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NORMAN SCRIBNER ANNOUNCES PLAN TO RETIRE AS CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Choral Arts Begins Two-Year Transition Plan As Maestro Scribner Leads Choral Arts into His Last Two Seasons

Norman Scribner, The Choral Arts Society of Washington's iconic founder and artistic director officially announced this week that his 45-year tenure will come to an end on August 31, 2012. The organization will now embark on the search for a new artistic director who will take the helm of one of the nations preeminent symphonic choruses for the 2012-2013 Season.

"After careful consideration of the many factors in this matter, my innermost instincts have confirmed for me that the time has now come for me to pass the torch to a new leader for Choral Arts," said Scribner in a letter to the 180-member chorus.

"Norman is one of the last founding artistic directors of choruses in the United States, maybe the last," said Debra Kraft, Executive Director. "Norman's own wisdom, talent and enormous spiritual generosity have been the guide to when this transition would take place. We all knew, as Norman is celebrating his 75th birthday this year, that this news would come some day, and this day has now arrived."

"On behalf of the Board I would like to express our profound gratitude to Norman for the gorgeous music he has brought to Washington and the myriad other places the Chorus has performed over the years," said Barbara Rossotti, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Choral Arts. She went on to say that the Board and Norman worked together to develop a plan for a two-year transition and search process, which plan was approved by the Board in 2007. She added, "The first Board meeting for the new fiscal year and 2010-11 season is in September and Choral Arts will release further information about the search in early October".

For now though, Scribner is "eagerly awaiting the beginning of our forty-sixth season which is filled with a variety of experiences including exciting collaborations, beloved classical repertoire, increased educational offerings, our traditional Christmas and Martin Luther King concerts, and last, but not least, a great season ender with a world premiere inspiring respect and care for our island home, planet earth."

Now entering its 46th season, The Choral Arts Society of Washington is one of the leading choral organizations in the United States with a symphonic chorus of over 180 professional-caliber volunteer singers. In addition to its subscription series, centered at the Kennedy Center, the Society has designed and implemented an award-winning educational program, and presented a variety of community outreach programs. Under the leadership of its founder and artistic director Norman Scribner the chorus has performed with leading symphony orchestras, sung under the world's most distinguished conductors, produced 17 acclaimed recordings, and toured nationally and internationally.

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