



Canterbury Choral Society World Premiere Collaborative Concert with American Choral Directors Association

Ann Howard Jones, Guest Conductor from Boston University
and the Oklahoma City Philharmonic

March 6, 2009 / Friday at 8 PM / Civic Center

Celebrate the excitement of a World Premiere and a first-ever national Convention in Oklahoma City! Canterbury and the American Choral Directors Association (which moved its national headquarters to our downtown arts corridor in 2004) team up to bring you an unforgettable musical experience! Around 12,000 musicians are expected to be in Oklahoma City to attend ACDA's March 2009 convention, commemorating its 50th Anniversary. Member choral directors represent more than 1 million singers across the United States. In addition, Canterbury celebrates its 40th Anniversary season this year.

In honor of this occasion, the Pulitzer Prize and Grammy award-winning composer Dominick Argento has been commissioned to write a new choral/orchestral work. Entitled *Cenotaph* (which means "a monument built to honor people whose remains cannot be recovered"), this work has been inspired by the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial site and the convention's location this year in Oklahoma City. Most noted for his writings of opera and choral music, Argento's music has been influenced by his use of dramatic texts. My interest is people," says Dominick Argento. "I am committed to working with characters, feelings, and emotions." The joys and struggles of humanity form the heart of his music that places him among the 20th and 21st century's preeminent vocal composers.

Also programmed will be Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Dona nobis pacem* ("Give us peace"). Written in 1936, British composer Vaughan Williams produced his musical plea for peace by referring to recent wars during the growing fears of a new one (WWII erupted in 1939). His texts provide an interesting combination taken from the Mass setting, three poems by Walt Whitman, a political speech, and sections of the Bible. With his music notable for its power, nobility and expressiveness, its mood comes from great emotional strength to which audiences continue to respond.

The Oklahoma City Philharmonic will be joining Canterbury, as well as a number of university choirs participating in the convention. Guest conductor will be Ann Howard Jones from Boston University.

This is an evening that will celebrate the joy of music that unites us all.

For tickets, call 232-SING or visit www.canterburyokc.com