



News Release

For Immediate Release
October 4, 2016

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CANTORES CELESTES WOMEN'S CHOIR BRINGS A DAY OF HOPE

TORONTO, ON, October 4, 2016 – For its holiday concert, Cantores Celestes Women's Choir will perform the Canadian premiere of Carol Barnett's 'The Day of Hope.' The performance will take place on Saturday, December 3, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at Runnymede United Church in Toronto. Under the direction of Kelly Galbraith, the 50-voiced women's choir will perform seasonal masterpieces by Jackson Berkey and Bob Chilcott, along with other favourites.

Arif Virani, Member of Parliament for Parkdale-High Park, will narrate 'The Day of Hope,' a deeply moving work written for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize Forum in honour of Iranian Muslim human rights lawyer and Nobel Prize recipient Shirin Ebadi. The piece features Persian texts from the 11th through 14th centuries, as well as Ms. Ebadi's own words from her Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech. It is a poignant message for today, asking: "What Lamp had destiny to guide Her little children stumbling in the dark?" With Heaven replying: "A blind understanding."

"This concert celebrates three faiths – Christianity, Judaism and Islam – and their common message of hope and peace," says Kelly Galbraith, who founded Cantores Celestes in 1989. "We are balancing Christmas favourites including Silent Night and 'Wassail,' with the Jewish 'Ma Navu' by J. Spivak and Ms. Ebadi's words in support of women's, children's and refugee rights in 'The Day of Hope.'"

Musicians joining the choir in this concert are three of Canada's top percussionists: Andy Morris, Paul Ormandy and Ray Dillard, along with accomplished Jacqueline Goring on harp, oboist Clare Scholtz, Matthew Coons on keyboard and accompanist Ellen Meyer, one of Ontario's most in-demand collaborative pianists.

The choir is thrilled to bring back 'Cantata 2000' by Jackson Berkey and Bob Chilcott's 'Peace Mass.'

Cantores Celestes will continue its tradition of giving to charity with a \$1,000 donation in support of Eva's Initiative for Homeless Youth.

Concert Information

Saturday, December 3, 2016, 7:30 pm – Runnymede United Church – 432 Runnymede Road, Toronto
Admission: \$25.00 No reserved seating

About Cantores Celestes Women's Choir

Starting its 28th season, Cantores Celestes is an auditioned choir that was founded in 1989 by Founder and Artistic Director, Kelly Galbraith. Most recently, Cantores Celestes was the only women's choir invited to sing in the 1000-performer Dora Mavor Moore Award-nominated production of R. Murray Schafer's *Apocalypse*, for the 2015 Luminato Festival at Toronto's Sony Centre. The members of the choir were thrilled to be part of the mass choir performance celebrating International Women's Day in Avery Fischer Hall at Lincoln Centre on March 10, 2014. Cantores has been invited back to NYC for a solo performance at a downtown Manhattan church. Cantores Celestes has toured extensively in the Maritimes and Ontario, and has been invited to participate in many festivals, including Festival 500 in Newfoundland, Barrie's Colours of Music Festival, and the Toronto Vocal Festival. Cantores Celestes has recorded music for three films and produced six CDs: *Wassail!*, *Bright Shining as the Sun*, *Love's Pure Light*, *The Circle Never Ends*, *Wake Up in the Moonlight* and *Singing and Women of Light*. The choir has appeared on CBC Radio One and Radio Two, as well as the commercially released CBC video *Clyde Gilmour: A Celebration in Words and Music*. The members of Cantores Celestes have, over the years, donated more than \$60,000 to a variety of charities. In June 2016, they presented a concert that raised \$6,000 for the Syrian Refugee project.