**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*are available for download from the Pressroom area of the Choral Society’s website,*

*www.choralsociety.net*

**Choral Society of NEPA Announces 2022-2023 Season:**

**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 2022-2023 Concerts 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 fall 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 at a per-semester cost of approximately $20.00.

Rehearsals will begin on August 29th and September 12th and continue each Monday evening from 6:30-9:00 pm at 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 570-362-0382, visit their website at www.choralsociety.net, or simply attend a Monday evening rehearsal.

The chorus will prepare a fall program for performance on Sunday afternoon, November 6th at Scranton’s Covenant Presbyterian Church. Simply entitled “WE”, the concert will celebrate through music the many connections that make our lives full and rewarding: love, family, friends, but also the spiritual, nature, homeland, art, beauty, and high ideas. Repertoire will include Eric Whitacre’s *Five Hebrew Love Songs*, Jake Runestad’s *Peace of Wild Things*, and portions of Craig Hella Johnson’s cantata, *Considering Matthew Shepard*.

The chorus will also prepare a variety of sacred and secular music for the NEPA Philharmonic’s “Holiday Pops” concerts on December 10th and 11th, respectively, at the Scranton Cultural Center and the Kirby Center in Wilkes-Barre. Featured works will include Handel’s *Hallelujah Chorus*, Holst’s *Christmas Day*, songs from the movie *Home Alone*, and music of John Rutter.

For spring 2023 the chorus will join with the Bloomsburg University Choirs to present the regional premiere of Craig Hella Johnson’s powerful 2016 cantata, *Considering Matthew Shepard*. Performances will be offered on Saturday, April 1st at Bloomsburg University, Saturday, April 15th at the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit, and on Sunday, April 16th at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Pro-Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre. Scored for chorus, soloists, narrators, and instruments, the work shares the story of Shepard’s 1998 hate-crime murder in Wyoming. Described as “brilliant” and “powerful,” The Washington Post has said that “’Considering Matthew Shepard’” demonstrates music’s capacity to encompass, transform and transcend tragedy. Powerfully cathartic, it leads us from horror and grief to a higher understanding of the human condition, enabling us to endure.”

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 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. 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 NEIU 19. 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, Esq. and Chris Chermak.

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