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**DATE SENSITIVE EVENT:** October 23, 2015

**THE AREA:** Minnetonka, Hopkins, St. Louis Park, Eden Prairie, Chanhassen, Chaska

## **Musical Friends Celebrate Halloween**

*Multigenerational choirs combine to celebrate the joy of singing*

Trolls, monsters, and midnight mischief are part of the program as two choirs from the Music Association of Minnetonka present a free fall concert on Friday, October 25, starting at 7:00 PM in the Minnetonka Community Center. Although centered on a Halloween theme, the real purpose of the event goes much deeper, as it combines the talents of the youth Concert Choir with the adult group known as the Choral Reflections of Minnetonka.

“This is a perfect opportunity to connect our singers,” states Cynthia Bradford, director of the Concert Choir (singers in Grades 6 – 8). “There’s a real affinity between the groups. The members of Choral Reflections set a wonderful example by showing that music is for everyone - for *all* of your life.” Cherie Pachkovsky, ensemble manager for Choral Reflections, agrees with Bradford. “We believe it is fun and encouraging to sing with our youth choirs.”

The youth singers, decked out in Halloween costumes, will perform songs with a fall flavor. Among them is a new composition written especially for the choir by Mrs. Bradford “If we do our jobs correctly,” Bradford quipped, “the audience should feel a shiver run down their backs.” The choir rehearses once a week at the Arts Center on 7 (Minnetonka High School Campus) and is comprised of students from the western suburbs of Minnetonka, Hopkins, Eden Prairie, and Chaska. The group performed as part of the *Queen City Choral Festival* at the University of Cincinnati - College Conservatory of Music during the summer.

Choral Reflections of Minnetonka is an auditioned adult ensemble performing a varied and eclectic repertoire. Directed by David Halligan, they sing popular arrangements, including show tunes, madrigals, and a wide selection of familiar and interesting carols and songs at the holidays. The Choral Reflections of Minnetonka performs at many venues around the western suburbs of the Twin Cities.

“We plan to perform some familiar light pieces as well as songs that have a “haunting” melody,” says Halligan. “Being part of the M.A.M. organization gives us the opportunity to interact with the young performers. We look forward to an evening of fun!”

The Choirs will perform separately and then combine for the final two pieces. “I think we’ve picked songs that highlight the talents of both groups. Hopefully, the audience will see the joy we feel in singing, no matter what age we are.” said Bradford. “We plan on sharing that joy with our audience, as well, in a Halloween sing-a-long portion of the concert.”

Apple cider and a small treat will be served after the performance. All family members are welcome, and costumes are encouraged.

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The Music Association of Minnetonka, in its 42nd season, is comprised of six choral ensembles (three youth choirs and three adult choirs), two orchestras, and a concert band. It has over 300 performing members ranging in age from 8 to 90 from over 35 surrounding communities. Established by Dr. Roger Hoel in 1974, it is believed to be one of the largest and oldest community music organizations in Minnesota.

Rehearsals for Choral Reflections are held on Monday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at The Arts Center on 7, 18285 Highway 7, (Minnetonka High School Campus), Minnetonka, MN 55345. The Concert Choir ensemble rehearses on Thursday evenings from 6:30 -8:00, also at the Arts Center on 7. Auditions for both choirs are held in September and January, but visitors are welcomed at any time.

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For more information, please contact Julie Huber, Operations Director, Music Association of Minnetonka (contact information listed above)

Photos of the ensembles are available upon request, or photo opportunities may be scheduled for rehearsals or the concert event.