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Coro Allegro Announces its 25th Anniversary Season

October 28, 2016 (Boston, MA) — [Coro Allegro](#) and Artistic Director David Hodgkins are proud to announce Coro Allegro's 25th Anniversary Season as Boston's acclaimed classical chorus for members, friends, and allies of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community.

25 years ago, David Cutler founded a Gay and Lesbian choir in Boston with a dual purpose — to build bridges between disparate communities while striving for the highest of artistic standards. And out of this vision, Coro Allegro was born.

Under the direction of Artistic Director David Hodgkins, Coro Allegro has blossomed into a nationally recognized LGBTQ and allied classical chorus. Known for award-winning programming, eclectic commissions and critically acclaimed performances and recordings of works by diverse classical and contemporary composers, Coro Allegro is proud to offer a welcoming, affirming and supportive environment for its membership.

Over the past quarter century, Coro Allegro has earned a reputation for taking artistic risks by presenting contemporary works that often grapple with the most complex issues of our time, paired with insightful performances of classic repertoire. This season showcases the commitment, attention to detail, and virtuosity that have become their hallmark.

Coro Allegro's 25th season of celebrations will feature a retrospective of works spanning the breadth of their 25-year history, four premieres and five works commissioned from the many composers who have inspired them, and performances featuring some of the consummate musicians with whom they have partnered.

Coro Allegro will also mark the 10th anniversary of the Daniel Pinkham Award, created by Coro Allegro to recognize outstanding contributors to classical choral music and the LGBT community.

Coro Allegro 2016-2017 Season

Coro Allegro launches its 25th anniversary season of celebrations with **Magnificat** on Sunday, November 13, 2016 at 3pm at Sanders Theatre. Joyously radiant and grand Bach choral settings bookend deeply cathartic works by Barber and Gluck, plus Kodály

folk songs and anthems to mark the 60th anniversary of the Hungarian uprising of 1956. Coro Allegro will be joined by some of the finest, most expressive Baroque soloists in the Boston area: soprano Teresa Wakim, alto Clare McNamara, tenor Jason McStoots, and bass Thomas Jones. The program also features violinist Kristina Nilsson, in gratitude for all the exemplary musicians she has assembled and led as concertmaster of Coro Allegro's orchestra.

On Sunday, March 12, 2017 at 3pm, Coro Allegro will return to Sanders Theatre to present **The White Raven: 10th Anniversary Pinkham Award Concert**. In honor of the late Boston composer, Daniel Pinkham, Coro Allegro will reprise *The White Raven*, his soaring tribute to the exceptional, featuring soprano Dana Varga. Pinkham's setting of the poetry of Christopher Smart was originally commissioned by Coro Allegro and premiered 20 years ago in 1996. Paired with the Pinkham are the vocal fireworks of Haydn's "Lord Nelson" Mass, featuring Dana Varga, alto Clare McNamara, tenor Matthew Anderson, and bass Thomas Jones. In addition, Coro Allegro shines a spotlight on accompanist, Darryl Hollister, as he performs the world premiere of a new work by Fred Onovwerosuoke. Finally, Coro Allegro will present Catherine Peterson, Executive Director of ArtsBoston and Chairman of the Board of Chorus America, with the 10th Annual Daniel Pinkham Award.

Coro Allegro's season of celebration culminates with **Alleluia! A Celebration of 25 Years**, on Sunday, May 21, 2017 at 3pm at the Church of the Covenant in Boston's Back Bay. The concert offers a retrospective on Coro Allegro's quarter century of musical history, plus surprises, discoveries, and rejoicings. The program features diverse settings of Alleluia from the Baroque to the contemporary, two world premieres by composers Patricia Van Ness and Peter Eldridge, and a Boston premiere by Jennifer Higdon.

Coro Allegro 25th Anniversary Season Calendar:

Magnificat

Sunday, November 13, 2016, 3:00 p.m.
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy Street, Cambridge,

Johann Sebastian Bach: Magnificat, BWV 243

Teresa Wakim, soprano
Clare McNamara, alto
Jason McStoots, tenor
Thomas Jones, bass

Johann Sebastian Bach: *Singet dem Herrn ein neues Leid*, BWV 225
Samuel Barber: *Agnus Dei*
Zoltán Kodály: *Norwegian Girls, Too Late, The Peacock*

Christoph Willibald Gluck: *Melodie* from *Orfeo ed Euridice*
Kristina Nilsson, violinist

Tickets: (A) \$65, (B) \$45, (C) \$25
Seniors/Student Discount: 20% off
Student Special: \$15

The White Raven

10th Anniversary Pinkham Award Concert

Sunday, March 12, 2017, 3:00 p.m.
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy Street, Cambridge

Daniel Pinkham: *The White Raven*
Dana Varga, soprano

(Franz) Joseph Haydn: *Missa in Angustiis* ("Lord Nelson" Mass)
Dana Varga, soprano
Clare McNamara, alto
Matthew Anderson, tenor
Thomas Jones, bass

Fred Onowwerosuoke: World Premiere
Darryl Hollister, pianist

Tickets: (A) \$65, (B) \$45, (C) \$25
Seniors/Student Discount: 20% off
Student Special: \$15

Alleluia! A Celebration of 25 Years

Sunday, May 21, 2017, 3:00 p.m.
Church of the Covenant
67 Newbury Street, Boston

A retrospective on Coro Allegro's musical history, plus surprises, discoveries, and rejoicings

Featuring:

Alleluia! Diverse settings of exaltation from the Baroque to the contemporary

Favorites from the past 25 years by composers such as Rachmaninoff, Poulenc, Handel, Thompson and Fuchs

World Premieres by Patricia Van Ness and Peter Eldridge
Boston Premiere by Jennifer Higdon

Tickets: (A) \$50, (B) \$35, (C) \$25
Seniors/Student Discount: 20% off
Student Special: \$15

Coro Allegro 2016-2017 Ticket Information:

Subscriptions to Coro Allegro's 2016-2017 Season as well as tickets to individual concerts are now available, with substantial discounts for seniors and students. They may be purchased online at www.coroallegro.org or by calling 617-236-4011.

Artist Profiles:

David Hodgkins, Coro Allegro Artistic Director

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," Artistic Director of The New England Classical Singers in Andover, Director of Music at the Commonwealth School in Boston, advanced conducting instructor at the Kodály Music Institute, and serves on the advisory boards of The Boston City Singers and the UMass/Amherst Music Department.

Mr. Hodgkins has performed with Coro Allegro at the ACDA and GALA music festivals, served as guest conductor with Chorus Pro Musica, Masterworks Chorale, and Emmanuel Music, and has made numerous festival appearances as guest conductor and 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 conducted numerous world and Boston premiere performances of works ranging from Marianne Martinez to Arvo Pärt. Mr. Hodgkins with Coro Allegro received the 2012 Chorus America Alice Parker/ASCAP Award for their collaborative premiere performance of Kareem Roustom's oratorio *Son of Man*, with The United Parish Church of Brookline and Music Director Susan DeSelms, a work commissioned by United Parish. That same year, Mr. Hodgkins with Coro Allegro released the critically acclaimed CDs *Awakenings* and *In Paradisum* on the Navona label, which feature

contemporary composers Robert Stern, Ronald Perera, and Patricia Van Ness and soloists Sanford Sylvan and Ruth Cunningham.

Mr. Hodgkins has been featured in Choral Director Magazine, The Voice of Chorus America, UMass Amherst Magazine, and Haverhill Life. He has served as producer for three award-winning CDs by La Donna Musicale, Laury Gutiérrez, Artistic Director, In the Style of... for Terry Everson, trumpet, and Shiela Kibbe, piano on Albany Records, and a CD of trumpet concerti for the Boston University Wind Ensemble and Terry Everson, directed by David Martins.

Mr. Hodgkins received his Bachelor of Music in voice, piano, and harpsichord from UMass/Amherst, a Masters in Choral Conducting from Temple University, and fellowships in choral and orchestral conducting at the Aspen and Sandpoint music festivals. His mentors include Wayne Abercrombie, Fiora Contino, Alan Harler, James Roth, Gunther Schuller, and Paul Vermet. Mr. Hodgkins has served on the faculties of the New England Conservatory, UMass/Amherst, Temple University, and Clark University.

About Coro Allegro

Founded in 1990-1991, Coro Allegro is Boston's acclaimed chorus for members, friends, and allies of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. Coro Allegro strengthens and enriches the lives of its members and the greater Boston community through its performances of outstanding classical choral repertoire and recordings. Coro Allegro is dedicated to its mission to provide broad audiences access to choral music, perform works by diverse composers, serve as a model of a successful LGBT community group through artistic excellence and visibility, and create an affirming, welcoming, and supportive environment for its membership.

In addition to its Boston-area subscription series, Coro Allegro reaches national and international audiences through broadcasts on WGBH "Classical Performances," and performances at the International LGBTQ GALA Choruses Festivals, and the Eastern Division Convention of the American Choral Directors Association. In 2015, Coro Allegro was chosen to perform Arvo Pärt's *Te Deum* at the prestigious Chorus America Conference in Boston.

In 2008, Coro Allegro established the Daniel Pinkham Award in memory of the late Boston composer and conductor. The award is given annually in recognition of outstanding contributions to classical music and the LGBT community.

An advocate of contemporary music, Coro Allegro was the recipient of the 2012 Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker Award for programming recently composed music that expands its mission and challenges its audiences in new ways.

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*. Gramophone magazine noted of *Awakenings*: "These are deeply affecting pieces and meaningful additions to the choral repertoire. ... The Boston-based Coro Allegro, led by David Hodgkins, performs each score with fine balance and interplay."

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

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For more information, electronic images, and interviews, please contact: Yoshi Campbell at 978-239-4131 or press@coroallegro.org