

*For immediate release*

**Music City Community Chorus Announces June 5 Concert  
American Choral Classics: Billings to Bernstein**

**May 12, 2008 (NASHVILLE)** - The **Music City Community Chorus** presents **American Choral Classics: Billings to Bernstein** a free concert of chorus music by **William Billings, Randall Thompson and Leonard Bernstein** on **Thursday evening, June 5 at 7:30 pm** at the **Cathedral of the Incarnation**, 2015 West End Avenue in Nashville Tennessee.

For this current season's Music City Community Chorus outing, conductor **Renee Grant-Williams** has chosen to present **Modern Music** and **David's Lamentation** by **William Billings**, followed by **Randall Thompson's The Peaceable Kingdom and Alleluia**. The evening will round off with the **Chichester Psalms** by **Leonard Bernstein** accompanied by the **Excelsior Instrumental Ensemble**. World-renowned bassist, **Dave Pomeroy**, will make a guest appearance.

"We tend to think of great choral music in terms of the European classics, when in fact some of the most sublime music in the field has been composed right here in America. Colonial composer William Billings gave us the hauntingly beautiful **David's Lamentation**, as well a delightful tongue-in-cheek satire titled **Modern Music**. He was a prolific composer despite his physical difficulties; he had only one eye, a deformed arm, a harsh voice, was lame in one leg and addicted to snuff," says director Renee Grant-Williams. "And today the choral works of Thompson and Bernstein stack up well when compared to the best of the twentieth century European efforts."

Widely known as a vocal coach, Grant-Williams' conducting credits include positions as founder and director of the San Francisco Community Chorus; director, Student Division of Vocal Music at the University of California, Berkeley; chorus master, Opera Division, Banff School of Fine Arts; and choir director Second Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

"Our diverse group of singers is rapidly developing into an ensemble that has its own identity and sound," says Grant-Williams. "This chorus provides an opportunity for a wide range of singers to experience classical music, to learn new skills, and to grow vocally." The sixty-voice chorus is under the umbrella of the Metro Nashville Community Education program.

**American Choral Classics: Billings to Bernstein** is free to the public. The concert begins promptly at **7:30 pm** on **Thursday, June 5, 2008** at the **Cathedral of the Incarnation**, 2015 West End Avenue in Nashville Tennessee. Call **615/244-3280** for interviews or additional information. Auditions for the Fall season will begin in August. [www.MusicCityCommunityChorus.org](http://www.MusicCityCommunityChorus.org)

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