

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The complete text of this release, as well as high-resolution photos, are available for download from the Pressroom area of the Choral Society's website at www.choralsociety.net

Contact: Alan Baker
(570) 343-6707

Choral Society of NEPA Announces 2016-2017 Season: *New Singers Are Invited to Join*

Northeastern Counties, PA: The Symphonic Chorus of the **Choral Society of Northeast Pennsylvania**, under the direction of Dr. Alan Baker, is **now accepting new members for their 2016-2017 Season**. Guided by the twin mottos, "Artistry through Opportunity" and "Excellence through Education," membership is open to any interested adult singer with per-semester tuition of \$75.00, which includes 2 complimentary tickets to any Society-produced program. Singers also purchase and retain their own musical scores. Current college/university students may participate tuition-free with only their purchase of the music. The Choral Society draws singers from across the region, extending to Hazleton, Tunkhannock, and the Poconos.

Rehearsals begin on August 29th and are held each Monday evening from 6:30-9:00 pm at Langliffe Presbyterian Church in Avoca. The church is centrally located between Scranton and Wilkes-Barre and easily accessed from Interstate 81. To receive additional information, including directions, please contact the Choral Society at 570-343-6707, visit their website at www.choralsociety.net, or simply attend a Monday evening rehearsal.

The Choral Society's 2016-2017 season will open with radio broadcasts of recent performances on WVIA-FM, the region's national public radio affiliate. In 7:00 am and 4:00 pm broadcasts on Sunday, August 21st, listeners can hear works of Schubert and Mozart, while at the same times on Sunday, August 28th, they can hear British ceremonial music of Handel and Sir Hubert Hastings Parry.

At 4:00 pm on Sunday afternoon, November 6th in the new Dallas High School Auditorium, the Chorus will offer "Songs of Democracy, a program of patriotic favorites and music from

America's greatest composers celebrating our nation and its military. All military veterans and current military personnel are offered free admission.

The Chorus will then join with the Society's five children's and youth choirs to present classic holiday fare in the Society's annual "Christmas with the Choral Society" on Sunday afternoon, November 27th at 4:00 pm in Scranton's historic Covenant Presbyterian Church. The chorus next joins the NEPA Philharmonic for the orchestra's annual holiday concerts on Friday evening, December 2nd at the Scranton Cultural Center and Saturday evening, December 3rd at the F.M. Kirby Center in downtown Wilkes-Barre.

During the spring, the Chorus will celebrate Valentine's Day with a program of love songs from Broadway and Hollywood musicals on Sunday afternoon, February 12th at 4:00 pm in Shopland Hall at the Scranton Cultural Center. The season concludes with a performance of Mozart's immortal *Requiem* on Friday evening, May 5th at 8:00 pm with the NEPA Philharmonic at the F.M. Kirby Center.

The Society's Children's and Youth Ensembles, serving ages 5 through high-school, will present an additional three programs across the year and are also accepting new members at this time. A simple, non-threatening audition is required to insure pitch matching. For additional information or to schedule an audition for a child, please contact Frank Jones, Director of the Children's and Youth Programs at either (570) 906-1830 or fjones217@gmail.com.

Formed in 1999 through the merger of the former Singers Guild of Scranton and the Wyoming Valley Oratorio Society, the adult chorus performs not only the masterpieces of the choral-orchestral repertoire, but the most recent of contemporary western and world music. The chorus collaborates regularly with the NEPA Philharmonic in the orchestra's popular Holiday concerts, as well as in other choral/orchestral masterworks, including recent performances of Brahms's *German Requiem*, Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, Mozart's *Requiem*, and Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*. The Chorus is also heard in regional broadcasts on WVIA-FM, and has appeared locally with a variety of national-touring shows, including pop/country icon Kenny Rodgers and *Star Wars in Concert*.

These programs are supported by state arts funding through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. This Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts program is managed regionally by the Pocono Arts Council.

The Choral Society of NEPA is also generously supported by a Lackawanna County Community Arts and Culture Grant, a program of Lackawanna County Commissioners Patrick M. O'Malley, Jerry Notarianni, and Lauren A. Cummings.