

For immediate release

**Wightman Chapel Perfect Venue for
Concert of Holiday A Cappella Music**

November 19, 2008 (NASHVILLE) - The **Music City Community Chorus** offers the public a **free** concert of holiday choral music **Tuesday evening, December 9 at 7:30 pm** at the **Scarritt-Bennett Wightman Chapel**, Nashville, Tennessee. The chorus will perform *A Ceremony of Carols* by **Benjamin Britten**, and *Four Motets for the Season of Christmas* by **Francis Poulenc**, directed by vocal coach and conductor **Renee Grant-Williams**. The program also includes music of pre-Renaissance composer **Guillaume Dufay** and **Tomas Luis de Victoria**, renowned Spanish Renaissance composer.

The music that has been chosen is not standard holiday fare, although some of it might very well have been traditional in a former century. All the works will be sung a cappella, with the exception of Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, which will be accompanied by harpist Mary Alice Hoepfinger. The resonant acoustics in the Wightman Chapel are particularly well suited to the performance of a cappella music.

"When I scheduled this music for our winter concert, I did it with the Scarritt-Bennett Wightman Chapel in mind. Even those pieces composed in the twentieth-century sound ancient. In fact the Britten is written in Middle English," says Grant-Williams. "With its clean lines and almost monastic unadorned simplicity Wightman Chapel is the ideal location to bring out the haunting melodies and harmonies in this program."

The Music City Community Chorus was formed in 2005 by director, Renee Grant-Williams. Widely known as a vocal coach, Grant-Williams' conducting credits include positions as founder and director of the San Francisco Community Chorus; director, Student Division of Vocal Music at the University of California, Berkeley; chorus master, Opera Division, Banff School of Fine Arts; and choir director Second Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

The December Concert is a memorial tribute to its founding sponsor, recently deceased former Beatrice Foods CEO and philanthropist, Wallace Rasmussen. “What better way to honor the memory of a man who loved choral music and had been a fine chorus singer in his day?” says Grant-Williams. “We will never forget his generosity.”

A Ceremony of Carols is free to the public. The concert begins promptly at **7:30 pm** on **Tuesday, December 9, 2008** at the **Scarritt-Bennett Wightman Chapel** in Nashville Tennessee. Call **615/244-3280** for interviews or additional information. Auditions for the Spring season will begin in February 2009. To make an online donation go to www.MusicCityCommunityChorus.org .

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