



Downers Grove Choral Society

#16 MAY 1 CONCERT AND DR. ROBERT HOLST'S RETIREMENT

Downers Grove Choral Society

Robert Holst, Music Director

Sunday, May 1, 2011 -3:00 p.m.

Tivoli Theater, 5021 Highland Ave., Downers Grove

The Downers Grove Choral Society's (DGCS) Spring Concert will be performed at the Tivoli Theatre in downtown Downers Grove on Sunday, May 1 at 3 pm. The concert will mark the farewell performance of DGCS director Dr. Robert Holst, who has led the chorus for the past 19 years. To celebrate this occasion, outstanding music has been selected, which will feature:

- **Mozart – *Requiem***
- **Beethoven - *Choral Fantasy***
- **Convery - *As Rivers Seek the Sea* - A World Premier**

At the culmination of Robert Holst's twenty year career with the Downers Grove Choral Society, the chorus pays homage to the traditions of the masters of great choral music, Mozart and Beethoven, and turns toward the future with the first performance of a hauntingly beautiful new masterpiece by contemporary composer Robert Convery that will delight audiences for years to come. An orchestra of excellent musicians and outstanding soloists will join the chorus in what is sure to be a memorable event.

The incomparable *Requiem* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Requiem was written by Mozart in 1791 amidst his premonitions of his own death, and indeed he did not live to complete all of the work (it was finished by his pupil, who had a thorough knowledge of Mozart's intentions). *Requiem* was immortalized in the film about Mozart, *Amadeus*. It is an outstandingly beautiful and much-loved piece with a balanced text that contrasts the fear of dying with the hope for God's grace. Exceptional soloists will augment the fine choral and orchestral performance of this powerful work. Soloists for the Mozart *Requiem* include soprano Martha Guth, mezzo-soprano Joanne Wernette, tenor Marc Stingley, and baritone Paul Grizzell.



The World Premier of *As Rivers Seek the Sea* by Robert Convery

This is the world premier performance of a work commissioned by friends of Dr. Robert Holst to honor his leadership of the Downers Grove Choral Society. The cantata is based on five poems of Christina Rossetti, and features the chorus with award winning soloist Martha Guth (first place winner of the prestigious 2007 Wigmore Hall International Song Competition), with piano and string accompaniment. Robert Convery is a contemporary composer well beloved by the Downers Grove Choral Society for his intricate rhythms and subtle harmonies. He does not disappoint in his latest offering. The performance salutes the dedication and service that Holst has provided for the chorus.



The much-loved *Choral Fantasy* by Ludwig van Beethoven

Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* marks an unusual point in Beethoven's career in which the orchestra, solo piano (performed by the Society's own acclaimed accompanist, Jeffrey Panko), vocal solos, and chorus join together. The *Choral Fantasy* is a very popular work among those who love classical music, because it combines the best of piano, orchestra, vocal, and choral music in a single piece. This magnificent work is also unique, as Beethoven wrote very little choral music. Jeffrey Panko recently performed at Carnegie Hall.

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Advance Tickets: \$20 General; \$15 Senior; \$5 Student

Children 13 & under (w/parent) are free Call 630-515-0030 or visit www.dgcs.org

Tickets can also be purchased at Anderson's Book Store or the Tivoli Theater in Downers Grove.

Note: Above prices are for advance ticket orders. Door sales are \$2.00 higher/ticket.

Parking can be found in the Tivoli lots, on Washington and Rogers Streets, and in the public parking garage 3 blocks south of the Tivoli on Curtiss Avenue.

Dr. Robert Holst



Beginning in 1992, Dr. Robert Holst became the fifth music director to lead the volunteer community chorus. He has consistently brought a quality three-concert season, implemented an Artist Recital Series to give local and upcoming talent a chance to perform for the Downers Grove public, and began an outreach program that takes music to people in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, as well as presented an occasional concert focused on music for children. On the role of the Downers Grove Choral society, Holst says, "There's a tremendous amount of emotional satisfaction in

performing many of the master works and to have an opportunity to do that is phenomenal. There is always a need to adapt to changing times; we constantly review how to serve our community and how to serve our members and try to do the best possible job that we can so that we are not only performing music that people are interested in hearing, but so that we can also remain true to our cultural heritage." Through his articulate communication, profound knowledge of music, exceptional musicianship, and encouraging direction, Robert Holst leaves the Downers Grove Choral Society with a strong foundation and heartfelt legacy upon which to build. The May 1 concert is a tribute to his many accomplishments, and will be an event to remember.

Children's Music Awards

In April 2010 the first winners of the DGCS Children's Music Award were announced at the spring concert. Pictured below are last year's winners, Anna Burton (on left) and Elyse Warnecke (on right). In addition to a financial award, the winners were invited to sing in a DGCS concert, and on February 13, 2011 Anna and Elyse sang "Where is Love" from *Oliver*, which was a delightful addition to the program.



The award was created to help talented 7th and 8th grade singers pursue musical education activities outside of school music classes, such as singing lessons or summer camp. Winners are selected based on written applications and recommendations. **This year's winners will be announced at the May 1 concert.**

In addition to donations by DGCS members, the chorus relies on donations from patrons to make the awards possible. **One hundred percent of all donor contributions go directly to award winners** and the number of winners is determined based on the amount of donations received. Anyone wishing to support the Children's Music Award should send donations made out to the DGCS at P. O. Box 655, Downers Grove, IL 60515. Please specify that the donation is to be applied to the Children's Music Award. Donation containers will also be available at the May 1 Concert. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

The Downers Grove Choral Society is a nonprofit organization, and receives support from the Illinois Arts Council, the DuPage Community Foundation, the Hinsdale Center for the Arts, and the generosity of our friends and patrons. The Downers Grove Choral Society welcomes patrons and members with disabilities.

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