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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ROBERT COOPER CELEBRATES 10<sup>TH</sup> SEASON WITH ORPHEUS  
AND TORONTO PREMIERE of *A REQUIEM FOR PEACE*

Artistic director Robert Cooper kicks off his 10<sup>th</sup> season with the Orpheus Choir of Toronto with the Toronto premiere of *REQUIEM FOR PEACE*, on **Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 pm at Metropolitan United Church, 56 Queen Street E., Toronto.

Called a 'message of hope for the world', Canadian Mennonite composer Larry Nickel's powerful and poignant *Requiem for Peace* spans two thousand years, twelve languages and diverse faiths in a dramatic universal plea for forgiveness and reconciliation.

Gripping visuals prepared by film historian Joan Nicks complement this unique performance and convey a world where beauty and struggle, survival and sorrow, co-exist with the harrowing effects of conflict and war. Joining Orpheus for this one-time-only performance are the University of Toronto MacMillan Singers (conductor Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt), the Orpheus Choir Sidgwick Scholars, Chinese soprano Guonan Sun and the Orpheus Chamber Ensemble.

Artistic Director Robert Cooper says of this important 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary program... "it has always been my belief that choral performance must express the social condition and strive to be a transformative force. With Nickel's deep Mennonite faith, strong pacifist beliefs and beautiful lyric score, *Requiem for Peace* does this and more."

Dr. Larry Nickel is an associate composer of the Canadian Music Centre and an active choral clinician, adjudicator, teacher and music minister. He sings professionally with the Vancouver Chamber Choir and owns Cypress Choral Music Publishing which promotes Canadian music and composers. In 2003, Nickel took a leave from teaching to complete a DMA in composition. *Requiem for Peace*, his doctoral thesis, is the result...an extensive and moving work for chorus, soloists and orchestra which received its premiere in Vancouver in 2005.

The Orpheus Choir 2012/13 season is one of celebration, of choral music and of 10 seasons of choral innovation under the leadership of artistic director Robert Cooper. Board Chair and chorister Lynne Player says: "Singing under Bob's direction for the past 10 years has been inspiring. We continue to learn, improve, refine, enhance, and polish. His determination to strive for excellence never waivers...his energy is contagious. Bob has taken Orpheus to a new level and we look forward to the next 10 years under his excellent direction."

**Don't miss *A Requiem for Peace* in its only Toronto performance...it will be an unforgettable experience!**

**Tickets: \$30, \$25 for seniors, and \$15 for students. Group Rates are available**

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

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

**Orpheus Choir of Toronto**

*To engage and enthrall audiences through the performance of rarely heard  
and newly created choral music, celebrating the 'expect something different' experience.*

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