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Choral Society of NEPA Opens 2022-2023 Season: "WE" will celebrate Human Connections

Northeastern Counties, PA: The Adult Chorus of the Choral Society of Northeast Pennsylvania, under the direction of Dr. Alan Baker, is pleased to open its 2022-2023 Concert Season on Sunday afternoon, November 6th at Scranton's historic Covenant Presbyterian Church. Simply entitled "WE", the program will celebrate through music the many connections that make our lives full and rewarding. Musical topics will include 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*, portions of Craig Hella Johnson's cantata, *Considering Matthew Shepard*, and additional music of Imant Raminsh, Daniel Kallman, Lee Dengler, and Lloyd Larson. Pianist Ron Stabinsky and violinist Jennifer Updegrove will accompany, and featured soloists will include Jessica Hitchcock, Carol McMullen, Rachael Paden, Cara Krieg, and Francis McMullen.

General Admission tickets are \$15.00 for adults and available for purchase at the door. A \$ 3.00 discount will be extended to senior-citizens and WVIA members. Those ages 18 and under will be admitted free-of-charge. For additional information, please call 570-362-0382 or visit the Choral Society's webpage at www.choralsociety.net.

The chorus is also preparing 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*, John Rutter's *Shepherd's Pipe Carol*, songs from the movie *Home Alone*, and an extended carol sing-along. Those concerts will also mark a return to the stage of the Choral Society's children's program, with an ensemble of 30 treble voices prepared by Becky Burdett.

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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