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Choral Society of NEPA Announces Spring Adult Chorus Program: *New Singers Can Participate Tuition-Free*

Northeastern Counties, PA: The Adult Chorus of the **Choral Society of Northeast Pennsylvania**, under the direction of Dr. Alan Baker, is pleased to announce its spring 2020 concert and invites all interested singers to join. Guided by the twin mottos, "Artistry through Opportunity" and "Excellence through Education," membership is open to any interested adult singer with semester tuition of \$75.00, which includes 2 complimentary tickets to the program. This tuition fee is waived for all first-time singers and current college/university students. All singers purchase and retain their own musical scores. **Rehearsals will begin on January 13th and 20th and continue each Monday evening from 6:30-9:00 pm at the Langcliffe 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 chorus will prepare a program of music by Charles Villiers Stanford, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Herbert Howells to present on Sunday afternoon, April 26th at Scranton's historic Covenant Presbyterian Church. Joining with organist Tim Smith and baritone Jordan Markham, featured works will include Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*, selections from Stanford's *Songs of the Fleet* and *Service in A Major*, and the great "Te Deum" from Howell's *Collegium Regale Service*.

The Society's Children's and Youth Ensembles, serving grades 3 through high-school, are also accepting new members, as well as for a new singing-based musical experience class for children grades K-2. For additional information or to schedule a registration appointment for a

child, please contact the program's director, Becky Burdett, at beckyburdett@verizon.net or telephone the Choral Society at (570) 343-6707.

Formed in 1999 through the merger of the former Singers Guild of Scranton and the Wyoming Valley Oratorio Society, the Society's 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*.

All of these programs are generously 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 season is also generously supported by a Lackawanna County Community Arts and Culture Grant, a program of Lackawanna County Commissioners Jerry Notarianni, Debi Domenick, and Chris Chermak.

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