Concert Chorale. The 1800-seat, 32,000 square feet of the Co-Cathedral offers exceptional acoustics and the unique Opus XIX organ, an instrument which has won acclaim internationally. With over 40 pieces of specially commissioned art, the Co-Cathedral offers a visually stunning experience which can literally take one's breath away.

The concert is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21 at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 1111 St. Joseph Parkway, Houston, 77002. Tickets are \$10 in advance; at the door, tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors over 65. Tickets may be purchased online at www.bayareachorus.org or from any Bay Area Chorus member. Group rates are available; contact info@bayareachorus.org for more information.

Bach's *Singet Dem Herrn* and Copland's *In the Beginning* have been programmed by the **Moores School Concert Chorale**, the university's premiere large choral ensemble. Under the direction of Dr. Betsy Cook Weber, the ensemble has risen to international prominence, performing for two Texas Music Educators Association conventions and a national American Choral Directors Association convention. In 2009, Concert Chorale performed and competed in the 47th Eisteddfod in Llangollen, Wales, UK and was selected to represent the United States in the opening concert. Concert Chorale won or placed in every category in which they were entered, receiving a first prize in the coveted Chamber Choir category. In 2011, Chorale competed in the prestigious French festival, the Florilege Vocal du Tours, winning a 2nd prize and a 1st prize. **Betsy Cook Weber** is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies at the University of Houston's Moores School of Music. She was a 2011 winner of a *Teaching Excellence* prize from the University.

For twenty-six seasons, **Cypress Creek Community Chorale**, under the direction of Clara Lewis, has brought to northwest Houston audiences outstanding concerts; the group has also toured nationally and internationally. The Chorale is an outreach of the music ministry of Cypress Creek Christian Church and is comprised of members of the Chancel Choir and auditioned singers from the larger community. **Clara Lewis**, Conductor and Artistic Director, is Minister of Music at Cypress Creek Christian Church. The Chorale will perform acapella works by Maurice Durufle, Franz Biebl, Rene Clausen and Alexandre Gretchaninoff as well as arrangements by Robert Shaw, Alice Parker and Jester Hairston. With organist Dr. Ann Frohbieter, the group will perform works by Paul Halley and William Mathias.

Established in 1965, the membership of the **Bay Area Mixed Chorus** and the **Bay Area Women's Chorus** includes 70 volunteer singers. The BAC Women's Chorus was featured at the state convention of the Texas Choral Directors Association in San Antonio in July, 2011. **Keith Dixon** has served as the conductor and musical director of the Bay Area Chorus since 1995. He serves as a guest conductor and clinician throughout Texas and the Southwest and performed and recorded with the Robert Shaw Festival Singers. The BAC Women will perform *Three Songs of Pavel Chesnokov*; the BAC Mixed Chorus has programmed pieces by Heinrich Schutz, Michael Tippett, Hubert Parry and a Shaw/Parker arrangement.

