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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW DOMINION CHORALE TO PRESENT BACH'S "CHRISTMAS ORATORIO"

New Dominion Chorale and Orchestra will present J.S. Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" on Sunday, December 10, 2017, at 4 p.m. The concert will take place at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center on the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.

The concert will be conducted by Artistic Director Thomas Beveridge and will feature well-known soloists from the Washington area who are specialists in the music of Bach: Laura Choi Stuart, soprano; Melissa Kornacki, mezzo soprano; Jason Rylander, tenor; and Jason Widney, bass. William Neil, organist of the National Symphony Orchestra, along with an orchestra of baroque instruments will provide the accompaniment.

Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" is a massive work consisting of six cantatas dedicated to the celebration of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. In this concert, the Chorale will perform the first three cantatas in an English translation by Mr. Beveridge. Bach's work contains many of the chorales appropriate for the season, which would have been sung by the congregational audience in Bach's time. The audience will be provided with the English words and melody of each of the chorales in this performance and will be invited to sing along with the chorus and orchestra.

The 200-voice New Dominion Chorale is one of the Washington area's largest choral societies. The Chorale has received consistent praise by music critics, particularly by Joseph McLellan, the late chief music critic of The Washington Post, who wrote, "New Dominion Chorale's performance was opulent, precise and powerful...totally clear diction and a wide dynamic range." In addition to its regular appearances at the Schlesinger Center, the Chorale has also performed at the Concert Hall of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Washington National Cathedral, and the Washington Hebrew Congregation. Now in its 27th season, the Chorale has performed most of the standard works

for large chorus and orchestra, as well as less well-known works by Franz Liszt, Robert Schumann, Franz Schubert, and Thomas Beveridge, including the premieres of Beveridge's "Yizkor Requiem" and "Symphony of Peace."

Thomas Beveridge, Founder and Artistic Director of New Dominion Chorale, is one of the Washington area's most versatile musicians. He has appeared as bass soloist with many of the nation's choral societies and orchestras and performed in recitals in the United States and Europe, specializing in performances of his own music with three concerts of his own music at the National Gallery of Art and collaboration with such distinguished musicians as pianist Martin Katz and the Emerson String Quartet. He is the composer of 700 original compositions and arrangements, with commissions from Harvard University, the Choral Arts Society of Washington and the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation at the Library of Congress. As a conductor he has been Director of Choral Activities at George Mason University and Chorus Master of the Washington National Opera.

Tickets for the December 10 performance of Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" may be purchased online at www.newdominion.org or at the door at the time of performance. Ticket prices are \$35 for adults, \$30 for senior citizens and \$15 for students and children. Group tickets are available for groups of 10 or more at \$25 per ticket. All tickets are for general admission. More information is available at www.newdominion.org or phone (202) 244-7191. Parking is free.

New Dominion Chorale is a 501(c)(3) organization supported in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the Arts Council of Fairfax County, and the Dallas Morse Coors Foundation for the Performing Arts.

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