

THE CROSSING and WRTI-FM announce a season of broadcasts of contemporary choral music

Philadelphia, PA, October 14, 2011: On the Air!

The Crossing is pleased to announce that all concerts of its 2011-2012 season will be broadcast on WRTI 90.1 FM, Philadelphia's Classical and Jazz public radio station. WRTI Program Director/Midday host Jack Moore, and Arts & Culture Editor/*Creatively Speaking* host Jim Cotter announced the alliance between the station and The Crossing with a schedule of broadcast dates, beginning with The Crossing's Christmas broadcast for Public Radio International (PRI).

Of the news, WRTI's Station Manager Bill Johnson said, "We're proud to add The Crossing's performances to our lineup of broadcasts from regional music ensembles. By tackling new and recently composed works, The Crossing keeps choral music evolving, exciting, and challenging; we can't wait to share that experience with our listeners."

The schedule of broadcasts will be as follows:

Sunday, December 11 at 3 pm – "Christmas Daybreak," a Public Radio International program: The Crossing in a concert of gorgeous contemporary works for the Nativity, including the first-ever broadcast of James MacMillan's *Alpha and Omega* (2011) and the world premiere of Zachary Wadsworth's *Gabriel's Message* (with special guests The Choir of St. Paul's Church, Chestnut Hill). With organist Scott Dettra of Washington National Cathedral playing the wonderful organ of St. Paul's Church, the program will include Benjamin CS Boyle's *Three Carols for Wintertide* – new takes on beloved texts and tunes – several works of Gabriel Jackson, and the title work *Christmas Daybreak* of Robert Convery. Hosted by classical music radio personality Bill McLaughlin, and with special guests Philadelphia's own Pig Iron Theatre Company weaving in *Nativity Poems* of Joseph Brodsky, this PRI production is co-produced with WRTI and producer Malcolm Bruno.

(Note: The Crossing presents this music, with additional music, live in concert on Friday, December 16 at 8 pm at St. Paul's Church, Chestnut Hill.)

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**FOR
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RELEASE**

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day at 3 pm – a re-broadcast of the December 11th PRI show. Spend an hour on Christmas Day with The Crossing's "Christmas Daybreak."

Sunday, January 22 at 3 pm – Kile Smith's *Vespers*, as performed January 8 with Piffaro, the Renaissance Band at the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill. The two-hour program will also include the Summer 2011 world premiere of Smith's *The Waking Sun*, with The Crossing and Tempesta di Mare.

Sunday, May 27 at 3 pm – Curt Cacioppo's *Cantata of the Angels: Vermilion Vespers*, featuring The Crossing with Ken Lovett at the organ of the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill. As performed May 20, the two-hour program will be rounded out by motets of Bruno Bettinelli and archival recordings of Scott Dettra (of Washington National Cathedral) accompanying The Crossing in a variety of works for choir and organ.

Sunday, June 10 at 3 pm – A world premiere of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Lewis Spratlan in a work co-commissioned by, and featuring, The Crossing and Network for New Music. Inspired by ancient themes, *Vespers Cantata: Hesperus is Phosphorus* has a thoroughly modern libretto of texts by American poets, playwrights, and physicists. As sung in concert on June 2, the two-hour program will also feature the music of Latvian composer Ēriks Ešēvalds.

Sunday, June 24 at 3 pm – As sung in concert on June 17 at the opening concert of the National Conference of the Association of Anglican Musicians at St. Clement's Church, Philadelphia, the program offers a world premiere of British composer Francis Pott along with his monumental *My Song is Love Unknown*, both accompanied by Scott Dettra at the organ. This look at the most beautiful contemporary sacred music of Britain and Estonia features brilliant recent works of James MacMillan, Gabriel Jackson, Toivo Tulev and Urmas Sisask. The two-hour program will include additional archival recordings of The Crossing singing music of Gabriel Jackson and James MacMillan.

The Crossing's conductor, Donald Nally, will host each concert broadcast. Of the announcement, he said, "this is so exciting; there could be no greater match to our mission of performing new and recent choral works than to hear them played to ever-wider audiences through the radio waves of WRTI. We're fortunate to have such enthusiastic friends at the station, and look forward to working with them throughout the season to bring programs of world-class quality to Philadelphia audiences."

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WRTI is a non-profit, member-supported classical and jazz public radio station producing innovative, entertaining, and informative content that enriches the lives of listeners in Philadelphia and the tri-state region. WRTI's broadcast signal in Pennsylvania extends west to Harrisburg and north to Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. WRTI reaches listeners as far south as Dover, DE and at the shore in Ocean City, NJ. The station also hosts a 24-hour classical stream and a 24-hour jazz stream at WRTI.org.

The Crossing is a professional choir of 24 voices committed to singing the great choral music of our time. With offices at the Crane Old School (1417 North Second Street) and a performance home at the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill, The Crossing is proud to have been called "Philadelphia's best chorus" by *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

For more information, visit www.CrossingChoir.com.

All broadcasts will be recorded by Paul Vazquez of Digital Mission Online, except the June 10th broadcast, which will be recorded by George Blood of George Blood Audio Video.

WRTI's Network of Stations includes:

WRTI

Philadelphia 90.1 FM

Reading 97.7 FM

Allentown 97.1 FM

Wilmington 107.7 FM

WJAZ Harrisburg 91.7 FM

York 90.7 FM

WRTL Lancaster, Ephrata, Lebanon 90.7 FM

WRTY Mt. Pocono 91.1 FM

Wilkes-Barre 94.9 FM

Pottsville 99.1 FM

Scranton 106.1 FM

WRTQ Ocean City 91.3 FM

WRTX Dover 91.7 FM

WRTJ Coatesville 89.3 FM

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