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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 \$25 million in grants as part of the NEA’s first major funding announcement for fiscal year 2018. Included in this announcement is an Art Works grant of \$15,000 to The Washington Chorus for its 2018 Leonard Bernstein Centennial celebration concert and surrounding education programs. The Art Works category is the NEA’s largest funding category and supports projects that focus 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/or the strengthening of communities through the arts.

“It is energizing to see the impact that the arts are making throughout the United States. These NEA-supported projects, such as this one to The Washington Chorus, are good examples of how the arts build stronger and more vibrant communities, improve well-being, prepare our children to succeed, and increase the quality of our lives,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “At the National Endowment for the Arts, we believe that all people should have access to the joy, opportunities and connections the arts bring.”

To commemorate the 100th birthday of influential composer Leonard Bernstein, The Washington Chorus is joining the global “Bernstein at 100” celebration with a concert and surrounding education programs in the spring of its 2017-2018 season. TWC’s *Lenny and Friends* performances will be on June 2 and 9 at *Live! at 10th and G*. This concert celebrates the influence Bernstein and his contemporaries had on each other and on modern day composers with a vocal tour de force. Works by Michael Tippett, Aaron Copland, and Leonard Bernstein will showcase the raw vocal power of the unaccompanied chorus. The “Bernstein at 100” celebration has been facilitated locally by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, which The Washington Chorus has been participating in along with over 16 other organizations in the greater Washington, DC metro region since early 2015.

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

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