



For Immediate Release

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True Concord opens 2016-17 season with Music of the Four Elements
Ambitious season includes performance of Mendelssohn's monumental *Elijah*

Tucson, AZ (Sept. 29, 2016)--True Concord Voices & Orchestra opens its 13th season on October 13 with a performance of "Music of the Four Elements" at the Scottish Rite Temple in the heart of downtown Tucson. Performances run through Oct. 16 at a variety of venues in Tucson and Green Valley.

Music of the Four Elements times, dates and locations:

- Thursday, October 13, 7:30 p.m., Scottish Rite Temple, 160 S. Scott Street, Tucson
- Friday, October 14, 7:00 p.m., Desert Hills Lutheran Church, 2150 S. Camino del Sol, Green Valley
- Saturday, October 15, 2:00 p.m., Tohono Chul Performance Garden, 7366 Paseo del Norte, Tucson
- Sunday, October 16, 3:00 p.m., Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 E. Adams Street, Tucson

Music Director Eric Holtan said, of his decision to dedicate a program to music of the natural world, "I have long pondered a program about nature, and especially the four elements. There is a rich repertory of music using imagery with references to earth, water, wind and fire. In particular, I have wanted to perform Copland's epic *In the Beginning*, a tour-de-force for a *cappella* choir, and arguably his greatest achievement in choral music." Copland's work involves the King James version of creation from the Bible, with a dramatic musical setting that amplifies the wonder and majesty of the story. It calls for a virtuosic mezzo-soprano solo throughout the piece and Catherine Hedberg of New York City will perform this role in the upcoming concerts. Holtan calls Hedberg "one of the finest mezzo-sopranos performing today." (Hedberg photo is attached)

Also included in the program is Eric Whitacre's *Water Night*, one of his earlier compositions that launched him to stardom. It utilizes an English translation of Octavio Paz's *Agua nocturna*. Holtan says "I have no doubt it will be a favorite with audiences." Composer Stephen Paulus, also featured on the program, was (cont. pg. 2)

most famous for his choral pieces. Holtan described Paulus's *The Water is Wide* as "a work for choir, baritone solo and harp that is simple in construction but profound in its beauty."

This program concludes with jazzy arrangements of *Moon River* and *Come Fly with Me* with piano, drums and bass. Holtan guarantees that "the final works will have everyone's toes tapping and they will be singing on their way home from the concerts."

After the first performance on October 13, join magician Norm Marini in the lobby of the Scottish Rite Temple for magic tricks in celebration of the season theme, "Experience True Magic."

The rest of the season:

In November, True Concord will perform Bach's "*Magnificat*," first performed by True Concord in 2007. Music director Eric Holtan describes it as an important work that "bears repeating every eight to 10 years."

The December program is "Christmas Lessons & Carols," described by Holtan as a "True Concord holiday tradition featuring favorite and new holiday music performed by candle light in some of the area's most beautiful churches."

In January, True Concord's performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, will bring its largest number of performers together to-date on one stage. A collaboration with the University of Arizona Choral Department, it features Grammy-winning operatic baritone Richard Paul Fink and has been called the "cornerstone of the 2017 Tucson Desert Song Festival." True Concord has never performed a work on such a monumental scale with 70 vocalists and a 50-piece orchestra. Holtan said of the piece "it's one of those pieces that doesn't get done very often in Southern Arizona. This will be a rare performance."

True Concord also collaborates with Arizona Early Music Society this year when it performs Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610* February 24-26. True Concord will provide the vocalists and the Society is bringing instrumentalists who will perform on period instruments including lutes, cornettos and sackbutts. Holtan said of the performance "it's going to be a first for True Concord, and I believe this is the first professional performance of *Vespers* in Tucson."

The Grammy-nominated choir and chamber orchestra has a full season line up of six programs, performing a total of 23 concerts in 14 venues including Oro Valley and Green Valley. Tickets are on sale now. For locations and times, visit trueconcord.org.

The season at a glance:

Music of the Four Elements Oct. 13-16

Bach's majestic *Magnificat*, Nov. 17-20

Christmas Lessons and Carols by Candlelight, Dec. 8-11

Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, part of the Tucson Desert Song Festival, Jan. 27-29
Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*, with Arizona Early Music Society. Feb. 24-26
Russian Masters, March 23-26

About True Concord Voices & Orchestra

True Concord is Southern Arizona's professional choir and chamber orchestra. Founded in 2004, its mission is to create experiences with music that move, enrich and inspire. This mission is accomplished primarily through the performance of masterworks and the music of America's cultural mosaic. More information at www.trueconcord.org and on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



True Concord Voices & Orchestra Venue Map



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