



Enriching lives through choral excellence and community engagement...

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 2017

CONTACT: Karen Schuessler

Artistic Director, Karen Schuessler Singers

(519) 473-1668

kasch500@rogers.com

www.kssingers.com

Karen Schuessler Singers Celebrates Silver Anniversary!

London, ON - The **KAREN SCHUESSLER SINGERS** open their 25th Anniversary season with **Silver Jubilation**, a concert of two thrilling masterworks—**Gjeilo's *Sunrise Mass*** and **Handel's *Dettingen Te Deum*** on **Saturday, November 18**, at **Wesley-Knox United Church, 91 Askin Street**, at **8:00 p.m.**

Welcome to our 25th Silver Anniversary Season. After a quarter century of bringing you the best in choral concerts, we're celebrating!

Norwegian-American Ola Gjeilo's breathtaking *Sunrise Mass* (2008) is performed the world over. It is a spiritual work that is neither sacred nor secular. The four movements take us on a metaphysical journey from the heavens to earth, from the echo of "The Spheres" (Kyrie) to "Identity and The Ground" (Sanctus) with its earthly themes. Also on the program, Handel's jubilant and triumphant *Dettingen Te Deum*, which will be performed in English with full orchestra and soloists. This work is a brilliant example of how Handel could capture the tone of festive occasions as had never been done before. Featuring London alto Gabrielle Heidinger Baerg, tenor Chris Fischer and bass-baritone Giles Tomkins, the 50-member choir will be directed by Karen Schuessler and accompanied by professional orchestra.

"Gjeilo's *Sunrise Mass* is exquisitely beautiful and transcendent from beginning to end. Gjeilo intends it as a musical journey to take us all to the cosmos and then return us to beloved earth. It is not a mass in the traditional sense; it unfolds as nature unfolds and transports us to other realms. The Handel was written to mark England's victory over the French at the Battle of Dettingen. Striking are several borrowings from *Messiah* which Handel had just completed before he wrote it," says KSS artistic director Karen Schuessler.

It gives us great pleasure to welcome three favourite soloists from past concerts for this celebration—alto soloist, Gabrielle Heidinger Baerg from London, tenor Christopher Fischer from Guelph and bass-baritone Giles Tomkins from Toronto. We are thrilled that they will be highlighting our special celebration.



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"I am very excited to begin our 25th Anniversary season and these two works are perfect to celebrate such a special occasion. The Gjeilo points to the future of choral music as a means of transcendence and the Handel is festive fireworks from beginning to end as only Handel can do. A barn-burner for sure," adds Schuessler.

Tickets are \$20 (adults), \$18 (seniors), in advance or \$25, \$23 at the door; Students \$10; Children 6-12, Free when accompanied by an adult. Tickets can be purchased at Tuckey Home Hardware, Attic Books, Lambeth Art Gallery or online at www.kssingers.com.

For our TICKET HOTLINE, phone **519-455-8895** or visit our website www.kssingers.com

Event Information:

What: Karen Schuessler Singers Concert: Silver Jubilation

Where: Wesley-Knox United Church, 91 Askin Street, London, ON

When: Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.

Contact: Choir: 519-455-1668, **Tickets: 519-455-8895**, <http://www.kssingers.com>

About The Karen Schuessler Singers:

The Karen Schuessler Singers is one of London's premier concert choirs. Founded in 1993 by director Karen Ann Schuessler to explore the wealth of choral music, the choir has become well known for quality performances and widely varied, accessible and innovative programming.

Each season the choir presents a 3-concert subscription series and several other performances designed to appeal to all ages and musical tastes. The choir performs choral repertoire that is not often performed by other choirs to complement traditional repertoire with music ranging from the classics to jazz to Broadway and from Medieval to the 21st century.

The vision of Karen Schuessler Singers is to create concerts that are not only entertaining and thought provoking, but that also lift spirits, lighten hearts and deepen souls.

Says Karen Schuessler, "The magic of the live concert experience, when the audience is receptive and connected, is that we all go on this journey together in this moment in time. Sing Joy!"