

Choral Arts Premieres John Muehleisen's Pietà



John Muehleisen

SEATTLE, February 8, 2012 - Choral Arts continues its 2011-2012 season with the premiere of local composer John Muehleisen's "Pietà." Employing World War One letters and poetry by Wilfred Owen and Rudyard Kipling, Biblical passages, and Eastern Orthodox hymnody, Pietà explores the virtues of compassion, mercy and healing through the metaphor of the relationship between mothers and sons in a timely and moving piece for chorus, treble choir, male choir, soprano and tenor soloists, oboes, and percussion.

Robert Bode, artistic director for Choral Arts, is enthusiastic about this extraordinary piece and said, "I am so very proud that Choral Arts is responsible for bringing John Muehleisen's Pietà into the world. It is an important work and one that will add to our understanding of war, conflict, compassion and love."

Muehleisen is equally proud to be involved in this musical debut: "I'm honored and grateful that Choral Arts has chosen to partner with me in bringing to life Pietà's message of hope and love. It is testimony to their vision and commitment as an organization to commission a major new work with such a timely and universal message of healing so desperately needed in our world today," said Muehleisen.

Guest artists include Christina Kowalski, soprano; Ross Hauck, tenor; the Seattle Girls' Choir Prime Voci ensemble; and St. Mark's Cathedral's Compline Choir.

There is only one performance of this masterpiece, to be held at Saint Mark's Cathedral. A pre-concert panel discussion will commence at 7:15pm, with the concert to follow at 8:00pm. As part of Choral Arts' ongoing outreach, all student admission is free.

ATTENTION ACDA MEMBERS: With the ACDA Northwest Division conference in Seattle during the days following the *Pietà* concert, Choral Arts is offering a 50% discount to ACDA Members (\$12.50 per ticket instead of \$25) who plan to be in Seattle by March 14. NOTE: ACDA members need not be attending the conference to qualify for the discount.

Instructions for ordering discounted tickets:

1. Click on the following link, which will take you to Brown Paper Tickets:
<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/195339>
2. Click the **Begin Order** button in the upper right corner of the page.
3. On the ticket order page, enter the code **acdanw** in the **Discount Code** text box, then click the **Show Discount Prices** button. A new row will appear in the list of purchase options, and you can proceed with your order from there.

Calendar:

Wednesday, March 14: 7:15pm Pre-concert Panel, **8:00pm concert**
Saint Mark's Cathedral
1245 10th Ave E * Seattle, WA 98102

Ticket prices range from \$18 - \$25

Tickets are available at www.choral-arts.org and 1-877-404-2269
(Message Service Only)

Choral Arts is a Seattle-based ensemble of approximately thirty singers dedicated to its mission: To inspire, educate, and enrich its community through the transformational power of great choral music performed at the highest artistic level. Choral Arts thanks all of its supporters and sponsors for their generosity.