

## PRESS RELEASE FOR GENERAL USE, MARCH 2011

March 12 is almost upon us, so now is the time to get your hands on some tickets for that very popular annual event, *Harmony Sweepstakes*. Masterworks Choral Ensemble once again hosts the Northwest regional finals of *Harmony Sweepstakes*, on Saturday evening, March 12, 7:30 p.m. at The Washington Center. You can count on a rousing musical showdown, as the finest a cappella talent of the region square off to sing intricate vocal arrangements and close harmonies, all accompanied by some very adroit footwork. This year's contestants include The Baudboys (2008 winners), Crosspoint, KlapaDooWopella, Rezonate (2009 winners), Shadywood Boys, Strangers in Harmony, and The Uptown 4.

The Northwest winner goes on to the National Harmony Sweepstakes final. Special guest artists and 2010 Northwest 1st place champions, *Realtime*, return to host. They placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 2010 National Finals! Olympia's favorite disc jockey, Smilin' Jay of KGY AM/FM radio, returns as the event's superb emcee. The event's five judges are all well known in the Northwest for their musical talents and careers. More exciting details about *Harmony Sweepstakes* awaits you at <http://www.harmony-sweepstakes.com/pacificnw.html>. This fantastic night of music nearly always sells out, so buy your tickets now.

Masterworks Choral Ensemble's April concert is just around the corner. On Saturday, April 16, at the Washington Center, Masterworks premieres the newly commissioned *Wingspan: Personal Dreams, Universal Visions*. *Wingspan*, a work commissioned to highlight MCE's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, embodies a spiritual journey. In five movements, *Wingspan* follows the arc of: Resting, Rising, Soaring, Descending, Landing Again. The April concert will also reprise MCE's 2006 commissioned work, *Come, Union: An Exploration of Living in Gratitude, Being of Service*. This eight-movement song cycle for choir and orchestra explores expansive themes of humanity and spirituality. Both *Wingspan* and *Come, Union* feature music by Gary Witley, lyrics by Vonda Witley, and orchestration by Mark Thome. This concert is sponsored by Olympia Federal Savings, National Endowment for the Arts, and the Washington State Arts Commission.

Looking ahead to the rest of the 2010-2011 concert season, the June 18 concert will wrap up Masterworks' year-long musical celebration of its 30th year with songs from the radio and television show, *Your Hit Parade*, a precursor to the modern top-40.

Tickets for these upcoming Masterworks events are on sale now. You may purchase tickets online at Masterworks secure website (<http://www.MCE.org>), as well as at the Washington Center Box Office, 512 Washington Street SE, Olympia, (360-753-8586), or online via the Washington Center's website: <https://tickets.washingtoncenter.org/Online/>.