

PRESS RELEASE FOR AUGUST 2010

Masterworks Choral Ensembles Celebrates 30th Years!

Bob Sundstrom

Every concert performance by Masterworks Chorale Ensemble extols the world of music, yet the upcoming season promises to take us to a new level. For the new concert season, which begins October 16, will be Masterworks' 30th anniversary season. MCE will mark its three-decade dedication to choral excellence with an entire concert season of musical celebration.

The upcoming season is entitled "Music is the Language of the Spirit," signifying the power of music to lift us up, to express what otherwise seems inexpressible, to bring delight or solace, and to reveal the boundless realms of love. The theme of MCE's season-opening concert is "Love, Lament, Laughter and Light," which could easily be the theme for the group's 30-year history of musical endeavor.

Looking farther ahead to the rest of the 2010-2011 concert season: On December 4, Masterworks offers its family favorite Christmas concert, filled with traditional carols, seasonal songs, and audience sing-alongs. March brings back the rousing *Harmony Sweepstakes*, where the best a cappella talent in the Northwest square off for a trip to the national final. April 16 features the much anticipated world premiere of *Wingspan*, a new work commissioned to highlight the 30th anniversary season and a pilgrimage through life in song. The June 18 concert wraps up the year-long musical celebration with songs from the radio and television show, *Your Hit Parade*, a precursor to the modern top-40. Join Masterworks beginning in October to celebrate in song all year long.

As MCE celebrates its 30th year, the Washington Center will be celebrating its own 25th anniversary. October's concert will reprise two songs MCE performed at the Washington Center 25 years ago, when MCE was the very first act to take the stage on the Center's very first opening night. The songs are "Fanfare for a Festival" and "Consecrate the Place and Day"

You can also help celebrate Masterworks' three decades of musical excellence at MCE's 30th Anniversary Dinner on Saturday, October 30th, from 5pm to 10pm at the Olympia Center. You'll be treated to a superb meal from Panorama's very own Chambers House Restaurant, and a no-host bar will provide a fine selection of celebratory beverages. The stylish dinner event includes both a silent auction and live auction led by famed host and auctioneer, Larry Flynn.

Season and individual concert tickets are available on MCE's secure website: www.MCE.org and at the Washington Center Box Office, 512 Washington Street SE, Olympia, or by calling 360-753-8586. 30th Anniversary Dinner/Auction tickets are available at MCE's website: www.MCE.org. Click on the 2010-2011 concerts and follow the link to the Dinner/Auction page.

For more information about Masterworks Choral Ensemble, visit the MCE website at www.MCE.org.