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New York City Master Chorale presents Rachmaninoff's *Vespers*

NEW YORK, April 11, 2017 – On Friday, April 28, 2017 and Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 8:00 p.m., the New York City Master Chorale (nycmasterchorale.org) will perform Rachmaninoff's *Vespers (All Night Vigil)* under the direction of Associate Conductor Dusty Francis. Friday's concert will be held at St. Jean Baptiste Catholic Church (184 East 76th Street at Lexington Avenue), and Saturday's concert will be held at Church of St. Mary the Virgin (145 West 46th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues).

"There is a real sense of timelessness with this music," says Dusty Francis. "About a hundred years after its genesis, the work still sounds simultaneously ancient and novel, and the sensation of being wrapped in these melodies and harmonies is one of time standing still. It's almost a meditative experience."

Tickets to this concert are on sale online at nycmasterchorale.org/box.

RACHMANINOFF'S *VESPERS*

WHEN: Friday, April 28, 2017 at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Friday's concert will take place at St. Jean Baptiste Catholic Church (184 East 76th Street), at Lexington Avenue, accessible by subway via the 6 to 77th Street.

Saturday's concert will take place at The Church of St. Mary the Virgin (145 West 46th Street), between Sixth Avenue and Seventh Avenue, accessible by subway via the 1, 2, 3, 7, N, Q, R, and S trains to 42nd Street/Times Square or the B, D, F, and M trains to Rockefeller Center.

TICKETS: \$25 for students/seniors and \$35 for general seating. A select number of \$50 premium tickets are available. Tickets may be purchased online at nycmasterchorale.org/box. Tickets are also available at the door prior to the concert, as available.

New York City Master Chorale
Dusty Francis, Conductor
Thea Kano, Artistic Director

About Associate Conductor Dusty Francis

Conductor and bass-baritone Dusty Francis enjoys an active career as a performer, clinician, and adjudicator in the New York metropolitan area and across the country. He currently serves as Music Director of the Park Slope Singers and of the Ars Musica Chorale; Founding Artistic Director of the New Jersey State Children's Chorus; Associate Conductor of the New York City Master Chorale; and Director of Children's Choirs at St. Michael's Episcopal Church. Francis holds the Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Maryland. A native of Ohio, he currently resides in Manhattan.

About Conductor Thea Kano

Thea Kano is the founding artistic director and conductor of the New York City Master Chorale. In addition, she serves as the Artistic Director of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. 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 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 the 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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