



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

The **Guelph Chamber Choir** and **Orpheus Choir of Toronto**  
blend beautiful voices together to present **Choral Music for the Northern Soul**

**Guelph, Ontario – January 12, 2010** – The **Guelph Chamber Choir** will present a joint concert with the esteemed **Orpheus Choir of Toronto** of choral works from Russia, Latvia and Canada at **Harcourt Memorial United Church** in Guelph on **Saturday, February 27, 2010 at 8 pm**.

This special coming together of two of southern Ontario's outstanding choirs is the winter feature of the **Guelph Chamber Choir's** celebratory 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary season following a stirring **Anniversary Gala Concert** in November and a sold-out presentation of Handel's *Messiah* in December.

The heart of the evening will be a performance of select movements from Rachmaninoff's lushly sonorous *All-Night Vigil* or *Vespers* performed in the original liturgical Russian. Based on ancient chants, Rachmaninoff's composition, created in less than two weeks, is the greatest musical achievement of Russian Orthodoxy. Rich harmonies provide a sense of enveloping serenity while heartfelt texts are infused with meaning and emotion. Basses must reach formidable depths at the thrilling lowest extreme of their range. The work encompasses a wealth of moods and emotions, ranging from meditative introspection to praise and proclamation.

Complementing this masterwork are newer explorations of chant from Latvia and Canada:

- ❖ *Dona Nobis* by **Peter Vasks** (Latvia)
- ❖ *Amazing Grace* by **Eriks Esenvalds** (Latvia)
- ❖ *The Kontakion* by **Rupert Lang** (Canada)
- ❖ *Oh Great Mystery* by **Tim Corlis** (Canada)

Conductor **Gerald Neufeld** is pleased to share his podium with **Robert Cooper** and to welcome him and his choir to the city of Guelph. Early in their careers, **Dr. Neufeld** and **Dr. Cooper** studied together in Germany under the tutelage of the great choral master, **Helmuth Rilling**. **Robert Cooper** also conducts **Chorus Niagara, Opera in Concert, Toronto Operetta Theatre** and is an esteemed member of the faculty of the **Royal Conservatory of Music**. A recipient of the **Order of Canada**, he is well known from his work with **CBC Radio Two** as *Executive Producer of Opera and Choral Music*.

The **Orpheus Choir of Toronto** is a vibrant ensemble, 60 voices strong, with a mandate to celebrate life through the discovery and performance of fine choral music. Now in its 45th season, **Orpheus** continues to offer exciting and adventuresome repertoire, unique collaborations, and passionate evenings of choral art.

Tickets are available through the **River Run Centre** by calling **519-763-3000**, online at [riverrun.ca](http://riverrun.ca) or at the door at **Harcourt Memorial United Church**. Choir and board members will be pleased to sell tickets as well. Tickets are **only \$25** each (students and **eyeGO**: \$10 and \$5).

To discover more, please visit our website at [www.guelphchamberchoir.ca](http://www.guelphchamberchoir.ca) or call **519-836-5103**.

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