



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE WASHINGTON CHORUS ANNOUNCES 2016-2017 SEASON

Philip Glass's Choral Symphony, Candlelight Christmas, The Music of Julian Wachner, Carmina Burana, Oedipus Rex, and more

Washington, D.C. – The Grammy Award-winning Washington Chorus (TWC), under the direction of Music Director Julian Wachner, will celebrate its 56th season by presenting masterworks by Orff, Stravinsky, Glass, and our own Julian Wachner in celebration of his 10th and final year as Music Director.

TWC's 2016-2017 season includes Philip Glass's **Symphony No. 5**, featuring the Washington National Cathedral Girl Choristers; six performances of TWC's always-popular **A Candlelight Christmas**; **New Music for a New Age**, featuring the work of Julian Wachner; and a season finale concert of **Carmina Burana** and **Oedipus Rex**, featuring the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, the Children's Chorus of Washington, the Washington National Cathedral Boy and Girl Choristers, and the contemporary music orchestra NOVUS NY.

The Chorus opens its season on Sunday, November 13 at 5:00 PM in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall with Philip Glass's **Symphony No. 5 ((Requiem, Bardo and Nirmanakaya)**. Julian Wachner will conduct the chorus and full orchestra, together with soloists bass Davis Cushing, baritone Stephen Salters, tenor John McVeigh, mezzo Katie Pracht and soprano Heather Buck. Hailed as a "glorious, inspiring work" by the *L.A. Times*, Philip Glass's 5th Symphony tells the creation story through the world's great wisdom traditions. This celestial-sounding work was commissioned as a millennium celebration for the Salzburg Festival, and features a tour-de-force of musicians.

The annual **A Candlelight Christmas** concerts will be performed on Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 PM, Saturday, December 17 at 4:00 PM, Tuesday December 20 at 7:00 PM, and Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00 PM, and Thursday, December 22 at 7:00pm in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall; and on Monday, December 19 at 7:30 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 Northwest High School Chamber Singers from Germantown, MD and H-B Woodlawn Chamber Singers from Arlington, VA as its *Side-by-Side* partners. Joining us for a special appearance on December 11 and December 19 will be guest conductor Andrew Clark, Director of Choral Activities at Harvard University.

On Sunday, February 26, 2017 at 5:00 PM at the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., Thomas Colohan will lead the chorus in the **New Music for a New Age** series, showcasing the music of Julian Wachner. This concert celebrates Julian's lasting legacy on today's music scene, and honors his 10 years with TWC. In addition, this series provides an opportunity to hear directly from the composer and musicians in an interactive setting.

TWC will conclude its 2016-2017 series with two of the great choral works, **Carmina Burana** and **Oedipus Rex**, on Sunday, May 14, 2017 at 5:00 PM in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. In *Carmina Burana*, bawdy and satirical poems found in the annals of a 13th century German monastery are set to fiery music of Carl Orff. In the dazzling vocal lines of *Oedipus Rex*, Sophocles's tragedy is portrayed in a dramatic oratorio by Igor Stravinsky. Featured on the program are bass Morris Robinson, baritone Christopher Burchett, tenors Vale Rideout and Robert Baker, mezzo Margaret Lattimore and soprano Colleen Daly. Joining forces with three area choruses and the contemporary orchestra NOVUS NY, TWC will celebrate the final concert of Music Director Julian Wachner in grand style.

In addition, as part of its 2016-2017 season, The Washington Chorus will appear with the NSO Pops, conducted by Steven Reineke, for **A Holiday Pops!** at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall, featuring Laura Benanti and Santino Fontana. These concerts occur on Friday, December 11 and Saturday, December 12, with a special private concert on Thursday, December 10 for veterans and their families. TWC will also appear with the NSO and Christoph Eschenbach for Gustav Mahler's "**Resurrection**" **Symphony No. 2** on Thursday, June 1 and Saturday, June 3, 2017.

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 \$74. Additionally, TWC is offering a new Flex Pack subscription which allows patrons to purchase tickets early and choose their seats and concerts later. Flex Pack tickets are also able to be rolled over into the next season. Tickets may be purchased by calling TWC's Box Office or ordering securely online at www.thewashingtonchorus.org. TWC offers special subscriber discounts for extra single tickets.

About The Washington Chorus

The Washington Chorus (TWC), now in its 56th season, is one of the foremost symphonic choruses in the nation. Noted for the superb artistry of its performances and recordings of the entire range of the choral repertoire, TWC is widely recognized as a cultural leader in the nation's capital. In June 2016, Chorus America, the national association for choruses, honored The Washington Chorus with the prestigious Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence.

A three-time nominated and two-time **Grammy Award winner**, the 200-voice Washington Chorus presents an annual subscription series at The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, regularly performs at the invitation of the National Symphony Orchestra, and is frequently featured in other venues such as the Music Center at Strathmore in Maryland and Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts in Virginia.

TWC's commitment to the greater Washington community is evidenced by outstanding education and outreach programs, including the **Junior Washington Chorus** for teens ages 16 to 18; the **Side-by-Side high school program**; and TWC's **Outreach Singers** who bring music to underserved groups throughout the area. The Chorus is also known for innovative programs that focus on contemporary composers with award winning *New Music for a New Age* concerts and composers of earlier times with *The Essential concerts* of classic masters.

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.

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. Visit 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 *Turbæ 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 Gentæ Humanæ*; 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 *Anthracite 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.

The Washington Chorus 2015-16 Season

Philip Glass: Symphony No. 5 (Requiem, Bardo and Nirmanakaya)

Sunday, November 13, 2016 at 5 PM

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

with:

Washington National Cathedral Girl Choristers Elgar

Davis Cushing, *bass*

Stephen Salters, *baritone*

John McVeigh, *tenor*

Katie Pracht, *mezzo*

Heather Buck, *soprano*
Guest Appearance with the
National Symphony Orchestra Pops
A Holiday Pops!
Steven Reineke, conductor
Friday, December 9, 2016 at 8 PM
Saturday, December 10, 2016 at 2 PM and 8 PM
Kennedy Center Concert Hall

A Candlelight Christmas
Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 2 PM
Saturday, December 17, 2016 at 4 PM
Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 7 PM
Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at 7 PM
Thursday, December 22, 2016 at 7 PM
Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Monday, December 19, 2016 at 7:30 PM
Music Center at Strathmore
New Music for a New Age
Presenting the works of Julian Wachner
Sunday, February 26, 2017 at 5 PM
National Presbyterian Church

Carl Orff: Carmina Burana
Igor Stravinsky: Oedipus Rex
Sunday, May 14, 2017 at 5 PM
Kennedy Center Concert Hall

with:

Gay Men's Chorus of Washington
Children's Chorus of Washington
Washington National Cathedral Boy and Girl Choristers
Morris Robinson, *bass*
Christopher Burchett, *baritone*
Vale Rideout, *tenor*
Robert Baker, *tenor*
Margaret Lattimore, *mezzo*
Colleen Daly, *soprano*