



*Celebrating 25 years*

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **New Dominion Chorale Begins Twenty-Fifth Season**

New Dominion Chorale, under the direction of Founder and Artistic Director Thomas Beveridge, will open its 25th season with a performance of Gioachino Rossini's "Petite Messe Solennelle." The concert will take place on Sunday, October 25, at 4 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center on the Alexandria campus of Northern Virginia Community College.

Rossini's Mass is a full-length concert work for chorus, solo vocal quartet, two pianos, and organ. The vocal soloists, all well-known opera singers from the Washington area, are soprano Leah Crowne, mezzo-soprano Melissa Kornacki, tenor Joshua Baumgardner, and bass Bob McDonald. The concert will also feature three of the area's most distinguished keyboard artists: pianists Thomas Pandolfi and Jeffrey Chappell and organist Todd Fickley.

New Dominion Chorale is one of the Washington area's largest choral societies, with over 200 singing members. The Chorale has been praised for its "opulent, precise and powerful" performances in *The Washington Post*. Its regular performances at Schlesinger Concert Hall have included most of the best-known works for large chorus and orchestra. The Chorale has also performed at Washington National Cathedral, Washington Hebrew Congregation, and the Concert Hall at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Mr. Beveridge is one of Washington's most versatile musicians. He has had a distinguished career as a solo singer, keyboard artist, teacher, and conductor. The composer and arranger of 700 original works, he was named the "Dean of Washington Composers" by *Washingtonian* magazine.

Leah Crowne is known for her performances of title roles in Puccini operas, namely "Turandot" and "Tosca." She has performed with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, New York Lyric Opera, and Sarasota Opera. Melissa Kornacki has performed with Opera New Jersey, Opera Delaware, Washington Concert Opera, and Lyric Opera Baltimore. She recently sang the role of Waltraute in Wagner's "Götterdämmerung" in St. Louis. Joshua Baumgardner was a recent finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and has appeared as a soloist with Washington's Cathedral Choral Society. Bob McDonald is well known to New Dominion Chorale audiences. He is equally at home in opera, oratorio, and musical theater.

Pianist Thomas Pandolfi has performed extensively throughout the United States, Europe, and China. He was chosen to perform Gershwin's "Concerto in F" in the National Philharmonic's opening concert of the season at the Music Center at Strathmore in September. Jeffrey Chappell has also performed with major symphony orchestras in the United States, Asia, and South America and is known for his versatility in classical music and jazz. Todd Fickley is associate music director of Washington's Cathedral Choral Society and assistant conductor of the Washington Bach Consort.

Tickets are available at the door of the Schlesinger Center, located at 4915 East Campus Lane, Alexandria, Va., and online at [newdominion.org](http://newdominion.org). Ticket prices are \$30 (general admission), \$25 (seniors), and \$15 (youth ages 5–25). Group tickets are available for groups of 10 or more at \$20 per ticket. For further information: [www.newdominion.org](http://www.newdominion.org) or (703) 442-9404.

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