



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# The Washington Chorus to Receive \$15,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

Washington, DC—National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu has approved more than \$30 million in grants as part of the NEA's first major funding announcement for fiscal year 2017. Included in this announcement is an Art Works grant of \$15,000 to The Washington Chorus for its *New Music for a New Age* (NMNA) concert series in February 2017. The Art Works category focuses on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts.

"The arts are for all of us, and by supporting organizations such as The Washington Chorus, the National Endowment for the Arts is providing more opportunities for the public to engage with the arts," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "Whether in a theater, a town square, a museum, or a hospital, the arts are everywhere and make our lives richer."

In celebration of Julian Wachner's tenth and final season as Music Director of The Washington Chorus, the award-winning *New Music for a New Age* series continues in February 2017 and will feature Wachner's acclaimed compositions, under the baton of Guest Conductor Thomas Colohan, who worked with Wachner to commission, premiere, and record Wachner's composition, *An October Garden*, in 2015.

In a region rich with high-quality choral programs, TWC stands apart with its focus on the works of living composers. *New Music for a New Age* received the prestigious ASCAP Alice Parker Award for programming significant recently composed music that expands the mission of the chorus and challenges the Chorus' audience in a new way. NMNA turns the spotlight on a living composer for an entire program, alternating between performances of the composer's works and conversations between the composer and conductor. This unique concert format enables the audience members to experience a deeper, more personal connection to the work, while concurrently giving the singers themselves valuable insight for their performance practice.

Wachner's recent compositions to be featured on the program include *An October Garden*; *Chamber Symphony* (2014); *Blue, Green, Red* (2013); and *Come, My Dark-Eyed One*, a work performed with full orchestra by The Washington Chorus in 2011. Additional works include *Holy, Holy, Holy*; *Psalm Cycle III*; *Somewhere I have never travelled, gladly beyond*; *Alleluias Intercessions and Remembrances*; and *Aaronic Benediction*, among others. Wachner's compositions are professionally recorded on the Chandos, Naxos, Atma Classique, Erato, Cantaloupe Music, Arsis, Dorian, and Musica Omnia labels.

For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](http://arts.gov/news).

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