

MEDIA RELEASE

For Release by the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce

3rd Annual Leavenworth Choral Festival April 12, 2008

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Photos available on request

Leavenworth audiences will have the opportunity to hear five of Washington's finest choral ensembles when Leavenworth Village Voices community chorus hosts the **Third Annual Leavenworth Choral Festival** on Saturday, April 12, 2008. Featured in individual performances during the **7:00 p.m. public concert** will be the widely acclaimed Northwest Repertory Singers of Tacoma, Master Chorus Eastside of Issaquah, Cantabile of Skagit Valley, Federal Way Chorale, and the Columbia Chorale of Wenatchee. A massed choir of more than 200 voices will perform in the concert's grand finale. Festival information and concert tickets are available from the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce at (509) 548-5807. For information, go to www.leavenworthchoralfestival.org. A Washington State Arts Commission grant partially funds the festival.

Guest Conductor **Dr. Paul Schultz** will hold workshops on Saturday morning and direct the massed choir in the concert finale. Dr. Schultz, has taught and conducted choral ensembles throughout the U.S. He received his Ph.D. in music education from Michigan State University and has served on the faculties of the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma School of the Arts and Michigan State University. He has twice received the Washington American Choral Directors Association's **Distinguished Service Award**. The American Choral Directors Association Northwestern Division awarded Dr. Schultz its prestigious **Lifetime Achievement and Leadership Award** in 2004.

Performer Information:

The **Northwest Repertory Singers** is an auditioned choral ensemble under the direction of Dr. Paul Schultz. This premier choir of more than 50 men and women brings a rich musical tradition and unparalleled commitment to the musical, emotional, and technical performance of a broad range of musical styles and genres.

Cantabile of Skagit Valley, conducted by co-founder and Music Director David Cross, is an auditioned ensemble of 20 balanced voices. Cantabile, whose name means *songlike*, or *in a smooth, flowing lyrical style*, performs with warmth and flexibility, adding an extra element of energy and dynamism.

The 55-voice **Columbia Chorale of Wenatchee**, directed Dr. Mike Hibbett, has delighted Wenatchee audiences for more than 30 years. This auditioned group of men and women performs a wide variety of music and makes its encore performance at the festival.

Founded in 1993, the **Federal Way Chorale** is an auditioned community choir of over 60 voices led by Artistic Director Laird M. Thornton. The Chorale has distinguished itself through dynamic performances and professional presentation of demanding choral literature such as Schubert's Mass in G, Rutter's Magnificat and Mozart's Requiem, as well as works by George Gershwin and Duke Ellington.

Master Chorus Eastside, conducted by Linda Gingrich, is a polished, fully auditioned mixed chorus, one of the premiere arts organizations in the suburbs east of Seattle. Known for its innovative and imaginative programming, the group's repertoire includes large choral/orchestral works, multi-cultural explorations, jazz, and Broadway classics.

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