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"The Crossing" Announces Fall '07 & Spring '08 Concert Appearances

Donald Nally's all-pro chamber choir continues mission of premiering new choral music.

Ardmore, PA, August 22, 2007: The Crossing, conducted by Donald Nally, will present four programs in the upcoming '07-'08 season. This all-professional chamber choir, celebrating its second full season, continues to fulfill its mission of performing modern and new choral music, including a world premiere in collaboration with Piffaro, The Renaissance Band.

On October 6th the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill will host the opening concert featuring two Philadelphia premieres: Erhard Karkoschka's **4 Kleine Finalsätze zu "Es ist ein Schnitter, heisst der Tod,"** and Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho's **Tag Des Jahrs**. The first is a fascinating kaleidoscope of choral textures, drawn out of a simple Bach chorale. The latter, by one of Europe's most distinguished composers (owing largely to her opera **L'amour de loin**, written for the Salzburg Festival) is four thoughtful settings of poems of Friedrich Hölderlin, sung over a recorded soundscape. Jonathan Harvey will be represented by his uncharacteristically simple **Remember, O Lord**, written for Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee. The program will also include David Lang's provocative **I Lie**, in Yiddish, which the women of The Crossing performed to enthusiastic audiences at this year's Festival dei Due Mondi in Spoleto, Italy, where The Crossing has a summer residency. Continuing their relationship with the music of composer James MacMillan, his **Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis** will conclude the October concert. This last work, a classic example of

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MacMillan's genius and ability to find something new to say in a familiar text, will feature Scott Dettra, organist at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.
Saturday October 6, 8pm

Once again The Crossing will provide much needed respite during the holidays by presenting the second annual "Crossing Christmas" on Friday, December 21st. The beautiful Mander organ of the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill will add its voice to the choir in Christmas music by Leighton, Howells, Dove, Ades, Tavener and many more.

"The Christmas concert gives us a chance to perform many contemporary responses to the holiday we wouldn't otherwise sing. We mix them with a few works we've known and loved for years and, in this way, it's like coming home to something new," said Donald Nally, Chorus Master of Lyric Opera of Chicago and conductor of The Crossing. "Last year's Christmas concert was received with amazing warmth and joy and so we cannot pass up the opportunity to return to Chestnut Hill and the beauty of its candle-lit quietness" Friday December 21, 8pm.

To start the New Year, The Crossing will collaborate with Piffaro, The Renaissance Band for ***Epiphany Vespers*** by composer Kile Smith. Smith has composed a full setting of the Vespers – some new arrangements of ancient tunes (including the familiar ***Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern***), and others, such as the Magnificat, of entirely original material, offering the rare and delightful scenario of new music written for ancient instruments and contemporary voices. This world premiere commission for chamber choir and early instruments will be performed on Saturday January 5th (8pm) at Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion in Philadelphia and on Sunday January 6th (4pm) at the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill. The work will be recorded for commercial release.

As the opening event of the Spring Arts Festival, the final concert of the season will once again feature the acoustics and organ of the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill. This concert will feature Arvo Part's introspective multi-movement



a cappella work, ***Triodon***, British sensation Tarik O'Regan's ***Care Charminge Sleepe***, Lars Johan Werle's innovative ***Canzone 126 di Fancesco Petrarca*** (requiring the singers to use their voices in a variety of ultra-expressive ways), and Philip Moore's searching ***Three Prayers of Dietrich Bohnoeffe***. Scott Dettra will again join the ensemble on organ to close the program with Leighton's monumental ***Crucifixus pro nobis***, a profound, unknown treasure. Friday, April 25, 8pm.

About The Crossing

The Crossing was founded in 2005 by Donald Nally specifically to perform new and modern choral music. Its prior critically-acclaimed concerts have included works by James Macmillan, Jonathan Dove, Judith Weir, Benjamin C.S. Boyle, Herbert Howells, Bruno Bettinelli, and Gian Carlo Menotti.

Since the premiere concert in November, 2006, The Crossing has been garnering accolades acclaiming the beauty and accuracy of its performances. The Crossing is comprised of individual singers from many cities who come together with a shared vision of sound and phrasing based upon years of singing together. For more information, visit www.CrossingChoir.com.

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