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**CHATTANOOGA BACH CHOIR & ORCHESTRA
DAVID LONG, CONDUCTOR**

RACHMANINOFF: *ALL-NIGHT VIGIL*, OP. 37

**BASILICA OF SAINTS PETER & PAUL
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 AT 7:00 P.M.**

The Chattanooga Bach Choir, David Long, artistic director, presents Sergei Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil* for unaccompanied mixed choir, Op. 37, on Sunday, October 8 at 7:00 p.m., at the Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul, East 8th Street, Chattanooga. Admission is \$20; students are free. For more information, visit www.chattanoogabachchoir.org.

For this concert, the Chattanooga Bach Choir is collaborating with Voci Virili Men's Consort and Voice of Reason Women's Ensemble, Harv Wileman, artistic director. Featuring Rosella Ewing, mezzo-soprano; Blaine Tooley, tenor; and Theodore Tsaltas, basso profundo, the ensemble will be conducted by David Long with associate conductors Laurie Redmer Minner and Jeff Parker. This performance of Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil* will be sung in the original Russian.

David Long, the Bach Choir's artistic director, comments, "We are thrilled to perform Rachmaninoff's monumental *All-Night Vigil*, considered a crowning achievement of Russian Orthodox choral music, for Chattanooga audiences at the acoustically sumptuous Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul. Regarded as one of the most challenging pieces in the *a cappella* choral repertory, it makes technical demands on singers' intonation and breath control and requires a complete engagement with the language and the texts. Since its first performance in 1915, audiences have been enthralled by the sheer beauty and sonic range of this work from unique sound of the low bass voices to the softest singing exploding into the magnificent power of massed voices. The texts are taken from the Russian Orthodox all-night vigil ceremony celebrated on the eve of great feasts and lasting from Vespers at dusk through midnight Matins until Prime at dawn. Nine of its fifteen sections are based on traditional Orthodox chants from various traditions – *znamenny*, liturgical Orthodox, a more recitational 'Greek' style and 'Kiev' chant from the 16th and 17th centuries. After the opening call to worship, the unfolding movements portray the mystery of the Creation, the Incarnation of Christ, and the Salvation of the Resurrection, along with sections praising the Virgin, the Trinity and Christ triumphant. Rachmaninoff's intense melodic richness expresses the depth of human spiritual desires: praise, meditation, penitence and, proclamation. It is reported that the *All-Night Vigil* was one of

the composer's two favorite compositions (along with *The Bells*); one hundred years later, this work is beloved by choirs worldwide and remains a masterpiece of Russian choral music."

For this performance, our soloists include Chattanooga favorites: mezzo Rosella Ewing, a frequent Chattanooga Symphony/Opera, Chattanooga Bach Choir soloist and professor at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, and tenor Blaine Tooley, who has been a frequent soloist with Voci Virili as well as the former Music Director at Hixson UMC, now residing in Memphis."

Established in 1985 by conductor James Greasby, the Chattanooga Bach Choir focuses on performing the choral works of Johann Sebastian Bach, in addition to choral-orchestral masterworks of all periods. David Long was appointed artistic director and conductor of the Chattanooga Bach Choir in 2005. During this time, he has expanded the programs and repertoire to include a yearly series featuring Bach cantatas and performances of a wide range of music from the past to the present. Over its three decades-long history, the Bach Choir has performed the works of more than sixty composers from the Renaissance to the present, including Josquin, Telemann, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Fauré, Duruflé, Lauridsen, and Gjeilo.

The Chattanooga Bach Choir's performance of Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil* is made possible in part with funds from the Tennessee Arts Commission and ArtsBuild. The Chattanooga Times Free Press is the Bach Choir's exclusive print media sponsor.

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DAVID LONG, conductor

Sergei Rachmaninoff

All-Night Vigil

Voci Virili Men's Consort

Voice of Reason Women's Ensemble

Harv Wileman, Artistic Director

Laurie Redmer Minner & Jeff Parker, associate conductors

Rosella Ewing, mezzo-soprano

Blaine Tooley, tenor

Theodore Tsaltas, basso profundo

Sunday, October 8, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul

214 E 8th Street, Chattanooga

Tickets: \$20 / Students: Free

For more information: www.chattanoogabachchoir.org