

Expect Something Different!



Robert Cooper, C.M.  
Artistic Director

Edward Moroney  
Accompanist

## PRESS RELEASE DVOŘÁK REQUIEM

### ORPHEUS CHOIR CELEBRATES 50<sup>TH</sup> WITH DVORAK REQUIEM AT KOERNER HALL

Orpheus Choir's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season reaches a dramatic climax with a rare opportunity to hear the richly expressive *Dvořák Requiem* in Toronto's premiere concert venue, Koerner Hall, on Sunday, May 4 at 3 p.m. Presented by Orpheus in honour of this, the official *Year of Czech Music*, Dvorak has created in his concert *Requiem* a work which is both powerful and sublime, and an "especially eloquent and moving contemplation of the mystery of human existence."

A stellar solo quartet: soprano Johane Ansell, mezzo-soprano Lauren Segal, tenor Adam Luther, bass Giles Tompkins; the superb 160 voices of the Orpheus Choir and Chorus Niagara and the Talisker Players Orchestra, under the direction of artistic director Robert Cooper, join forces for this gala celebration "In keeping with 'expect something different' Orpheus is excited to be presenting this magnificent and majestic work, not heard in Toronto since the days of the great Czech maestro Karl Ancerl," says conductor Robert Cooper. "By turns intimately moving, lyrically thrilling and blazingly triumphant, Dvorak's *Requiem* ranks among his finest works and is a joyous testament to the human spirit."

Soprano Johane Ansell, a former Sidgwick Scholar of the Orpheus Choir, is quickly establishing herself as a versatile performer of both opera and concert repertoire. Ms Ansell was born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and trained at the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Toronto. In Toronto she was a member of the Aradia Ensemble. She has recently completed the Opera Studio Nederland in Amsterdam, and performed with Opera Project in the UK, and Lyric Opera in Ireland.

South African-Canadian mezzo-soprano Lauren Segal is becoming known as a young singer to watch. Praised by Opera Magazine, UK, as 'alluring, sexy, her voice rich in nuance,' she has appeared with l'Opera de Montreal and the Calgary Opera, and made her debut with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in Mozart's *Coronation Mass*.

Canadian tenor Adam Luther recently completed his tenure as a member of the Canadian Opera Company Studio, where he performed many main-stage roles to critical and audience acclaim, as well as guest appearances with Pacific Opera Victoria, Saskatoon Opera, Toronto Operetta Theatre, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra and more.

Bass baritone Giles Tompkins is one of Canada's young in-demand singers whose recent performances include the Aldeburgh Festival and the Scottish Opera in the United Kingdom, Tanglewood in the US and Pacific Opera Victoria and Saskatoon Opera in Canada.

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Concert Tickets: \$50, \$42, \$35. Tickets for Concert and Gala Reception: \$75

Online: [www.performance.rcmusic.ca](http://www.performance.rcmusic.ca); in person: Koerner Hall Box Office, 273 Bloor St. W, Phone: 416-408-0208

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**The Orpheus Choir of Toronto**

*To celebrate the transformational power of choral music as an agent of social change and a passionate medium of artistic expression.*

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