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CONTACT:

Penny Meier, Marketing Chair
www.singersinaccord.org
leadership@singerinaccord.org
612-597-5483



***SINGERS IN ACCORD PRESENTS A FRENCH MEDITATION:
MUSIC BY MAURICE DURUFLÉ & YVES CASTAGNET***

Acclaimed choral ensemble performs with guest conductor Kathy Saltzman Romey and organist Tom Trenney

On November 11 and 12, Singers in Accord will celebrate its 8th concert season at St. Olaf Catholic Church in Minneapolis singing Maurice **Duruflé's Requiem** and Yves **Castagnet's Messe Brève**. Conducted by Kathy Saltzman Romey, Director of Choral Activities at the University of Minnesota and Artistic Director of the Minnesota Chorale, the acclaimed singer-led choral ensemble will be accompanied by award-winning organist, Tom Trenney. The Requiem Mass will be the centerpiece of the concerts—a contemplation of peace, light, hope, and rest amid the mystery and struggle of life's journey on Earth.

What: Singers in Accord presents "A French Meditation"

Where: St. Olaf Catholic Church, 215 S 8th St, Minneapolis, MN 55402

When: Friday, November 11, 2016, 7:30 PM and Saturday, November, 12, 2016, 7:30 PM

Tickets: www.singersinaccord.org or 612-597-5483 (\$15 – 30, students free with ID)

"Singers in Accord is excited to welcome back Kathy Saltzman Romey to the SIA podium. She has prepared a concert which contrasts Duruflé's impressionistic treatment of the Gregorian Chant based Requiem Mass with the more contemporary setting of the brief mass by Castagnet. Yet, both are distinctly French." said Dan Digre, SIA President and Chair of the Board. "The concert also presents the singers in continuous collaboration with one of America's top young organists, Tom Trenney. At a time of year ripe for reflection and remembrance, it is a program that our audiences will really appreciate and find meaningful."

With two presentations, each night's concert will be unique. The first organist to be awarded First Prize and Audience Prize in the American Guild of Organists (AGO) National Competition in Organ Improvisation in 2006, Mr. Trenney is renowned for his imaginative and electric improvisations.

Tickets are currently available and range from \$15-30, with VIP, group and senior rates. All students are free with ID. For more information about this concert and to purchase tickets, please call 612-597-5483 or visit singersinaccord.org.

On Saturday, an organ improvisation workshop and masterclass with Mr. Trenney, hosted by American Guild of Organists, will begin at 9:00 a.m. at St. Olaf Catholic Church. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Interviews are available upon request. Photos can be retrieved at singersinaccord.com/Press-Room.

BIOS:

SINGERS IN ACCORD is uniquely structured as a singer-led choral ensemble which collaborates with a new conductor in each concert to create distinctive concert experiences for its audience. The mission of the 55-voice auditioned chorale is to enrich lives and build community through the power of choral music. It strives to enrich the cultural life of Minnesota communities through outreach, education and innovative performances. It is a 501(C) (3) nonprofit corporation that does not employ paid staff. Because of this, financial support given is tax deductible and goes directly to supporting its artistic mission and community outreach efforts. For more information, please visit: singersinaccord.org.

KATHY SALTZMAN ROMEY is Director of Choral Activities at the University of Minnesota, where she oversees the graduate program in choral conducting and conducts choirs. She is also Artistic Director of the 200-voice symphonic chorus The Minnesota Chorale, which serves as principal chorus for the Minnesota Orchestra. Romey has conducted the Chorale in regional, national and international forums and annually coordinates BRIDGES, the nationally acclaimed education-outreach program of the Minnesota Chorale. Romey has served as a staff member to the Oregon Bach Festival since 1984 and is chorus master of the Berwick Chorus, which she prepares for annual Festival concerts, commissions, and recording projects. Active also as a guest conductor, chorus master, and clinician throughout the United States and Europe, Romey serves on the faculty of the Weimar Bach Cantata Academy and also, the Junges Stuttgarter Bach Ensemble underwritten by the Internationale Bachakademie Stuttgart. Additionally, Romey has prepared programs with the Berkshire Choral Festival, Carnegie Hall Festival Chorus, Grant Park Music Festival, Netherlands Radio Choir, Teatro del Lago Festival, and Westminster Symphonic Choir. Romey has received various teaching awards and grants, co-authored two book chapters, and assisted conductor Helmuth Rilling in 2014 with the writing of his recent book—*MESSIAH: Understanding and Performing Handel's Masterpiece*.

TOM TRENNEY is a pastoral musician serving as Minister of Music to First-Plymouth Church (UCC) in Lincoln, Nebraska. At First-Plymouth, Tom conducts four adult choirs, serves as organist for worship, and sometimes even preaches. In 2015-16, three of First-Plymouth's adult choirs are featured at conventions of the Nebraska Choral Directors' Association, the Nebraska Music Educators' Association, and North Central American Choral Directors' Association (ACDA). In March 2017, two of Tom's choirs will perform at the National Convention of the ACDA in Minneapolis. In addition to his ministry at First-Plymouth, Tom serves on the choral conducting faculty at Doane University in Crete, Nebraska, and he continues to conduct sounding light- a chamber choir he founded in Michigan in 2003. A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Eastman School of Music, Tom was the winner of the American Guild of Organists' National Competition in Organ Improvisation in 2006. He is represented nationally as an organist, conductor, and clinician by Karen McFarlane Artists Management and has been featured at regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists, the American Choral Directors Association, the Organ Historical Society, the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts, the Choristers Guild, and the Calvin Institute of Worship. His choral compositions have been published by Augsburg Fortress, Morningstar, MusicSpoke, Pavane, and G. Schirmer.

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