

PRESSRELEASE

The Crossing wins second ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming

Philadelphia, PA: May 12, 2011: Chorus America, the national organization for choral ensembles, announced today that The Crossing, Philadelphia's acclaimed professional choir specializing in new music, has won its second ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming. The prize, which comes with a cash award, is presented annually to an ensemble demonstrating a commitment to fostering and promoting new music and recognizes the variety and creativity of the new music programmed during the most recently completed season. The award will be presented June 10 in San Francisco at Chorus America's national conference.

Announcing the award, Ann Meier Baker, President & CEO of Chorus America, stated: "The Crossing has quickly established a stellar reputation for performances of music by living composers, including the daring 'Month of Moderns.' Their artistic excellence and creative programming were among the reasons they were selected to perform at the Chorus America Conference in 2009, and I am delighted that the selection panel has chosen to honor them with their second ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming."

Donald Nally, conductor of The Crossing, speaking for the ensemble, noted, "We are very grateful for this national recognition from ASCAP and Chorus America, an award that is not just an acknowledgement of the commitment of our singers to the highest standards, but also to our Philadelphia audience and their dedication, courage, and undying support for our art."

The ASCAP award review panel pays special attention to commissions in their review of ensemble's programming of the previous season. During the 2009-2010 season The Crossing presented world premieres by Paul Fowler, David Lang, Lansing McLoskey, David Shapiro, and recorded a CD (released this March) of new works on words of Paul Celan and Philip Levine.

The announcement comes just weeks before The Crossing's 2011 Month of Moderns featuring the commissioning project Seneca Sounds: four new works on words of Seneca the Younger by internationally acclaimed composers Gabriel Jackson (UK), Ēriks Ešenvalds (Latvia), Kamran Ince (Turkey/US), and Philadelphian Kile Smith. Concerts are on June 5, 18, and 26 at the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill. Tickets are available at www.crossingchoir.com.

ASCAP, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, is a performing rights organization which licenses and collects royalties for performance of its composers' music.

The Crossing won its first ASCAP Award in 2009.

Come. Hear. Now.

About The Crossing

Founded in 2005, The Crossing is dedicated to commissioning and performing new choral masterworks written primarily in the last fifteen years. The Crossing won the 2009 ASCAP/Chorus America Award for Adventuresome Programming. It is the only choral ensemble funded for the 2010-11 season by the prestigious Philadelphia Music Project (funded by the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage). The Crossing's commissioned premieres during 2010's Month of Moderns festival featured 2008 Pulitzer-Prize winning composer David Lang setting music inspired by Pulitzer-Prize laureate Philip Levine. The 2011 Month of Modern's commissions will include Gabriel Jackson, Ēriks Ešenvalds, Kamran Ince, and Kile Smith. The Crossing released its second recording, *It is Time*, this spring, featuring the new works created for the 2009 Month of Moderns – music of David Shapiro, Kile Smith, and Kirsten Broberg. The recording is released by Navona Records and distributed by Naxos. Philadelphia Inquirer music critic David Patrick Stearns has called The Crossing "Philadelphia's best chorus." The ensemble has upcoming collaborations with the acclaimed Baroque ensemble Tempesta di Mare, as well as with Network for New Music in Philadelphia. The Crossing will produce a third recording in Summer 2011 that will include two new works by David Lang, written for the recording. For more information: www.CrossingChoir.com

Larger photographs available upon request.

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