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**Choral Society Announces First Spring “Pocket Concert”**

***Guest Conductor Dr. Joshua Harper will direct music celebrating the Sun***

Northeastern Counties, PA:

Continuing their 25th Anniversary Season, the Choral Society of NEPA is pleased to announce that their first spring concert of 2024 will be prepared and conducted by Dr. Joshua Harper, newly arrived in NEPA as Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Music at Wilkes University. Click here to read about Dr. Harper’s training and work.

Dr. Harper’s program, *Shining Light: A Hymn to the Sun*, will celebrate the sun as both life-giving force and a metaphor for good, and be presented at 3:00 pm on Sunday afternoon, March 10th at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Pro-Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre. The concert’s repertoire will be centered on Lili Boulanger’s Hymn to the Sun, and also include works of Eric Barnum, Susan Labarr, Morten Lauridsen, Zanaida Robles, Stephen Chatman, and Shawn Kirchner.

Discussing the program, Dr. Harper says that “this program of eight pieces presents six living composers. I believe bringing contemporary voices into choral programming not only allows new and young singers to see themselves more clearly in a choral ensemble but also promotes the work of living artists of today. Showcasing new music is a big part of who I am as a conductor when programming music, while still connecting them to great pieces by composers of the past, such as Bach and Boulanger.”

Rehearsals begin on Monday evening, January 22nd, 6:30-9:00 pm at Langcliffe Presbyterian Church in Avoca, halfway between Scranton and Wilkes-Barre and only minutes off I-81. No audition is required to participate, and singers will only pay modest tuition ($75 for the complete spring semester of this and a second “pocket concert” in April) and purchase and retain their own scores (approximately $13.00 per concert).

The Choral Society is also pleased to announce here that their second spring “pocket concert” will be led by Dr. Daniel Hall, Director of Choirs at Wyoming Seminary in Kingston. They will soon share Dr. Hall’s program and bio.

Founded in 1999 through merger of the former Singers Guild of Scranton, Wyoming Valley Oratorio Society, and Hazleton Oratorio Society, the Society now provides choral performances and singing opportunities to the whole of the NEPA region. New singers are always welcome without audition, following the Society’s twin mottos of “Artistry through Opportunity” and “Excellence through Education.” The chorus’s $75 semester participation fee is waived for all first-time singers and interested singers are welcome to initially borrow the music while they consider joining.

For additional information on the season or joining the chorus, please call 570-362-0382 or visit the Choral Society’s webpage at [www.choralsociety.net](http://www.choralsociety.net).

Formed in 1999, 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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