

Robert Cooper, C.M.
Artistic Director



Edward Moroney
Accompanist

**A HALLOWEEN EVE TREAT - THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME
ORPHEUS CHOIR OPENS ITS 45TH SEASON WITH A MIXED MEDIA PRESENTATION
1923 SILENT FILM CLASSIC STARRING LON CHANEY with LIVE CHORAL SOUNDTRACK**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Toronto, ON – The Orpheus Choir of Toronto and Artistic Director Robert Cooper, C.M. are pleased to announce the inaugural event of the choir's 45th season: *Orpheus Cinema: The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, on **Friday October 30, 2009, 7:30 p.m. at Eglinton St. George's United Church, 35 Lytton Blvd.**

This concert will feature a screening of the French 1923 silent movie classic: *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* with an innovative choral soundtrack performed by the Orpheus Choir and organist extraordinaire, Edward Moroney, in a moving, rousing and unique choral evening. **Tickets: 416-530-4428 or www.orpheuschoirtoronto.com.**

Join Robert Cooper and his guest, John Kruspe, member of the Faculty of Music at the university of Toronto, and lecturer in Cinema Studies, Innis College, at 6:45 p.m. for our pre-concert chat. Mr. Cooper and Mr. Kruspe will discuss the film, the choral music selected and the film's historical significance. This chat will appeal to film students and lovers young and old of silent films.

The 1923 film version of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* stars **Lon Chaney** as Quasimodo and **Patsy Ruth Miller** as Esmeralda, was directed by **Wallace Worsley**, and is perhaps the most famous adaptation of Victor Hugo's novel. It was Universal's "Super Jewel" of 1923 and their most successful silent film, grossing over three million dollars. The film is most notable for the grand sets that recall 15th century Paris (none of the movie was filmed on location), and Lon Chaney's performance and spectacular make-up as the tortured bell-ringer of Notre Dame Cathedral. The film elevated Chaney, already a well-known character actor, to full star status in Hollywood. It also helped set a standard for many later horror films, including Chaney's *The Phantom of the Opera* in 1925.

The screening of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* will be accompanied by music specially selected to support and interpret the on-screen action. The selection features works from the great French composers of the era such as Vierne, Poulenc, Gounod and Fauré, with excerpts also from Bach, Brahms, Orff, Gardiner, Lauridsen and more. It's a captivating and innovative mix of superb choral music designed to lift the drama to new emotional heights!

Tickets are \$30; \$25 for seniors; \$15 for students. Group Rates are available. For tickets and information contact: 416-530-4428, or orpheuschoir@sympatico.ca or www.orpheuschoirtoronto.com

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