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## THE WASHINGTON CHORUS ANNOUNCES 2015-2016 SEASON

### **A Sea Symphony, Candlelight Christmas, New Music for a New Age, Duruflé Requiem and more**

Washington, D.C. – The Grammy Award-winning Washington Chorus (TWC), under the direction of Music Director Julian Wachner, will celebrate its 55th season by presenting masterworks by Vaughan Williams, Duruflé, and Fauré, together with another offering in TWC's award-winning **New Music for a New Age** series. TWC's 2015-2016 season includes **Behold, the Sea**, featuring Vaughan Williams' *A Sea Symphony*; five performances of TWC's always-popular **A Candlelight Christmas**; **New Music for a New Age**, highlighting the works of composer Luna Pearl Woolf; and **Parisian Spring**, presenting Duruflé's *Requiem*, Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine* and *Messe des pecheurs de Villerville*, the "Kyrie" from Vierne's *Messe Solennelle*, and *At the Lighting of the Lamps* by TWC's Music Director Julian Wachner.

The Chorus opens its season on Sunday, November 22 at 5:00 PM in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall with **Behold, the Sea**. Julian Wachner will conduct the chorus and full orchestra, together with soprano Colleen Daly and baritone Dana Whiteside, in Ralph Vaughan Williams' spectacular masterpiece *A Sea Symphony*. Vaughan Williams' first symphony, begun in 1903 but not performed until 1910, *A Sea Symphony* takes its text from Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* and *Passage to India*, and ranges through its four movements across a wide spectrum of moods evoked by the sea, from calm, thoughtful intimacy and the jauntiness of a sea-shanty, to a final arrival at a vast, universal idealism. The moods are created by alternating passages for chorus, and soprano and baritone soloists. The evening will open with Wachner conducting the orchestra in Edward Elgar's enormously popular and moving *Enigma Variations* (which is appropriate, since some have thought that Elgar's own *Sea Pictures* may have influenced Williams' *Sea Symphony*). The concert will be preceded by an *Inside the Score* symposium/workshop open to audience members on November 19 at The National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC.

The annual **A Candlelight Christmas** concerts will be performed on Sunday, December 13 at 5:00 PM, Saturday, December 19 at 2:00 PM, Monday December 21 at 7:00 PM, and Tuesday, December 22 at 8:00 PM in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall; and on Friday, December 18 at 8:00 PM in the Music Center at Strathmore. In addition, TWC will continue its 24-year long tradition of supporting and supplementing the music programs in area high schools by welcoming The Madrigal Lords and Ladies under the direction of T.C. Mazzeo from the McDonough High School in Pomfret, MD as its *Side-by-Side* partner for all five concerts.

On Sunday, February 28, 2016 at 5:00 PM at the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., Wachner will lead the chorus in this year's **New Music for a New Age** offering, showcasing the music of composer Luna Pearl Woolf. TWC will present two of Woolf's primary works. The first, *Après Moi, le Déluge*, is one of the first major classical works commemorating the flooding of New Orleans and the aftermath of Katrina. The work is written for solo cello, to be performed by renowned cellist (and Woolf's husband) Matt Haimovitz, and chorus. The second primary work will be selections from Woolf's opera *The Pillar*, based on Diana B. Henriques' bestselling book *The Wizard of Lies*; *Bernie Madoff and the Death of Trust*. Both works, as well as other selections on the program, will provide opportunities to draw the audience into the development, creation and methodology behind the composer's choice of libretto and compositional insights. Soloists for this concert, in addition to Mr. Haimovitz, will include soprano Marnie Breckenridge, tenors Rexford Tester and Jonathan Blalock, and baritone James Shaffran.

TWC will conclude its 2015-2016 series with **Parisian Spring**, on Sunday, May 1, 2016 at 5:00 PM in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. This program, which includes Duruflé's *Requiem*, Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine* and *Messe des pecheurs de Villerville*, the "Kyrie" from Vierne's *Messe Solennelle*, and Julian Wachner's *At the Lighting of the Lamps*, will feature Thierry Escaich, the renowned French organist who succeeded Duruflé at Saint-Étienne-du-Mont Church in Paris. Mr. Escaich will be playing the Rubenstein Family Organ in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. Also featured in this concert are the Washington National Cathedral Choir of Boys and Girls. This concert will also be preceded by an *Inside the Score* symposium/workshop open to audience members on April 18, and will be part of TWC's 2016 Gala held in collaboration with the French Embassy at the Maison Française on April 26.

In addition, as part of its 2015-2016 season, The Washington Chorus will appear with the NSO Pops, conducted by Steven Reineke, for the Christmas show **The Von Trapps & Ashley Brown Family Holiday** at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. These concerts run from Thursday, December 10 through Saturday, December 12.

Audiences may customize their own subscriptions by choosing any two or more concerts. Subscriptions and individual tickets may be purchased by calling The Washington Chorus Box Office at (202) 342-6221. Single tickets are priced from \$18 to \$72. They may be purchased by calling TWC's Box Office or ordering securely online at [www.thewashingtonchorus.org](http://www.thewashingtonchorus.org). TWC offers special subscriber discounts for extra single tickets.

### About The Washington Chorus

The Washington Chorus (TWC), now entering its 55th season, is noted for its critically-acclaimed performances and recordings of the entire range of the choral repertoire. A three-time nominated and two-time Grammy Award-winner, TWC is widely recognized as a cultural leader in the Washington area. The Chorus presents an annual subscription series at the Kennedy Center, the Music Center at Strathmore, and other major venues throughout the Washington, D.C. area. TWC has appeared at the invitation of leading orchestras including the National Symphony Orchestra and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. TWC is proud to have sung with the NSO in more than 250 performances, under the direction of many of the world's greatest conductors, including Christoph Eschenbach, Leonard Slatkin, Mstislav Rostropovich, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Seiji Ozawa, Sir Neville Marriner, Charles Dutoit, Kent Nagano, Marin Alsop, and many others. In February 2015 the chorus traveled to Carnegie Hall in New York City for a special performance of *Turbæ ad Passionem Gregorianam* by Argentinian composer Alberto Ginastera, in partnership with Choirs of Trinity Wall Street, the Washington National Cathedral Choir of Boys and Girls, and NOVUS NY. In the summer of 2013 the Chorus sang with the legendary Rolling Stones in the final concert of their "50 and Counting Tour." TWC has sung for numerous prestigious events throughout its history--for inaugurations, for papal visits, and, for the past two Christmases, at the White House for the President and First Lady. TWC is committed to the performance of contemporary music and was proud to receive Chorus America's 2011 ASCAP Alice Parker Award, recognizing a chorus programming significant, recently-composed music that expands the mission of the chorus and challenges the chorus' audience in a new way. Other awards include the 2000 Grammy Award for "Best Choral Performance" for the live-performance recording of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*. Additional recordings include Christmas with The Washington Chorus, *Glorious Splendor, Sing Noel!*, and the Berlioz Requiem (Gothic Recordings); Dvorák's *Stabat Mater* and *Psalm 149* (Naxos International); Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov* (nominated for a Grammy Award in 1988); and the Grammy Award-winning *Of Rage and Remembrance* by John Corigliano with the National Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Leonard Slatkin. As a leader in its commitment to community, the Chorus offers numerous educational programs, including the *Junior Washington Chorus* for teens ages 16–18, the *Side-by-Side High School Program* (now in its 24th year), *Conductor in the Classroom*, and others. TWC's *Outreach Singers* present over twenty free concerts each year throughout the greater Washington area for special needs groups who may not be able to attend concerts in the traditional concert hall setting. For further information about TWC, concerts, and recordings, visit [www.thewashingtonchorus.org](http://www.thewashingtonchorus.org)

## About Julian Wachner

Grammy-nominated conductor Julian Wachner has been the Music Director of The Washington Chorus since 2008. He is also the Director of Music and the Arts at New York's historic Trinity Wall Street. Immediate past season highlights include his San Francisco Opera debut conducting Handel's *Partenope*; Ellen Reid's *Winter's Child* with the Prototype Festival; Handel's Saul in a new staging by director James Darrah; Handel's *Messiah* at Lincoln Center; Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* at the Kennedy Center; Charles Ives' *Fourth Symphony* and Ginastera's *Turbae ad Passionem Gregorionam* at Carnegie Hall; Bernard Rands' *Vincent*; and Luna Pearl Woolf's *The Pillar* for Opera America; and orchestral performances with The Jacksonville Symphony, Philharmonia Baroque, and NOVUS NY.

Wachner's recent recordings include the Grammy-nominated *Israel in Egypt*; the world premiere of Ralf Galwick's *Missa Gentae Humanae*; the Complete Motets of J. S. Bach; and Elena Ruehr's *Averno* and *Gospel Cha-Cha*. Last season also saw the release of a 3-CD set of Wachner's original orchestral works on the Naxos label; Paola Prestini's opera *Oceanic Verses* for VIA Recordings and Julia Wolfe's oratorio *Anthraxite Fields* with the Bang on a Can All-Stars for Cantaloupe Records. In addition, Atma Classique recently released Wachner's acclaimed *Triptych for Organ and Orchestra* with L'Orchestre Metropolitain of Montreal.

Wachner has made memorable guest appearances with Glimmerglass Opera, Hawaii Opera Theater, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Montreal, Pacific, Calgary, and Pittsburgh Symphonies, The New York Philharmonic, Carnegie Hall Presents, Juilliard Opera Theater, Lincoln Center Festival, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Spoleto Festival USA, the Handel and Haydn Society, and the Boston Pops. In 2010, he made New York City Opera history when he was selected as both conductor and composer at the company's annual VOX festival of contemporary opera.

His extensive catalogue of compositions have been variously described as "jazzy, energetic, and ingenious" (Boston Globe), having "splendor, dignity, outstanding tone combinations, sophisticated chromatic exploration...a rich backdrop, wavering between a glimmer and a tingle..." (La Scena Musicale), being "a compendium of surprises" (Washington Post), and as "bold and atmospheric", having "an imaginative flair for allusive text setting" and noted for "the silken complexities of his harmonies" (The New York Times.) The American Record Guide noted that "Wachner is both an unapologetic modernist and an open-minded eclectic – his music has something to say." The New York Times pronounced his Trinity Wall Street debut "superbly performed" and noted that the ensemble's annual Lincoln Center presentation of Handel's *Messiah* was "led with both fearsome energy and delicate grace...a model of what is musically and emotionally possible with this venerable score." Of his interpretation of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, according to the Boston Globe, "there was genius here and no mistaking it." Anne Midgette, of The Washington Post, declared recent Wagner and Verdi performances "exhilarating," commenting: "Julian Wachner knows how to draw maximum drama from a score," and noted that he was "emphatic and theatrical and so at home in opera that he could bring out the requisite sense of drama." For more information about Julian Wachner, visit [www.julianwachner.com](http://www.julianwachner.com).

## The Washington Chorus 2015-16 Season

### Behold, the Sea

Sunday, November 22, 2015, 5 PM

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Julian Wachner, conductor

Colleen Daly, soprano

Dana Whiteside, baritone

Washington National Cathedral Choir of Boys and Girls

Elgar *Enigma Variations*

Vaughan Williams *A Sea Symphony*

### Inside the Score

Thursday, November 19, 2015, 7 PM

National Presbyterian Church

Guest Appearance with the  
**National Symphony Orchestra Pops**  
**The Von Trapps & Ashley Brown Family Holiday**

Thursday, December 10, 2015, 7 PM  
Friday, December 11, 2015, 8 PM  
Saturday December 12, 2015 2 & 8 PM  
Kennedy Center Concert Hall  
Steven Reineke, conductor

**A Candlelight Christmas**

Sunday, December 13, 2015, 5 PM  
Saturday, December 19, 2015, 2 PM  
Monday, December 21, 2015, 7 PM  
Tuesday, December 22, 2015, 8 PM  
Kennedy Center Concert Hall  
Friday, December 18, 2015, 8 PM  
Music Center at Strathmore  
Julian Wachner, conductor  
The Madrigal Lords and Ladies from McDonough High School  
in Pomfret, MD  
T.C. Mazzeo, music director

**New Music for a New Age featuring the works of**  
**Luna Pearl Woolf**

Sunday, February 28, 2016, 5 PM  
National Presbyterian Church  
Julian Wachner, conductor  
Matt Haimovitz, cellist  
Marnie Breckenridge, soprano  
Rexford Tester, tenor  
Jonathan Blalock, tenor  
James Shaffran, baritone  
*Après Moi, le Déluge*  
Selections from *The Pillar*; based on Diana B. Henriques' book  
*The Wizard of Lies; Bernie Madoff and the Death of Trust*

**Parisian Spring**

Sunday, May 1, 2016, 5 PM  
Kennedy Center Concert Hall  
Julian Wachner, conductor  
Thierry Escaich, organist  
Washington National Cathedral Choir of Boys and Girls.  
Duruflé *Requiem*  
Fauré *Cantique de Jean Racine*  
*Messe des pecheurs de Villerville*  
Vierne's "Kyrie" from *Messe Solennelle*  
Wachner *At the Lighting of the Lamps*

***Inside the Score***

Monday, April 18, 2016, 7:30 PM  
National Presbyterian Church

**TWC's 2016 Gala**

in collaboration with the French Embassy  
Tuesday, April 26, 2016  
Maison Française