



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Michael Zaugg: named Artistic Director of St. Lawrence Choir

Montreal (September 7, 2008) – St. Lawrence Choir is pleased to announce the nomination of Michael Zaugg as its new Artistic Director, beginning with the 2008-2009 season. Michael Zaugg replaces Marika Kuzma who, after an exciting year as director of St. Lawrence Choir and the OSM Chorus, has resumed her position as Professor and Director of Choirs in Berkeley (University of California). Michael Zaugg is also guest chorus master of the OSM Chorus for the upcoming season.

Since moving to Montreal in 2004, Swiss-native Michael Zaugg has distinguished himself as an innovative and versatile conductor on the Canadian choral scene. Active as artistic director, guest conductor, pedagogue and clinician, Michel Zaugg brings a wealth of experience and creativity to his work.

Michel Zaugg has conducted choirs of international standing, including the Mikaeli Chamber Choir, the Adolf Fredrik's Girls Choir and the Vocal Ensemble of the Royal College of Music (all in Sweden), as well as the Grex Vocalis (Norway) and Ensemble Orlando (Switzerland). He was also Chorus Master of the Swiss Oratorio Choir Regiochor for five years before moving abroad. In 2000, Michel Zaugg founded World Voices, a chamber choir comprised of professional singers from over 20 countries. He led this prize-winning ensemble in performance tours in Switzerland, Italy and Spain. In 2006 he founded Voces Boreales, a 16-voice group specialized in contemporary a cappella music. He is also Artistic Director of the Cantata Singers of Ottawa and of La Ceilagh, a chamber choir of current and former McGill music students.

St. Lawrence Choir was founded in 1972 and is widely recognized as one of the finest amateur choral ensembles in Canada. Over the years, the choir has performed classical and contemporary works, including works it has commissioned by Canadian composers. Many of the Choir's performances have been broadcast live on CBC and Radio Canada, in Quebec and across Canada, as well as on Euroradio in Europe.

St. Lawrence Choir presents its own annual concert season of three programmes (including works by Charpentier, Fauré and Vasks this year) and has been the heart of the OSM Chorus for over 20 years. With the orchestra, St. Lawrence Choir has appeared in Montréal, Toronto, Ottawa, at the Lanaudière Festival, and at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York City, performing under conductors such as Kent Nagano, Charles Dutoit, Robert Shaw, Zubin Metha and Leonard Slatkin, as well as Iwan Edwards, its founding director.

St. Lawrence Choir will be performing Mahler's *Symphony of a Thousand* with the OSM (September 9 and 10), as well as Beethoven's *9th Symphony* (April 2, 2009 in the Bell Centre) and Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé* (May 26 and 28, 2009).

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