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**New York City Master Chorale culminates season with
concert titled *Water and Night***

NEW YORK, March 5, 2012 – On Thursday, April 26, 2012 the New York City Master Chorale (www.nycmasterchorale.org), under the direction of Artistic Director Thea Kano, will conclude its sixth season with a spring concert entitled *Water and Night*. The Chorale will perform a collection of a dozen short works themed on water and night, featuring works by contemporary American composers Steven Paulus, Morten Lauridsen, Eric Whitacre and Moses Hogan, accompanied by the internationally acclaimed young pianist Laura Barger at Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center. The centerpiece of the program will be the world premiere of Paul Leavitt's *Eaux Vives*—a work composed especially for the Chorale.

“We are looking forward to sharing this evocative repertoire with audiences in our first performance at Merkin Concert Hall,” says Dr. Kano. “The works on this program showcase the versatility of the Chorale’s singers and our commitment to performing works by living American composers.”

Mr. Leavitt, whose music the New York City Master Chorale also premiered last spring, says that water has been an important source of inspiration for him. He describes his piece as an “elegy to the beauty of water, but also a call to action to protect our environment and the water without which we cannot live.”

***Water and Night*
The New York City Master Chorale**

Pianist Laura Barger

Shenandoah, arr. by James Erb
Wade in the Water, arr. by Moses Hogan, featuring Isaiah Archuleta
Deep River, arr. by Moses Hogan
Nocturnes: Sa Nuit d’Été, Soneto de la Noche, Sure on This Shining Night, Morten Lauridsen
Eaux vives, Paul Leavitt, world-premiere
Três Cantos Nativos Dos Indios Kraó, arr. by Marcos Leite

The Day is Done, Stephen Paulus
Water Night, Eric Whitacre

WHEN: Thursday, April 26, 2012 at 8:00 pm

WHERE: Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center (129 West 67th Street), between Broadway and Columbus Avenue, accessible by train via the 1 (66th St./Lincoln Center station), 2 and 3 (72nd St. station). It is a 10-minute walk from the 59th St./Columbus Circle station (A, B, C, D & 1 trains).

TICKETS: \$35 for general admission and \$20 for students/seniors. Ticket information is available at 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 New York City Master Chorale

Founded in 2005, the New York City Master Chorale consists of 70 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.

About Conductor Thea Kano

Thea Kano is the founding Artistic Director 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 2008 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 Composer Paul Leavitt

Paul Leavitt made his debut as a concert pianist at age 15 with the Albany Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Julius Hegyi. He received a Master's Degree from the Juilliard School in New York and a Bachelor's Degree from Purchase College, State University New York. He was a laureate of the International Steinway Competition for Young Talents (1989) in Paris, France. A versatile musician and composer, Mr. Leavitt performs regularly in Europe and in the United

States as a classical pianist, concert organist and choral conductor. He currently serves as the Director of Music and Arts at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation in Washington, DC.

About Pianist Laura Barger

Laura Barger has performed internationally both as a soloist and chamber musician at The Lucerne Festival (Switzerland), The National Gallery of Ireland, Västerås Konserthus (Sweden), Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco), Darmstadt Festival for New Music (Germany), Bang on a Can Marathon (Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art) and The Banff Centre for the Arts (Canada). She is a founding member of piano and percussion quartet Yarn/Wire, and performs frequently with other contemporary music groups such as the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, Argento Chamber Ensemble, Skogensemble, Wet Ink Ensemble and Lost Dog New Music. Ms. Barger holds degrees from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville (Bachelor of Music) and Stony Brook University (Master of Music, Doctor of Musical Arts). She is currently on faculty at the 92nd Street Y School of Music in Manhattan.

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