



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

A new take on Handel's *Messiah* from the Guelph Chamber Choir

Guelph, Ontario: December 11, 2019 – **Handel's *Messiah*** may now be the composer's most popular work, but in his lifetime, Handel was known primarily for his dramatic operas. The **Guelph Chamber Choir** is proud to present a fresh interpretation of ***Messiah*** led by conductor **Charlene Pauls** on **Saturday, December 21, 2019 at 7:30 pm** at the **River Run Centre** in downtown Guelph, right before Christmas.

Conductor **Charlene Pauls** enthused, "I've sung many performances of ***Messiah*** as a soprano soloist, but this forthcoming presentation will be my first on the podium. As you can imagine, I've had a great many opportunities to study the beloved score over the years and am exhilarated to present my own take on what is often considered the cornerstone of English choral music. At the time, Handel was most famously an opera composer; it was primarily through this genre that he gained fame throughout Europe. Only after the popularity of opera in England began to wane did he turn his compositional energy to creating oratorios for the public. With this in mind, Handel was a master of drama and his music is full of theatre. When we embrace the full range of emotions conveyed in the music, the score comes alive – it's one of the numerous reasons this piece has remained vital and popular for centuries!"

We are thrilled with our line-up of soloists this year. Described by the KW Record as possessing "a bright, round and supple sound," soprano soloist **Bethany Hörst** is well established on the stage in both opera and concert. Canadian mezzo-soprano **Jennifer Enns Modolo** has delighted audiences across the country with her clear, unaffected voice and meaningful singing. Lauded for his luminous projection, lyrical sensitivity, and brilliant coloratura, American-born Canadian tenor **Lawrence Wiliford** is in high demand around the world in concert, opera, and recital repertoire. Equally comfortable on both concert and operatic stages, New Zealand-born baritone **Bradley Christensen** has continued to earn praise for his "most well-rounded instrument...focused, rich, and sympathetically communicative."

Please plan to arrive early to enjoy a **PodiumTalk**, titled **Messiah Night Live!** on the River Run Stage at 6:50 pm led by celebrated keyboardist **Christopher Dawes**, who will again join the orchestra for this season's performance.

We will also be presenting a **Sing-Along *Messiah*** the evening before on Friday, December 20, 2019 at 7:30 pm at St. George's Anglican Church. A suggested donation of \$20 in support of the **Children First Fund of Family and Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County**. More generous donations for this project are most welcome.

Our latest Christmas CD, ***Carol of the Bells*** (2017), will be available for purchase at the concert. We are continuing our popular Silent Auctions with many giftable items at the concert. 50/50 draw tickets will also be available with a potential grand prize of \$5500 for the lucky winner!

Single tickets for **Handel's *Messiah*** on **Saturday, December 21, 2019 at 7:30 pm** at the **River Run Centre** are now available for **\$45 each** or **4 for \$160**. We encourage young adults to attend with **\$10 tickets** for those under 30 and **\$5 tickets** for 14 and under.

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 exclusive concert sponsor: **The Family of John F. Wood**.

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