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Coro Allegro Announces its 2014–2015 Season

[September 3, 2014] (Boston, MA) — Coro Allegro, Boston's acclaimed classical chorus for members, friends, and allies of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, and Artistic Director David Hodgkins are proud to announce Coro Allegro's 2014-2015 season. Season highlights include Handel's *Dixit Dominus*, Pärt's *Te Deum*, Brahms' *Marienlieder*, and a celebration of legendary choral conductor Lorna Cooke deVaron, the recipient of the eighth annual Daniel Pinkham Award, which includes a world premiere written by her son, Alexander.

2014-2015 Season:

The season opens in November with a musical celebration of choral conductor Lorna Cooke deVaron, showcasing works by pioneering and contemporary American composers. The program features a world premiere by Lorna Cooke deVaron's son Alexander on Walt Whitman's transformative poem, "Proto-Leaf," along with new works by two emerging composers based on texts by Isaiah & William Blake. Featured soloists are Sonja Tengblad, soprano and Paul Max Tipton, baritone. The concert will be held at New England Conservatory where deVaron inspired generations of Boston music lovers. Lorna Cooke deVaron will be presented with the Daniel Pinkham Award, given annually to a major contributor to Boston's classical music and LGBT communities.

The March winter program explores the breadth of emotions surrounding Holy week, featuring Théodore Dubois' passionate oratorio, *The Seven Last Words of Christ*, along with Brahms' *Marienlieder* and a set of Poulenc motets. Featured soloists include Dana Schnitzer, soprano, James DeSelms, tenor, and Philip Lima, baritone.

In May, the final concert of the season illustrates a contrast of styles of two compositional masters with distinctive paths to the sacred through choral music. The Estonian-born composer Arvo Pärt set *Te Deum* as a warm, serene, and ethereal musical panorama above the mystical drone of a wind harp. In contrast, the emerging 22-year-old Handel unveiled a virtuosic, kinetic, and ceremonious masterpiece in *Dixit Dominus* announcing his brilliance to the world.

Of note, Coro Allegro has been selected to perform Pärt's *Te Deum* as part of the 2015 Chorus America Annual Conference in Boston in June.

2014-2015 Ticket Information:

Subscriptions and single tickets to the 2014-2015 season are now available and may be purchased online at www.coroallegro.org or by calling 617-236-4011.

2014-2015 Season Calendar:**American Visions**

November 9, 2014, 3:00pm at New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall, Boston

David Hodgkins, conductor

Sonja Tengblad, soprano

Paul Max Tipton, baritone

Aaron Copland: *The Boatmen's Dance*

Aaron Copland: *At the River*

Aaron Copland: *Promise of Living*

Andrew Bonacci: *Auguries of Innocence*

Nicholas Anthony Ascioti: *Sacred Victim*

Alexander deVaron: *Songs For a Waxing Moon*

Lenten Meditations

March 15, 2015, 3:00pm at Church of the Covenant, Boston

David Hodgkins, conductor

Dana Schnitzer, soprano

James DeSelms, tenor

Philip Lima, baritone

Susan DeSelms, organ

Darryl Hollister, piano

Théodore Dubois: *The Seven Last Words of Christ*

Francis Poulenc: *Quatre motets pour un temps de pénitence*

Johannes Brahms: *Marienlieder*

Infinite Majesty

May 17, 2015, 3:00pm at Church of the Covenant, Boston

David Hodgkins, conductor

Arvo Pärt: *Te Deum*

George Frideric Handel: *Dixit Dominus*

DAVID HODGKINS

Artistic Director David Hodgkins has delighted audiences in the greater Boston area for over 20 years with “creative programs, sung with enthusiasm and tonal beauty” (Ed Tapper, Bay Windows). Mr. Hodgkins is the Artistic Director of Coro Allegro in Boston, which Boston Globe critic Michael Manning deemed “one of Boston’s most accomplished choruses.” He is also Artistic Director of The New England Classical Singers in Andover, and Director of Music at The Commonwealth School in Boston. Mr. Hodgkins teaches advanced conducting at the New England Conservatory of Music through the Kodály Music Institute, and is the conductor in residence of the Kodály Music Institutes at NEC and Wichita State University in Kansas.

Mr. Hodgkins has conducted groups at the ACDA and GALA music festivals, performed as guest conductor with such Boston-area groups as Chorus Pro Musica, Masterworks Chorale, and Emmanuel Music, and made numerous festival appearances as guest conductor and conducting clinician. His ensembles have collaborated with the Boston Celebrity Series, Boston Cecilia, Handel and Haydn Society, Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, The New England String Ensemble, and the Boston Landmarks Orchestra.

Mr. Hodgkins has been featured in Choral Director Magazine, been the producer for three award-winning CDs by La Donna Musicale, Laury Gutiérrez, Artistic Director, and produced a CD of 20th-century works for Terry Everson, trumpet, and Shiela Kibbe, piano, which was released on Albany Records in 2011. He currently serves on the advisory boards of The Boston City Singers, Jane Money, Artistic Director, and the UMass/Amherst Music Department.

A champion of contemporary music, Mr. Hodgkins has conducted world premiere performances of works by David Brunner, Alan Fletcher, Kenneth Fuchs, Charles Fussell, Ruth Lomon, Daniel Pinkham, Aaron Rosenthal, Robert Stern, Richard St. Clair, and Patricia Van Ness, as well as Boston premieres of works by Rebecca Clarke, James MacMillan, Marianne Martinez, Arvo Pärt, Ronald Perera, and William Grant Still.

David Hodgkins received his Bachelor of Music degree in voice, piano and harpsichord from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, a Master of Music in choral conducting from Temple University in Philadelphia, and fellowships in choral and orchestral conducting at both the Aspen and Sandpoint music festivals. His mentors include Wayne Abercrombie, Fiora Contino, Alan Harler, James Roth, Gunther Schuller, and Paul Vermel. In addition to his teaching at The Commonwealth School, Mr. Hodgkins has been on the faculties of the New England Conservatory, UMass/Amherst, Temple University, and Clark University.

ABOUT CORO ALLEGRO

Founded in 1990, Coro Allegro is a chorus for members, friends, and allies of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities that strengthens and enriches the lives of its members and the greater Boston community through its performances of outstanding classical choral repertoire and recordings. It is dedicated to its mission to provide broad audiences access to choral music and perform works by diverse composers. It serves as a model of a successful and valued LGBT community group through artistic excellence and visibility, and it creates an affirming, welcoming, and supportive environment for its membership. An advocate of contemporary music, Coro Allegro was the recipient of the 2012 Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker Award for exposing its audience to brand new

works. With Artistic Director David Hodgkins, Coro Allegro has released four critically acclaimed commercial recordings: *In Paradisum* and *Awakenings* on the Navona Records label, as well as *In the Clearing* and *somewhere i have never traveled*.

Coro Allegro is supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

For more information, electronic images, and interviews, please contact:
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