

NEWS RELEASE

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USM and Benedictine Chorales Mark 25 Years of Collaboration with French Masterworks Concert

3 p.m. Sunday, March 25, Annunciation Chapel

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The concert chorales of the University of Saint Mary and Benedictine College will combine their vocal prowess for a French Choral Masterworks Concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 25, in Annunciation Chapel on the Saint Mary Leavenworth campus, 4100 South 4th Street. The concert is free and open to the public.

The 2012 Masterworks Concert represents the 25th year of collaboration between USM and Benedictine on chorale concerts. The annual concert is performed on each school's respective campus each spring.

The 2012 edition of the concert will include Gabriel Fauré's classic *Cantique de Jean Racine* and Maurice Duruflé's 1948 *Requiem Mass* based on a Gregorian chant. Dr. William Krusemark, chair of USM's department of fine arts, will conduct. His sister, Dr. Ruth Krusemark of Benedictine, will serve as the organist.

This year's student soloists from the University of Saint Mary include senior Starian Porchia and freshmen Emma Vavricek and Taylor Welch. The student soloist from Benedictine will be baritone Simon Pick.

The brother and sister team of Drs. William Krusemark and Ruth Krusemark have been the driving force behind the tradition of joint chorale performances, starting with the Fauré *Requiem Mass* in 1988. Subsequent works in the concert series include Handel's *Messiah*, Haydn's *Paukenmesse* and *Lord Nelson Mass*, and the *Requiems* of Verdi, Mozart, Brahms, and Rutter.

"This series has allowed our students to perform some of the great choral works of history, which would otherwise be impractical for small choirs," Dr. William Krusemark said. "We have made a conscious decision over the years to program both Handel's *Messiah* and Mozart's *Requiem* in each four-year cycle as these are two masterpieces to which every college-age singer should be exposed."

The concert will be repeated at 3 p.m. April 1 at the Benedictine Abbey in Atchison, Kan.

Contact Dr. William Krusemark at (913) 682-5151, ext. 6460, or email krusemarkw@stmary.edu for more information.

The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu for more information.