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CONTACT: Marion Wise  
New York City Master Chorale  
(917) 326-1422  
[mwise@nycmasterchorale.org](mailto:mwise@nycmasterchorale.org)  
[www.nycmasterchorale.org](http://www.nycmasterchorale.org)

**New York City Master Chorale to culminate season with  
concert honoring French composer Francis Poulenc**

**NEW YORK, April 1, 2013** – On Saturday, May 4, under the direction of Artistic Director Thea Kano, the New York City Master Chorale ([www.nycmasterchorale.org](http://www.nycmasterchorale.org)) will conclude its seventh season with a concert at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, featuring Francis Poulenc’s *Gloria* and his *Stabat Mater*, in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the composer’s death. The concert will also feature soprano Paige Cutrona, whom *The New York Times* describes as “vocally striking.” The Chorale will be accompanied by the Church of St. Mary the Virgin’s Music Director and resident organist James Kennerley on the Church’s magnificent Aeolian-Skinner organ.

Francis Poulenc spent his life in Paris and was a member of the group of French and Swiss dadaist composers known as “Les Six.” Composed just four years before his death in 1963, Poulenc’s *Gloria* presents his characteristic contrasts between celebration and reverence. His *Stabat Mater* is in twelve movements, each invested with a distinctive character, every section assuming a fresh stance in terms of orchestration, tempo and key. The result is a quick-moving work that never allows the listener to settle into a single mood for a long expanse.

“We are delighted to acknowledge this anniversary by performing two of Poulenc’s extraordinary choral masterpieces,” says Dr. Kano. “His choral writing is powerful and tremendously moving. Although they are marked by sincere religious expressions, Poulenc’s compositions exhibit a sense of levity not typically found in religious music.”

**Music of Francis Poulenc  
The New York City Master Chorale**

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 4, 2013 at 8:00 pm

**WHERE:** The Church of St. Mary the Virgin (145 West 46<sup>th</sup> Street), between Sixth Avenue and Seventh Avenue, accessible by via the 1, 2, 3, 7, N, Q, R, and S trains to 42<sup>nd</sup> Street/Times Square or the B, D, F, and M trains to Rockefeller Center.

**TICKETS:** \$25 for students/seniors and \$35 for general seating. Tickets may be purchased online at [nycmasterchorale.org](http://nycmasterchorale.org) or by calling the New York City Master Chorale Box Office at 917.326.1422. Tickets are also available at the door prior to the concert, as space permits.

***About Conductor Thea Kano***

Thea Kano is the founding artistic director and conductor of the New York City Master Chorale. Dr. Kano is known for her expressiveness and dynamic conducting and her Chorale has been praised for its balance and richness in tone. She has prepared choruses for Zubin Mehta and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and has prepared the New York City Master Chorale for performances with the Astoria Symphony and the Park Avenue Chamber Symphony. Dr. Kano's ensembles have performed at the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Disney Hall, Église Saint-Sulpice (Paris), and on the National Mall for the 2009 and 2013 inaugural ceremonies. 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 Soprano Paige Cutrona***

Lyric Soprano Paige Cutrona was most recently seen as Norina in *Don Pasquale* with the Amore Opera and Underworld Productions Opera in June and October in New York City. Ms. Cutrona recently performed Paul Leavitt's acclaimed *Requiem* to commemorate the tenth anniversary of September 11th at St. Paul's Chapel in her current home city of Manhattan. Other recent engagements include Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, Bach's *Magnificat*, Poulenc's *Gloria*, Valencienne in *The Merry Widow*, Pamina in *The Magic Flute*, and Cephise and La Statue in Rameau's rarely seen *Pygmalion*. Ms. Cutrona holds a Master of Music in Voice Performance degree from Carnegie Mellon University and a Bachelor of Arts in Music degree from Westminster Choir College. She studies privately with Dr. Jeanne Goffi-Fynn and Dr. Christopher Arneson in New York City.

***About Organist James Kennerley***

James Kennerley has been Organist and Music Director at the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Times Square, since 2008. Mr. Kennerley has performed at many major venues in Europe and the United States, both as a soloist and accompanist, and has been a prizewinner at several competitions. At Saint Mary's, he performs weekly on the church's famous 1932 organ during services and concerts. Mr. Kennerley has studied with David Sanger, Thomas Trotter and McNeil Robinson, and holds the Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists diploma.

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

Founded in 2005, the New York City Master Chorale consists of 75 trained musicians from the greater New York City area who seek to broaden public interest in fine choral music by performing a full range of musical styles at the highest level of quality. The Chorale presents an annual concert series at venues throughout New York City, including the Church of Saint Paul the Apostle, The Riverside Church and Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center. In addition, the Chorale has been invited to sing in many of New York City's most prestigious venues, including Saint

Patrick's Cathedral, Avery Fisher Hall and Carnegie Hall. The Chorale made its European debut at Église Saint-Sulpice in Paris, France in 2011. The Chorale is noted for its excellent performances of the entire range of the choral repertoire. As an integral component of its mission, the Chorale also provides education and outreach initiatives to New York City schools and community organizations.

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