

For immediate release

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www.choralemidwest.org

New Music Director Bows with Chorale Midwest

(Cedar Rapids, Iowa) Chorale Midwest presents its seventh annual Christmas concert, *Portraits of Christmas*, Friday, December 5, and Sunday, December 7, at First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids. The concert marks the debut of Dr. Brad T. Barrett as the group's director.

Barrett, assistant professor in choral conducting and music education at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, was named music director of Chorale Midwest in July 2003.

"This is truly a pleasure to collaborate with such fine choristers," says Barrett. "They share an excitement and commitment to the choral art that I find to be challenging and exhilarating."

For this concert Barrett has chosen a wide range of Christmas music from the 16th to the 20th centuries. The centerpiece of the program's first half will be Mozart's effervescent *Regina Coeli* (Queen of Heaven), followed by hymns to Mary from composers including Hassler, Liszt, Biebl and Willcocks. The concert's second half begins with meditations on Christmas night by Eugene Butler and Rene Clausen, and new settings of several favorite carols as arranged for the renowned Dale Warland Singers. The concert is filled out with selections from composers including Benjamin Britten, Moses Hogan and John Rutter.

"In this program we strive to balance the hallmarks of a fine holiday concert," according to Barrett, "including the Christmas texts, challenging musical content, and pleasing aesthetics for ensemble and audience alike."

Chorale Midwest draws 60 singers from Cedar Rapids and surrounding communities as far as Manchester, North Liberty and Waterloo. Founded in 1996 as the New Midwest Chorale, the group produces a Christmas and a spring concert annually, as well as appearing at community events.

Concert details:

Chorale Midwest seventh annual Christmas concert, *Aspects of Christmas Love*

Friday, Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 7, 2:30 p.m.

First Lutheran Church, 1000 Third Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids

Tickets \$10 adults, \$8 students and seniors

Available from chorale members or at the door

For more information call 366-7392, or see www.choralemidwest.org.

(more)

Chorale Midwest members

Alburnett – Wayne Anderson

Ely – Greg White

Iowa City – Cindy Breed

Manchester – Beth Mueller, Roger Mueller

Marion – Kate Chapman, Alexia Franklin, Mariah Hurley, Julianne Jorgenson, Sheryl Stanley, Tim Stanley

Mt. Vernon – Sarah Reed

North Liberty – Jason Rausch

Palo – Wendell Keith

Shellsburg – Nancy Thorkildson

Solon – Kay Christ

Waterloo – Nancy Borsay, Jedediah Chung

Cedar Rapids –

Belva Beck
Laura Behrens
Kathy Bennett
Ted Bey
Anne Bohnenkamp
Neil Bubke
Bonnie Dodge
Rebecca Farmer
Erin Franklin
Gerry Garner
Todd Glidden
Kristin Glockhoff
Jan Grout
Richard Hanson
Sue Harwood

Cliff Haverkamp
Dan Hepworth
Kit Hersey
Michele Horsfall
Jo Hunerdosse
Ed Kesser
Bill Kilbourn
Barbara Kouba
Jon Lang
Elaine Lanz
Glady McMellor
Tracy McPartland
Sue Mollman
Bob Mollman
Diana Nollen

Joel Otto
Lucas Ptacek
Becky Quijano
Don Quijano
Pat Spaak
Bob Stewart
Suisan Taylor
Bert Tribuno
Bob Tribuno
Kelly Truax
Robin Wagner
Barb Waychoff
Marilyn Weems
Sue Winegarden

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