

Robert Cooper, C.M.
Artistic Director



Edward Moroney
Accompanist

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ORPHEUS CHOIR OF TORONTO PRESENTS STIRRING MELODIES AND EMOTIONS OF RACHMANINOFF'S VESPERS

Toronto, ON – The Orpheus Choir of Toronto and Artistic Director Robert Cooper, C.M. are pleased to announce *Vespers*, the third concert of the choir's 45th season, on **Sunday February 28th, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Anne's Anglican Church, 270 Gladstone Avenue, Toronto.** On this occasion the Orpheus Choir joins with the award-winning Guelph Chamber Choir and conductor Gerald Neufeld to perform Rachmaninoff's lushly sonorous *Vespers*, or *All-Night Vigil*, in the beautiful Byzantine setting of St Anne's Anglican Church.

One hundred voices combine to present the intricate harmony and sonority of the *Vespers*, based on the evening prayer service of the Orthodox Church and sung in the original Russian. By turns haunting, serene, and magnificent, Rachmaninoff's *Vespers* combines unaccompanied sacred texts with stirring melodies, rich bass lines, and moving expressions of spiritual awe. Drawing on ancient chants and liturgy dating from the 14th century, this glorious Russian choral masterpiece is one of the 20th century's greatest choral works.

This spirit of choral mysticism is enhanced with 21st century works by Canadian composers Rupert Lang and Tim Corlis as well as the transcendent *Dona Nobis Pacem* by Latvian Peteris Vasks along with Latvian Eriks Esenvalds' sublime setting of *Amazing Grace*.

St. Anne's Anglican Church, one of Toronto's architectural gems, was built in 1907-08, and is a Byzantine Revival building with a saucer dome emulating the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul. The dome and chancel of the church are decorated with mural paintings executed by ten prominent artists in 1923, among whom were three members of the Group of Seven: J.E.H MacDonald, F.H Varley and Franck Carmichael. In 1998, the church was designated as a National Historic Site.

Don't miss this unique and stirring choral event!

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

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