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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE NEW YORK CITY MASTER CHORALE**

**KICKS OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH TWO DECEMBER PERFORMANCES**

*Chorale to Donate Tickets to Low-Income Communities*

**NEW YORK, November 1, 2010** — The New York City Master Chorale ([www.nycmasterchorale.org](http://www.nycmasterchorale.org)), under the direction of Artistic Director Dr. Thea Kano, will make the holiday season even more merry and bright with two highly anticipated musical performances. The group commences its fifth season of fine choral music by entertaining crowds at two of Manhattan's most revered churches during December.

***Gloria — Friday, December 10***

The first performance - entitled *Gloria* - will take place on Friday, December 10, at 8:00 p.m. at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle, located at Columbus Avenue at 60th Street. The evening's repertoire will feature Francis Poulenc's *Gloria* as well as *a cappella* and accompanied arrangements of holiday favorites by John Rutter, Benjamin Britten, Stephen Paulus and Morten Lauridsen, among others. Rasaan Bourke will accompany the 60-voice Chorale on piano and organ. Soprano Paige Cutrona, whom the *New York Times* has described as “passionate” and “vocally striking,” will be the featured soloist.

Tickets are priced at \$30 for general admission — \$20 for students and seniors — and are available through the Chorale's website at [www.nycmasterchorale.org](http://www.nycmasterchorale.org) or by calling the organization's box office at 917.326.1422. Tickets are also available at the door the evening of the concert, as space permits. Public transportation to the Church of St. Paul the Apostle is

readily accessible. Take the A, C, B, D, or 1 train to the 59th Street/Columbus Circle station and walk one block west to Columbus Avenue.

***Thirty-first Annual “A City Singing at Christmas” — Thursday, December 16***

The Chorale will delight listeners and put them in a joyous holiday mood at another holiday concert, to be held at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, located at Fifth Avenue between East 50th and 51st Streets. On Thursday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m., the Chorale will join the Young People’s Chorus of New York and The Cathedral of St. Patrick’s Choir for *A City Singing at Christmas*. The Cathedral’s 31<sup>st</sup> annual holiday performance features a variety of spirited holiday arrangements. In addition to *a cappella* selections and piano- and organ-accompanied arrangements, there will be a festive sing-along of hymns and carols, as well as a performance of Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus” by all three ensembles. The Chorale will also perform a sampling of pieces from its earlier, December 10 *Gloria* concert.

Tickets for the event are free to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis. The holiday concert is St. Patrick’s biggest of the season and always fills to standing room only, so early arrival is recommended. St. Patrick’s Cathedral is readily accessible via public transportation. Take the B, D, F, or M to 47-50th St. Rockefeller Center, the E or M to Fifth Ave./53rd Street, or the 4 or 6 to 51<sup>st</sup> Street/Lexington Avenue.

“We encourage everyone – of all ages – to join us for these festive holiday concerts and to help us celebrate this milestone season,” says Dr. Kano.

As part of its mission to share fine music with people of all income levels, the Chorale will donate a minimum of 50 tickets to *Gloria* to students from low-income schools. During the 2010 - 2011 season, the Chorale is collaborating with a community choir from Fedcap Rehabilitative Services, an organization that assists individuals with disabilities and barriers to employment join the workforce. The Chorale will also donate 25 tickets to the singers of the Fedcap choir.

***About Conductor Thea Kano***

Thea Kano is the founding artistic director and conductor of the New York City Master Chorale. She has prepared the Chorale for performances with the Astoria Symphony and the Park Avenue Chamber Symphony. Dr. Kano is also the assistant conductor of the Gay Men's Chorus, Washington, D.C. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting from the University of California, Los Angeles, where she studied with Donald Neuen and Paul Salamunovich.

***About The New York City Master Chorale***

Founded in 2005, the New York City Master Chorale presents an annual concert series, performing at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle, The Riverside Church and Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center. In addition, the Chorale has been invited to sing in many of New York City's most prestigious venues, including St. Patrick's Cathedral, Avery Fisher Hall and Carnegie Hall. The Chorale is noted for its excellent performances of the entire range of the choral repertoire. The Chorale also provides significant education and outreach initiatives to New York City schools and community programs as an integral component of its mission.

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