

Press Release: Chorale Celebrates 30 Years

Los Robles Master Chorale Celebrates 30 Years

Contributed by: Robert Weibezahl on 2/20/2008

Celebrating its 30th anniversary and the 30-year career of its founding director, James Stemen, Los Robles Master Chorale will perform a concert featuring favorites from past seasons, as well as a world premiere by Thousand Oaks-based composer Wilbur Skeels. At the March 15th and 16th performances in California Lutheran University's Samuelson Chapel, the Chorale also bids a fond farewell to Maestro Stemen, who over the past three decades has nurtured the chorus into one of the area's preeminent performing groups.

Highlights from the past will include Norman Dello Joio's "A Jubilant Song," "Hallelujah" from Mount of Olives by Beethoven, "Ecco Momorar l'Onde" by Claudio Monteverdi, and opera selections by Verdi, Bizet, Delibes and Mascagni. The performance of Lloyd Pfautsch's Triptych, composed on texts by William Shakespeare, Andrew Marvell and Joseph Addison, will hold special significance for Stemen, who studied under the famed choral composer and conductor at Southern Methodist University.

The Chorale has had a long association with Wilbur Skeels, a composer with a national reputation who serves as the group's assistant conductor. His new piece, Cantic to the Waterbirds, is composed on a text by William Everson. Rounding out the program will be another Skeels composition, Missa Ex Terra Nova.

Among the renowned soloists taking part in the celebratory concert will be sopranos Marilyn Anderson, Karen Winner Huff, Deborah Mayhan and Ruth Robertson, alto Leanna Brand, tenor Gabriel Reoyo-Pazos, and bass John Ross Nelson.

Celebrate! 30 will be performed Saturday, March 15 at 8 pm and Sunday, March 16 at 4 pm in Samuelson Chapel on the campus of California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door, with group rates available for parties of ten or more. The audience is invited to a reception following Sunday's concert. The concert, which is sponsored by the CLU music department, is free with a current CLU ID. Call 805/827-3943 for information or to purchase tickets.