



Paul Flight, Artistic Director

For immediate release

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Chora Nova, a sixty-voice chorus based in Berkeley, will perform two of Mozart's most beloved works, the Requiem, K.626 and the Mass in C, K. 317, "Coronation," on Saturday, November 19 at First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley under the direction of Artistic Director Paul Flight.

Soprano Michele Byrd, alto Ruthann Lovetang, tenor Brian Thorsett and bass Paul Murray are the soloists for this program, which will also include a full orchestra.

The Requiem was Mozart's last work, left unfinished at his death in 1791. Numerous composers have written completions from Mozart's sketches, but the version that Chora Nova will perform is that of Franz Xaver Sussmayr, one of Mozart's students. After asking two other composers – both of whom got cold feet at the prospect - it was to Sussmayr that Mozart's widow, Constanze, turned in desperation for the completion of the Requiem, as only half the fee had been paid in advance, and the other half waited on the completion of the piece.

Mozart composed the Mass in C, "Coronation," while in the employ of Hieronymus Colloredo, Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg. The Mass was completed in March of 1779 and almost certainly had its premiere at the Salzburg Cathedral on Easter Sunday, April 4, 1779. Colloredo was not a music lover – about a half hour of it was all that he would tolerate at one time - and because of this all the pieces Mozart composed for the Salzburg Cathedral are marvels of brevity.

This season Chora Nova institutes pre-concert talks by John Shepard, head of the Jean Gray Hargrove Music Library at UC Berkeley. The talks begin at 7:30 and are free to all who attend the concert.

Tickets are \$20 general, \$18 senior, and \$10 student with ID. Tickets are available through the Chora Nova website, www.choranova.org, at the door or from any chorister.

Date: Saturday, November 19, 2011
Location: First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, Dana St. between Haste and Channing
Time: Pre-concert talk 7:30 p.m.
Concert 8:00 p.m.
Program: Mozart: Requiem, K. 626; Mass in C, K. 317, "Coronation"
Tickets: www.choranova.org, at the door
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