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Coro Allegro Announces its 2013–2014 Season

[September 8, 2013] (Boston, MA) — [Coro Allegro](#), Boston's acclaimed classical chorus for members, friends, and allies of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, and Artistic Director David Hodgkins announce their 2013-2014 season. This season exemplifies the distinctive mix of masterworks, little-known gems, and diverse styles and eras that has become a hallmark of the ensemble's programs. "We are embarking on another year of musical discovery," says Hodgkins, "and we invite all music lovers to join us on the voyage." Season highlights include Britten's *Cantata Misericordium*, Whitbourn's *Annelies*, J.S. Bach's *Jesu, Meine Freude*, and a collaboration with La Donna Musicale and its Artistic Director Laury Gutiérrez, recipient of the seventh annual Daniel Pinkham Award.

2013-2014 Season:

To open the season, Coro Allegro joins in the worldwide celebration of Benjamin Britten's centennial by performing his *Cantata Misericordium* (a setting of the parable of the Good Samaritan) written in honor of the hundredth birthday of the Red Cross. Extending the theme of compassion, the program also features four settings of *Ave Maria* spanning a millennium; the radiant tintinnabulation of Arvo Pärt's *Berliner Messe*; and the evocative echoes of John Corigliano's setting of Dylan Thomas's wistful *Fern Hill*. Soloists include mezzo-soprano Krista River, tenor Stefan Reed, and baritone David Kravitz.

In March, Coro Allegro performs *Annelies*, British composer James Whitbourn's major choral work based on one of the 20th century's most beloved memoirs. Whitbourn sets *Annelies* "Anne" Frank's riveting diary, written while the teenager and her family hid in the back of an Amsterdam warehouse during the Holocaust, to sounds from the outside

world that were barred to her: church bells and popular tunes of the time mixed with orchestral timbres and melodies drawn from Jewish traditions. In a recent review, *The Observer* noted that Whitbourn frames Melanie Challenger's libretto "with such tender respect, it's almost impossible to hear without tears."

Among the featured soloists are soprano Elissa Alvarez, whose lyric artistry has attracted increasing critical praise, and pianist Darryl Hollister. In a long and distinguished career, Mr. Hollister has premiered several works, notably by African and African-American composers, and has performed as soloist and accompanist in halls throughout the world. This season marks Mr. Hollister's twentieth anniversary as Coro Allegro's accompanist.

The season culminates in Coro Allegro's collaboration with members of the internationally renowned period instrument ensemble La Donna Musicale, and features a garland of Baroque gems by J.S. Bach and his contemporaries. Coro performs Bach's timeless masterwork *Jesu, Meine Freude*; motets by Isabella Leonarda, a seventeenth-century Italian composer who was an Ursuline nun for most of her long life; Offertorium, *Ardete amore*, by Anna Bon, a sixteenth-century Italian composer known as "la virtuosa di Venezia"; and Jan Dismas Zelenka's *Dixit Dominus* in a new modern edition by former Coro member Michael Driscoll. Although not well known today, Zelenka was admired by Bach and enjoyed prominence during his lifetime (1679-1745). La Donna Musicale, founded by Artistic Director Laury Gutiérrez, is devoted exclusively to the discovery, preservation, and promotion of music by women composers. At the concert, Ms. Gutiérrez will be presented with the Daniel Pinkham Award, given annually to a major contributor to Boston's classical music and LGBT communities.

2013-2014 Ticket Information:

Subscriptions and single tickets to the 2013-2014 season are now available and may be purchased online at www.CoroAllegro.org or by calling 617-236-4011.

2013-2014 Season Calendar:

Reflections of Mercy

November 24, 2013, 3:00pm at Church of the Covenant, Boston

David Hodgkins, conductor

Krista River, mezzo-soprano

Stefan Reed, tenor

David Kravitz, baritone

Benjamin Britten: *Cantata Misericordium*

Arvo Pärt: *Berliner Messe*

John Corigliano: *Fern Hill*

Anonymous: *Ave Maria*

Tomás Luis de Victoria: *Ave Maria*

Anton Bruckner: *Ave Maria*

Kevin Memley: *Ave Maria*

Annelies: The Diary of Anne Frank

March 30, 2014, 3:00pm at Sanders Theatre, Cambridge

David Hodgkins, conductor

Elissa Alvarez, soprano

Darryl Hollister, piano

Kristina Nilsson, violin

Aristides Rivas, cello

Bruce Creditor, clarinet

James Whitbourn: *Annelies*

Baroque Gems

June 1, 2014, 3:00pm at Church of the Covenant, Boston

David Hodgkins, conductor

La Donna Musicale, Laury Gutiérrez, Artistic Director

J.S. Bach: *Jesu, Meine Freude*

Jan Dismas Zelenka: *Dixit Dominus*

Isabella Leonarda: *Motets*

Anna Bon: *Offertorium, Ardete amore*

David Hodgkins

Artistic Director David Hodgkins has delighted audiences in the greater Boston area for 20 years with his musical intelligence, refined standards, and “creative programs, sung with enthusiasm and tonal beauty” (Ed Tapper, Bay Windows). Mr. Hodgkins is the Artistic Director of Coro Allegro in Boston, which Boston Globe critic Michael Manning deemed “one of Boston's most accomplished choruses.” He is also Artistic Director of The New England Classical Singers in Andover, and Director of Music at The Commonwealth School in Boston. Mr. Hodgkins teaches advanced conducting at the New England Conservatory of Music through the Kodály Music Institute, and is the conductor in residence of the Kodály Music Institutes at NEC and Wichita State University in Kansas.

Mr. Hodgkins has conducted groups at the ACDA and GALA music festivals, performed as guest conductor with such Boston-area groups as Chorus Pro Musica, Masterworks Chorale, and Emmanuel Music, and made numerous festival appearances as guest conductor and conducting clinician. His ensembles have collaborated with the Boston Celebrity Series, Boston Cecilia, Handel and Haydn Society, Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, The New England String Ensemble, and the Boston Landmarks Orchestra.

Mr. Hodgkins has been featured in Choral Director Magazine, been the producer for three award-winning CDs by La Donna Musicale, Laury Gutiérrez, Artistic Director, and produced a CD of 20th-century works for Terry Everson, trumpet, and Shiela Kibbe, piano, which was released on Albany Records in 2011. He currently serves on the advisory boards of The Boston City Singers, Jane Money, Artistic Director, and the UMass/Amherst Music Department.

A champion of contemporary music, Mr. Hodgkins has conducted world premiere performances of works by David Brunner, Greg Bullen, Alan Fletcher, Kenneth Fuchs, Charles Fussell, Ruth Lomon, Daniel Pinkham, Aaron Rosenthal, Kareem Roustom, Robert Stern, Richard St. Clair, and Patricia Van Ness, as well as Boston premieres of works by Rebecca Clarke, James MacMillan, Marianne Martinez, Arvo Pärt, Ronald Perera, and William Grant Still.

David Hodgkins received his Bachelor of Music degree in voice, piano and harpsichord from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, a Master of Music in choral conducting from Temple University in Philadelphia, and fellowships in choral and orchestral conducting at both the Aspen and Sandpoint music festivals. His mentors include Wayne Abercrombie, Fiora Contino, Alan Harler, James Roth, Gunther Schuller, and Paul Vermeil. In addition to his teaching at The Commonwealth School, Mr. Hodgkins has been on the faculties of the New England Conservatory, UMass/Amherst, Temple University, and Clark University.

About Coro Allegro

Founded in 1990, Coro Allegro is a chorus for members, friends, and allies of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities that strengthens and enriches the lives of its members and the greater Boston community through its performances of outstanding classical choral repertoire and recordings. It is dedicated to its mission to provide broad audiences access to choral music and perform works by diverse composers. It serves as a model of a successful and valued LGBT community group through artistic excellence and visibility, and it creates an affirming, welcoming, and supportive environment for its membership. An advocate of contemporary music, Coro Allegro was the recipient of the 2012 Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker Award for exposing its audience to brand new works. With Artistic Director David Hodgkins, Coro Allegro has released four critically acclaimed commercial recordings: *In Paradisum* and *Awakenings* on the Navona Records label, as well as *In the Clearing* and *somewhere i have never traveled*.

Coro Allegro is supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

For more information, electronic images, and interviews, please contact:
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