

THE ESOTERICS

Eric Banks, Founding Director

www.TheEsoterics.org

206.935.7779 • 1815 24th Avenue • Seattle WA 98122-3014

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ADMIRABLE: Anticipating the wonder of antiphony at Advent

SEATTLE- The Esoterics will complete its eighteenth season this December as it joins forces with the Chamber Singers from Cornish College to present a spectacular concert of Advent antiphons. Normally performed at Vespers, one for each day in the week before Christmas, the seven “O antiphons” are based on seven different monikers for Christ found in the Bible. The Esoterics will present three different sets of these O antiphons – in three different languages, by three different composers – *Sieben Magnificat Antiphonen* (in German) by the mystical Estonian composer Arvo Pärt, *Antiphonæ* (in Latin) by the celebrated Polish composer Paweł Łukaszewski, and *The great O antiphons* (in English) by Seattle’s own John Muehleisen.

This concert will begin with the combined chorus of 60 voices singing Pärt’s ethereal *Magnificat*, followed by each of the seven antiphons sung antiphonally – first in Pärt’s German (by the Cornish singers), then in Łukaszewski’s Latin (by The Esoterics), and finally in Muehleisen’s English (by both ensembles). The audience will be able to experience immediately how each of these texts is expressed and heightened differently by three master choral composers.

Estonian composer Arvo Pärt (b 1935) is one of today’s most prominent choral composers. His elegant minimalism and chant-like melodies figure prominently in his work. His *Magnificat* (1989) is popular with choruses all over the world; however, it is not often paired with his *Magnificat antiphons* (1988-1991), as it will be in this concert.

The *Antiphonæ* by Polish composer Paweł Łukaszewski (b 1968) were written between 1995 and 1999 – some movements for Eric Ericson and the Swedish Radio Choir, others movements for the Polish Chamber Choir. Łukaszewski’s settings are tonally rich, replete with shimmering clusters and hauntingly angular melodies, evocative of a cold Polish winter.

The great O antiphons were among John Muehleisen’s first *cappella* choral compositions, written for the vocal ensemble *Opus 7* in 1996, and revised for this year’s performance. John’s music has been sung by several Northwest choruses, including The Esoterics, who has commissioned and recorded several of his past works.

The Esoterics is delighted to be presenting this “triple-O-seven” concert of antiphonal Advent texts. The concert is about 75 minutes of music, and will be performed as a meditation, without interruption or applause, so that our audience can be fully immersed in this sublime aural experience. Please join us for one of six performances:

Please join The Esoterics for one of six performances:

Friday • 2 December 2011 • 8 pm • Shoreline

First Lutheran Church Richmond Beach • 18354 8th Avenue NW

Saturday • 3 December 2011 • 8 pm • Medina

St. Thomas Episcopal Church • 8398 NE 12th Street

Sunday • 4 December 2011 • 3 pm • Tacoma

Christ Episcopal Church • 310 N. K Street

Friday • 9 December 2011 • 8 pm • Mercer Island

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church • 8501 SE 40th Street

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Saturday • 10 December 2011 • 8 pm • Seattle

St. Joseph Catholic Church • 732 18th Avenue E.

Sunday • 11 December 2011 • 2 pm • West Seattle

Holy Rosary Catholic Church • 4142 42 Avenue SW

Ticket prices are \$20 at the door, \$18 in advance, and \$15 for students, seniors, the un(der)employed, and the differently-abled.

The ticket price for groups of five or more is \$12 per person. *Active singers of any choral group may attend for only \$10.*

Advance tickets are available online at www.TheEsoterics.org (through PayPal.com).

Now in its eighteenth season with founding director Eric Banks, [The Esoterics](http://www.TheEsoterics.org) has drawn national and international praise for presenting the many styles that comprise contemporary choral music. In 2001, 2003, 2006 and 2008, The Esoterics' commitment to innovative concert repertoire was nationally recognized when ASCAP and Chorus America granted the ensemble its coveted *Award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music*. The ensemble was also honored to be selected as the only North American chorus to compete at the 2000 International Choral Festival in Cork, Ireland, the 2001 International Choral Festival in Tolosa, Spain, and the 2006 Andersén International Choir Competition in Helsinki, Finland, and is scheduled to sing at the 2011 American Choral Director's Association Convention in Chicago.

If you have additional questions about *CHIAROSCURA* or The Esoterics, please contact Scott Kovacs, scott@theesoterics.org.