

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 30, 2010

**ORPHEUS CHOIR OF TORONTO PRESENTS  
A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR HANDEL'S ATHALIA**

Toronto, ON – The Orpheus Choir of Toronto ends its 45<sup>th</sup> season on with Handel's first great English oratorio **Athalia** on **Saturday, May 8, 2010** at 7:30 p.m. at Eglinton St. George's United Church, 35 Lytton Blvd., Toronto.

"We've done some research and are pretty sure that this is the first time the oratorio has been performed in Toronto" says Artistic Director Robert Cooper, C.M. BOB SAY SOMETHING NICE ABOUT THE MUSIC.

Athalia, a story straight out of a soap opera, is based on the play 'Athalie' by Racine. Athalia is the daughter of King Ahab and Jezebel. She takes over the throne of Judah after the prophet Jehu kills her son and mother, and orders the remaining children of the Jewish royal house to be put to death. One child, the boy Joas, is secretly kept safe by his aunt Josabeth. He is brought up in the temple at Jerusalem under the guardianship of the high priest Joad. When the boy is old enough to assume kingship, Athalia is overthrown, she and the followers of Baal are slain, and Joas is installed as the rightful king of Judah.

With orchestral support by the **Talisker Players**, this **Toronto premiere** performance features sopranos **Laura Klassen** as Athalia, **Meghan Fleet** as Josabeth, **Cassandra Warner** as Joas, mezzo-soprano **Leigh-Anne Martin** as Joad, tenors **Michael Ciuffo** and **Patrick Jang** sharing the role of Mathan, the Chief Priest, and baritones **Phil Kalmanovitch**, **Michael Robert-Broder** and **David Ross** as Abner, the Commander-in-Chief.

Don't miss this unique and stirring choral event!

Tickets are \$30; \$25 for seniors; \$15 for students.

Order tickets online at [www.orpheuschoirtoronto.com](http://www.orpheuschoirtoronto.com) or call 416-530-4428

For Media information: Karen Gregory, 416-778-9447 or [karengregory@sympatico.ca](mailto:karengregory@sympatico.ca)

