



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Guelph Chamber Choir presents our founding conductor's
farewell concert, **Brahms' A German Requiem**

Guelph, Ontario – February 14, 2018 – The **Guelph Chamber Choir** invites you to join us for founding conductor **Gerald Neufeld's** final concert as *Artistic Director* and *Conductor*. **Brahms' A German Requiem with other works for Easter, Music and Joy** will be performed on **Saturday, March 31, 2018 at 7:30 pm** featuring **Musica Viva Orchestra** on period instruments.

Brahms wanted his Requiem not to be a mass for the dead, but a celebration for the living. His purpose in composing the piece in German, rather than the usual liturgical Latin, was so that he could set music to words reflecting on the brevity of life and the loving path from anxiety to comfort. Brahms considered the piece **A Human Requiem**.

Gerald Neufeld noted, "I'm very happy to be performing **A German Requiem** as my final concert as Music Director of the Guelph Chamber Choir. Former choir members and other friends will augment the choir for this performance. Having studied extensively in Germany in my youth, I have returned to Brahms' masterwork over the years and it never fails to reveal new mysteries and layers of meaning through study and preparation. Soulful melodies, ingenious harmonic progressions and undulating dynamics build and release tension, resulting in a work of unparalleled beauty that expresses what words cannot." The Requiem has some of the most remarkable music of comfort and hope, while still acknowledging the loss we experience in death.

Joining the choir are two outstanding Canadian soloists, internationally acclaimed baritone **Daniel Lichti** and rising-star, soprano **Sheila Dietrich**; both reside in the local area. Mr. Lichti, an *Associate Professor of Voice* for the *Faculty of Music* at **Wilfrid Laurier University**, continues to inspire admiration for the beauty, warmth and richness of his voice and respect for the dignity and sincerity of his interpretations. The choir is pleased to bring back Sheila Dietrich, a former section leader in the choir. In 2015, Ms. Dietrich made her **Carnegie Hall** debut where, as a finalist in the 2015 *New York Oratorio Society Solo Competition*, she was awarded the *Johannes Somary Prize*. Her effortless soaring soprano voice is noted for its pure and sincere beauty.

Dr Neufeld, while looking forward to retirement, will remain as Artistic Director of the Guelph Chamber Choir next year during the choir's search for a new conductor. The first two concerts in the Fall of 2018 will feature the finalists of the search as guest conductors during a year of transition to a new Artistic Director.

Single tickets for **Brahms' A German Requiem** on **Saturday, March 31, 2018 at 7:30 pm** at the **River Run Centre** are now available for **only \$35 each** or **4 for \$120**. We encourage young adults to attend with **\$10 tickets** for **students** and those **30 and under**, and only **\$5 for youth 14 and under** or with **eyeGO** (high school picture ID required).

Tickets are available through the **River Run Centre** by calling **519-763-3000** or online at **riverrun.ca**.

To discover more, please visit our website at **guelphchamberchoir.ca** or email **info@guelphchamberchoir.ca**

Special thanks to our concert sponsors: **The Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation: Ken Murray Fund** and **RN Manufacturing** as well as our soloist sponsor **Stantec**.

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