



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Experience the joy of the season with an unsurpassed presentation
of Handel's *Messiah* by the **Guelph Chamber Choir**

Guelph, Ontario – November 25, 2009 – The **Guelph Chamber Choir** continues its celebratory 30th anniversary season with its annually anticipated performance of Handel's beloved *Messiah* at the **River Run Centre** on **Saturday, December 19, 2009 at 8 pm.**

The choir's presentation of *Messiah* has been noted for its beauty, nuance and precision, a result of deep understanding of the score paired with a talented, mature ensemble. The finest period instrumentalists from the surrounding area are brought in, providing our performance with delectable clarity and lively rhythm.

Conductor **Gerald Neufeld** has made a tradition of introducing Guelph audiences to young Canadian rising stars in *Messiah's* integral and substantial soloist roles. This year is no exception, featuring Guelph native and baritone, **Adrian Kramer**, who has recently joined the **Canadian Opera Company Ensemble** after graduating from both **The Juilliard School** and **The Curtis Institute of Music**. In 2002, at the age of seventeen, Adrian finished as first runner-up in the **Canadian National Kiwanis Competition** and comes home to us after recent appearances at **The Kennedy Center** in Washington and **Carnegie Hall** in New York City.

Joining him is Kitchener soprano **Bethany Hörst** who trained at the **University of Western Ontario**. This season she has been named *Vocalist of the Year* by **Conservatory Canada** and received the prestigious **Encouragement Award** at the **Metropolitan Opera Regional Finals**.

Mezzo-soprano **Christina Stelmacovich**, a native of North York, Ontario, now makes Guelph her home. She is the winner and finalist of several international vocal competitions including the **International Brahms Competition**.

Rounding out a notable quartet is lyric tenor, **Joseph Schnurr**, a graduate of vocal performance at **Wilfrid Laurier University**. Joseph was a top ranking prizewinner in both the **Elora Young Artist Competition** and the **Guelph Spring Festival**. Currently performing in Berlin, he is developing a strong reputation both at home and abroad in Europe.

Special thanks go out to **John and Barbara Wood**, providing sponsorship for *Messiah* for numerous years. The **Guelph Chamber Choir** gratefully acknowledges their outstanding continuing community support.

Tickets are available through the **River Run Centre** by calling **519-763-3000** or online at **riverrun.ca**. Four tickets to the *Messiah* are available at only \$100 or single tickets may be purchased for \$30 or \$25 with discounted tickets for students and **eyeGO** at only \$10 and \$5. To see a similar level of performance in Toronto you can spend up to \$99 a ticket – save your money and enjoy one of southern Ontario's finest choirs, right here at home. **Great seats are still available** but will sell quickly as December progresses!

To discover more, please visit our website at **www.guelphchamberchoir.ca** or call **519-836-5103**.

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