



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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Southwest Florida Symphony Chorus Chorus performs Handel's beloved Messiah

There is no better way to ring in the holidays than with the Southwest Florida Symphony chorus' "Messiah & More" December 13 at 7:30 pm at Faith United Methodist Church, 15690 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers and Sunday, December 14 at 4 pm at First Baptist Church, Cape Coral. Conducted by Joseph Caulkins, Associate Conductor and Director of Choruses, the Symphony chorus and Chamber orchestra will perform the original Christmas portion of Handel's beloved *Messiah*. And as a special treat, the Symphony chamber chorus will perform a set of three 16th century festive Christmas carols.

"Messiah is a joyful holiday tradition that is always an audience favorite," explains Caulkins. "This year I decided to share my passion for "early music" by including a section of the concert that features music of the 16th century." A specialty of Caulkins, pieces will include two spirited 16th century Spanish carols inspired by dance and two modern arrangements of *In Dulci Jubilo* and a Sinfonia both for oboes and bassoon but set in the style of the Renaissance. Special guests will include Kathy Pyeatt, Eleni Matos, Daniel Cartlidge and Daniel Buchanan.

Three additional concerts remain in the 2008/09 Stained Glass Series including "Natural Wonder" February 28 & March 1, the Children's Chorus' annual Mother's Day concert "Fairy Tales & Pixie Dust" May 10 conducted by Catherine Truesdale and the May 12 "European Tour Part 2" commemorating the 200th anniversary of Haydn's death. Concerts are conducted by Caulkins unless otherwise noted. Additional information, including venues is available at www.swflso.org. For tickets, call the box office at 418-1500.

With record breaking crowds and abundant praise last year, a sizzling 48th season begins as Music Director Michael Hall takes the stage to conduct a vibrant season of music. Serving as Lee County's professional orchestra, the Southwest Florida Symphony is a vital cultural asset to all residents. Our programs impact over 70,000 people annually through a variety of concerts, performance opportunities for youth and educational programs for local school children. Performing groups include the SWFLS Orchestra, the Symphony Chorus, the Children's Chorus and the Youth Orchestra and Sinfonietta. The Symphony is supported by ticket sales, sponsorships, donations, grants and the Symphony Society, an organization of over 500 volunteers. To learn more, see us on the web at www.swflso.org.

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