



Karen P. Thomas, Artistic Director and Conductor

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PRESS RELEASE

SEATTLE PRO MUSICA RECEIVES MAJOR NEA NATIONAL INITIATIVE GRANT FOR AMERICAN MASTERPIECES PROJECT

Seattle Pro Musica, under the direction of Karen P. Thomas, announces receipt of a \$70,000 American Masterpieces grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Nationwide, only seven choirs have been selected to participate in the American Masterpieces project for the 2006-2007 season.

Seattle Pro Musica's 2006-2007 season will include, in addition to regular subscription concerts, outreach appearances throughout the Pacific Northwest, accompanied by choral educational activities. The season will culminate in a regional choral festival hosted by Seattle Pro Musica June 15-17, 2007, highlighting selected repertoire by American composers. The festival will include performances by **Seattle Pro Musica** and participating choirs from the Pacific Northwest, as well as a children's honor choir whose members will be selected from throughout the region. The festival, which takes place at Benaroya Hall and Town Hall, will also include masterclasses and seminars with conductor Dale Warland and composer Morten Lauridsen. Mr. Warland will be featured as guest conductor for the festival, conducting the final festival massed choir concert. Mr. Lauridsen is the festival's composer-in-residence – his works will be featured prominently on the festival programs.

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For more information, including festival details and participation and/or education and outreach performance activities, contact:

Seattle Pro Musica 1756 NW 56th St Seattle, WA 98107 206.781.2766 www.seattlepromusica.org

American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius is a major Endowment initiative to acquaint Americans with the best of their cultural and artistic legacy. Through *American Masterpieces*, the National Endowment for the Arts sponsors performances, exhibitions, tours, and educational programs across all art forms to reach large and small communities in all 50 states.

American Masterpieces: Choral Music celebrates the extraordinary and rich evolution of choral music in the United States. Through performances of significant American choral music with related educational activities in regional choral festivals, music of the highest quality – that otherwise would not be available – will be experienced by Americans in communities across the nation.

Seven choirs from across the nation have been honored with selection for the NEA's American Masterpieces project. Seattle Pro Musica is the only choir from the west coast chosen to participate in this project. The other participating choirs are *Conspirare* from Austin, Texas (recognized as one of the premiere professional choral ensembles in the country); *Cantus* from Minneapolis, Minnesota (one of the country's leading professional male vocal ensembles); the *Virginia Symphony Chorus* from Norfolk, Virginia; the *Providence Singers* from Providence, Rhode Island; the *Brazeal Dennard Chorale* from Detroit, Michigan; and *Georgia Southern University* in Statesboro, Georgia.

For information, visit Seattle Pro Musica's web-site at:

http://www.seattlepromusica.org/Events_News.htm

Further information is available at the National Endowment for the Arts website at:

<http://arts.endow.gov/grants/apply/AMChoral.html>

http://arts.endow.gov/grants/recent/06grants/am_cm06.php

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