

Media Advisory



For Immediate Release, October 19, 2018

Contact:

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Master Chorale to open 76th season with first-time performance of Robert Ray's *Gospel Mass*

Performance also features a Daniel Elder premiere, commissioned by the Chorale

RALEIGH—The North Carolina Master Chorale's 170-voice chorus will perform Robert Ray's *GOSPEL MASS* on Friday, October 26. The 7:30pm concert will be presented at Hayes Barton Baptist Church. Music Director Alfred Sturgis will conduct the Chorale, featured soloists Rozlyn Sorrell - Soprano and Jeremy Herring - Tenor, and chamber orchestra.

In his *GOSPEL MASS*, composer Robert Ray sets the Ordinary of the Catholic Mass within the joyous styles of contemporary African-American music. The work is accompanied by chamber orchestra and piano-bass-drums trio.

In addition to Robert Ray's *GOSPEL MASS*, the program features two works on the subject of light on the first half of the program.

Morten Lauridsen's *LUX AETERNA* is probably the composer's most popular work. "Lauridsen focuses on imagery of light throughout (the title, after all, means "eternal light"). There is no place here for the terrifying darkness of the *Dies Irae* sequence. "I simply wanted to write a beautiful, quiet meditation on the theme of illumination," Lauridsen says, "so that it would have a transformative experience and connect people with something beyond."

Additionally, the Master Chorale commissioned a new work from Nashville-based composer Daniel Elder. His work, *ILLUMINE*, sets two works on the theme of light by Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore. The two poems, combined in the dramatic narrative of Elder's work, set the motif: The light of hope, however frail, is inextinguishable.

Individual tickets are available for the concert, as well as subscription packages for the Master Chorale's 2018-2019 season. Discounts are available to students/youths, seniors, military, and groups of eight or more.

For more information, please contact the North Carolina Master Chorale at (919) 856-9700 or visit the Master Chorale's website, ncmasterchorale.org.

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Calendar Listing

Who: North Carolina Master Chorale, Alfred E. Sturgis, Music Director
What: **Gospel Mass**
When: **Friday, October 26, 2018 at 7:30PM**
Venue: Hayes Barton Baptist Church, 1800 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh
Cost: **General admission tickets:** \$25. Discounts available for youths/students, senior citizens, military personnel, and groups of 8 or more.
Tickets: (919) 856-9700; www.ncmasterchorale.org

Media Notes

To interview Al Sturgis, or for additional information, contact:
Michelle Hile, Executive Director, North Carolina Master Chorale at 919 856-9700

The North Carolina Master Chorale

One of the major choral organizations of the Southeast, the North Carolina Master Chorale has been performing choral-orchestral masterworks for more than 75 years. Under the direction of Alfred E. Sturgis since 1993, the Master Chorale presents a diverse repertoire from the Renaissance to Contemporary with ensembles ranging from 16-voices to 170-voices. Our singers, selected by audition, bring a collective wealth of training and experience. The Master Chorale regularly collaborates with symphony orchestras, opera companies, ballet and touring productions. Music Director and conductor Sturgis holds multiple degrees in music and performed with Robert Shaw in the U.S. and Europe. In addition to the Master Chorale, Maestro Sturgis serves as Music Director for the Carolina Ballet and the Tar River Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2015, the Master Chorale was named Resident Chorus of the North Carolina Symphony. Founded as the Raleigh Oratorio Society in 1942, Master Chorale has evolved into a major regional performing arts group that works with over 250 artist-musicians each season, reaching an annual audience of over 10,000 choral arts enthusiasts.