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**Coro Allegro Presents “Annelies: The Diary of Anne Frank”
Sunday, March 30, 2014, 3pm at Sanders Theatre**

[February 26, 2014] (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 present “Annelies: The Diary of Anne Frank” at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 30, at Sanders Theatre in Harvard Square, Cambridge.

Concert Description

One of the most moving and beloved memoirs in history finds new life in a Grammy-nominated choral work by British composer James Whitbourn. In this setting of the journal of young Annelies “Anne” Marie Frank, written as she and her family hid in the back of an Amsterdam office during the Holocaust, Anne’s interior voice and longings resonate with echoes of the world outside—church bells and popular tunes from the radio mix with instrumental timbres and melodic contours drawn from Jewish traditions.

The musical language of this work is readily accessible to listeners of all ages and tastes. In the words of the composer, “Anne’s diary is absolutely direct and the music had to be too.” Although grounded in the conditions of wartime Europe, “Annelies” addresses universal challenges of the human condition that transcend time, place, and culture.

Supporting its mission to build bridges between the LGBT and broader communities, Coro Allegro is pleased to welcome Keshet as its Community Partner for this concert. Keshet is a national grassroots organization that works for the full equality and inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Jews in Jewish life.

Ticket Information

Tickets to “Annelies: The Diary of Anne Frank” can be purchased online at www.CoroAllegro.org; by calling 617-236-4011; or directly from Sanders Theatre at www.boxoffice.harvard.edu or 617-496-2222.

Concert Details

“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*

DAVID HODGKINS

Artistic Director David Hodgkins has delighted audiences in the greater Boston area for over 20 years with "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," Artistic Director of The New England Classical Singers in Andover, Director of Music at The Commonwealth School in Boston, advanced conducting instructor at the Kodály Music Institute, and serves on the advisory boards of The Boston City Singers and the UMass/Amherst Music Department.

Mr. Hodgkins has performed with Coro Allegro at the ACDA and GALA music festivals, served as guest conductor with Chorus Pro Musica, Masterworks Chorale, and Emmanuel Music, and has made numerous festival appearances as guest conductor and 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 conducted numerous world and Boston premiere performances of works ranging from Marianne Martinez to Arvo Pärt. Mr. Hodgkins with Coro Allegro received the 2012 Chorus America Alice Parker/ASCAP Award for their collaborative premiere performance of Kareem Roustom's oratorio *Son of Man*, with The United Parish Church of Brookline and Music Director Susan DeSelms, a work commissioned by United Parish. That same year, Mr. Hodgkins with Coro Allegro released the critically acclaimed CDs *Awakenings* and *In Paradisum* on the Navona label, which feature contemporary composers Robert Stern, Ronald Perera, and Patricia Van Ness and soloists Sanford Sylvan and Ruth Cunningham. Gramophone magazine noted of *Awakenings* that "Coro Allegro, led by David Hodgkins, performs each score with fine balance and interplay."

Mr. Hodgkins has been featured in Choral Director Magazine, The Voice of Chorus America, UMass Amherst Magazine, and Haverhill Life. He has served as producer for three award-winning CDs by La Donna Musicale, Laury Gutiérrez, Artistic Director, *In the Style of...* for Terry Everson, trumpet, and Shiela Kibbe, piano on Albany Records, and a CD of trumpet concerti for the Boston University Wind Ensemble and Terry Everson, directed by David Martins.

David Hodgkins received his Bachelor of Music in voice, piano, and harpsichord from UMass/Amherst, a Masters in Choral Conducting from Temple University, and fellowships in choral and orchestral conducting at the Aspen and Sandpoint music festivals. His mentors include Wayne Abercrombie, Fiora Contino, Alan Harler, James Roth, Gunther Schuller, and Paul Vermeil. Mr. Hodgkins has served on the faculties of the New England Conservatory, UMass/Amherst, Temple University, and Clark University.

ELISSA ALVAREZ

Noted by the Boston Globe for her "intensely lyrical" singing, soprano Elissa Alvarez is an avid interpreter of recital, concert and operatic repertoire. A great advocate of living composers, Ms. Alvarez has been involved in numerous premieres in recent seasons. She appeared in concert and on recording as Mary Magdalene in the world premiere of Emmy-nominated composer Kareem Roustom's acclaimed mystical oratorio, *The Son of Man* with Boston's Coro Allegro, a performance for which they received Chorus America's 2012 ASCAP/Alice Parker Award. Operatic engagements include the title role in the premiere of Ketty Nez's chamber opera *The Fiddler and the Old Woman of Rumelia* with the Xanthos Ensemble and Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*. In recital, Ms. Alvarez frequently collaborates with composer-pianist Benjamin Warsaw, specializing in the interpretation of 20th-century song and works by Warsaw written specifically for her. On the concert stage, Ms. Alvarez has been featured as soloist in performances of Mozart's *Requiem* under the baton of Ken-David Masur, Schubert's *Mass in G* with Coro Allegro and Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* with Trinity Choir. In 2008, she joined the Boston University Tanglewood Institute Chorus and Orchestra in Honegger's *Le Roi David* at Seiji Ozawa Hall with Scott Allen Jarrett conducting. In addition, she is an active member of The Handel and Haydn Society's Period Orchestra and Chorus under Harry Christophers, CBE. Ms. Alvarez holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Boston University. She received her undergraduate and masters degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

DARRYL HOLLISTER

Darryl Hollister was born in Detroit, Michigan. He received his B.M. from Michigan State University where he studied with Ralph Votapek and Deborah Moriarty, and his M.M. from New England Conservatory of Music where he studied with Patricia Zander. He is an active accompanist and performer in the Boston area. He serves as accompanist and assistant conductor to the Dedham Choral Society, Coro Allegro, the Framingham Choral Society, and Commonwealth School Chorus and Chorale.

Since he has started championing the works of African and African-American composers, he has performed premieres of works by various leading composers. At the Festival of African and African-American Music in St. Louis in 2000 he premiered *The Spring of Esentre* by Gyimah Labi, *Concertino Africana for Piano and Orchestra* by Paul Konye and participated in the North American premiere of *Baptism of Fire: Symphony Concertante for Three Pianos and Orchestra* by Gyimah Labi. In December of 2002 he performed a recital of African piano music at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In April 2003 he gave the world premiere of *Three Ivory Magnolia Fantasies* by Gary Nash in a recital at Mississippi Valley State University. In August 2003 at the 2nd International Symposium and Festival on Composition in Africa and the Diaspora at Cambridge

University, Cambridge, England, he performed world premieres of works by Paul Konye, Wallace Cheatham, Akin Euba, Gary Nash, Robert Kwami, and Joshua Uziogwe. At FESAAM 2004 in Kansas City he performed solo recitals and performed with Flutist Wendy Hymes in a recital of the music of Ghanaian composer J. H. Kwabena Nketia.

He has collaborated with soprano Dawn Padmore in recitals devoted to the music of African and African-American composers. Their performances include recitals at Cambridge University; England, Le Festival International des Musiques Sacrées, Profane, et Populaires in Fort-du-France, Martinique; St. Thomas and St. John, Virgin Islands; Harvard University; and Pittsburgh University where they recently premiered a song cycle *Contemplating Life* by Akin Euba. In July 2005 they were invited to perform at the New Music Indaba Festival in Grahamstown, South Africa where they premiered *Indaba Songs*, songs written by five South African composers in five indigenous languages. In August 2005 they returned to St. Thomas and St. John where they performed *Indaba Songs*. In January of 2007 they performed a recital of African piano and vocal music at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.

KRISTINA NILSSON

Concertmaster and violinist Kristina Nilsson has played regularly in the first violin sections of the Boston Pops Esplanade and Boston Ballet orchestras for over 20 years. She has appeared as a soloist with both the Esplanade Orchestra (under John Williams) and the Boston Ballet (in Vaughan-Williams' *Lark Ascending*), and with the National Symphony Orchestra, the Newton, Brookline, Brockton, and Quincy Symphony Orchestras, Boston Lawyers' Orchestra, and the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, of which she is a co-founder. She has co-soloed for Pro Arte with both Joseph Silverstein (former Concertmaster of the Boston Symphony) and artistic advisor/violinist Arturo Delmoni, with whom she premiered a work by Leonard Ciampa for Two Violins and Orchestra. Holding the position of Concertmaster with the Newton Symphony, Brockton Symphony, and the orchestras of Chorus Pro Musica, MIT Chorus, and Coro Allegro, she has also served in that capacity with Harvard Chamber Orchestra, Harvard Collegium, and Harvard-Radcliffe Chorus. As a member of the American Schubert Institute String Quartet and of the Lavazza Chamber Ensemble, Ms. Nilsson has performed numerous chamber music works in the New England area, including the Boston premiere of Schubert's *Conzertstucke* for violin and orchestra with Pro Arte. She served as concertmaster for Pro Arte and the Back Bay Chorale for a recording of Robert Kyr's *The Passion According to Four Evangelists* (New Albion Records). Kristina Nilsson holds a B.A. summa cum laude from Connecticut College, an M.M. from New England Conservatory, and J.D. cum laude from New England School of Law.

ARISTIDES RIVAS

A native of Barinas, Venezuela, cellist Aristides Rivas leads an exciting and versatile career. From an early age, Aristides has been a proactive soloist, chamber musician, orchestral player, and educator. His solo debut was at age 14 with the Los Llanos Chamber Orchestra in Guanare, Venezuela, part of the world-acclaimed El Sistema. Under the tutelage of Professor Gary Hardie at Baylor University, Aristides became a participant in several competitions in the United States, including Sphinx Competition. During his studies at Baylor, Aristides acted as principal cello of the Waco Symphony Orchestra and became an active collaborator with multi-Grammy winner and living

jazz legend Paquito D’Rivera. In 2004 Aristides moved to Boston, where he enrolled at New England Conservatory under cellist Natasha Brofsky. Living in Boston opened the doors to many new possibilities and collaborations. Aristides became part of the Julian Lage Group, a Grammy-nominated jazz band that toured the world, appearing at some of the most celebrated jazz venues, such as the Newport Jazz Festival, Tanglewood, and the Montreal Jazz Festival. After graduating from the New England Conservatory, Aristides remained in Boston and was able to meet and work with the late Bernard Greenhouse, a disciple of Pablo Casals. Aristides continues his orchestral practices as the principal cello of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra in Providence, and the Orchestra of Indian Hill in Littleton. He is also a faculty member at Community Music Center of Boston and Project Step. Aristides lives in Jamaica Plain with his wife, soprano Meena Malik.

BRUCE CREDITOR

Clarinetist Bruce Creditor enjoys a distinguished career in solo, chamber music and orchestral settings, receiving numerous honors including the Naumburg Award in Chamber Music with the Emmanuel Wind Quintet. A graduate of the New England Conservatory and a student of the late Peter Hadcock, he has performed with the Boston Symphony, Boston Pops, Boston Philharmonic, Boston Classical and Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestras, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, the New Hampshire Symphony, Boston Ballet, Cantata Singers and Ensemble, Emmanuel Music, Boston Musica Viva, Collage New Music, the world-renowned Grammy Award-winning New England Ragtime Ensemble, Aeolian Chamber Players, as well as with many other orchestras and chamber music ensembles and at numerous festivals including Wolf Trap, Ravinia, Token Creek, Tanglewood, and others. Mr. Creditor was a founding member of Alea III New Music, the Emmanuel Wind Quintet, and the Montage Music Society. He was General Manager of Margun Music—winning a Paul Revere Award from the National Music Publishers Association, and is associated with the Zamir Chorale of Boston. He has given the Boston and New York premieres of works by Schuller, Martino, Wyner, Harbison, Tower, Lerdahl, Ben-Haim, Navok, and others, and has recorded for Naxos, Centaur, CRI, GM, Albany, New World, Koch, and Neuma. Mr. Creditor also studied with Gino Cioffi and Pasquale Cardillo of the Boston Symphony, and was twice a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center. He is Assistant Orchestra Personnel Manager of the Boston Symphony and Boston Pops Orchestras.

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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