



For Immediate Release

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True Concord performs Mendelssohn's *Elijah*

Performance features Grammy-winning baritone Richard Paul Fink

Tucson, AZ (Jan. 4, 2017)--True Concord Voices & Orchestra kicks off the second half of its performance season January 27-29 with Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, a work of epic proportions that include 70 vocalists, 13 soloists and the internationally-renowned operatic baritone Richard Paul Fink.

True Concord's performance will bring its largest number of performers together to-date on one stage. A collaboration with the University of Arizona Choral Department, it features the Grammy-winning 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."

Fink's biography states that he "has been acclaimed internationally as a leading dramatic baritone at such theaters as the Metropolitan Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Vienna State Opera, Berlin State Opera, Opéra National de Paris, San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Washington National Opera, San Diego Opera, Hamburg State Opera, Théâtre du Capitole in Toulouse, Sydney Opera House, and at the Bregenz and Ravinia Festivals. His repertoire includes some of the most challenging roles of the baritone canon, such as the title role in Wagner's *Der Fliegende Holländer*, Telramund in Wagner's *Lohengrin*, Don Pizarro in Beethoven's *Fidelio*, the title roles in Verdi's *Nabucco* and *Rigoletto*, Iago in *Otello*, Scarpia in Puccini's *Tosca* and Gerard in Giordano's *Andrea Chenier*."

True Concord's music director and founder, Eric Holtan, said of the performance "I have wanted to conduct *Elijah* for some time. Mendelssohn's largest and arguably greatest musical work had a significant impact on my musical and academic development. It was the first major work I studied in graduate school, and I remember being blown away by its intensity, beauty and power. Later, it would be a central work in my doctoral research. We are grateful for the support of the Desert Song Festival which allowed us to bring baritone Richard Paul Fink to perform the title role."

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Times, dates and locations for Mendelssohn's *Elijah* are:

Friday, January 27, 7:30 pm – Catalina Foothills High School, 4300 E. Sunrise Dr., Tucson

Saturday, January 28, 7:00 pm – Valley Presbyterian Church, 2800 S. Camino del Sol, Green Valley

Sunday, January 29, 3:00 pm – Catalina United Methodist Church, 2700 E. Speedway, Tucson

Looking ahead to the rest of the season:

True Concord also collaborates with Arizona Early Music Society 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."

True Concord wraps up its season March 23-26 with *Russian Masters*, a program showcasing the rich choral tradition of Russia and featuring Gretchaninoff's *Passion Week* and including works by Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky.

For tickets and more information, visit trueconcord.org. or call 520.401.2651.

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About True Concord Voices & Orchestra

The Grammy-nominated choir and chamber orchestra performs a full season line up of six programs each year, performing in venues throughout Tucson, Oro Valley and Green Valley.

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 venue map

