

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Note: Both high resolution photos of The Lyric Consort and the complete text of this release can be downloaded from the “Pressroom” page at [www.lyricconsort.com](http://www.lyricconsort.com)*

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**Lyric Consort Christmas will offer a respite from the rush of the season**

***Catch your mental & spiritual breath with “Nativitas”***

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**WILKES-BARRE/SCRANTON, PA** – The Lyric Consort, northeast Pennsylvania’s critically acclaimed professional vocal ensemble, will present a program of a cappella Christmas music on **Saturday, December 18 at 8:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Scranton. The program will blend a variety of well- and lesser-known seasonal music arranged for the ensemble’s signature blend of eight unaccompanied voices. General admission for the program is \$10.00 for adults, with all students admitted free of charge with presentation of a current school ID.

Featured works will include such beloved favorites as the *Carol of the Bells*, *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*, *Bring a Torch*, *Jeanette Isabella*, and *Silent Night*, as well as music of Estonian Arvo Pärt, Norwegian Trond Kverno, and American Jean Belmont, whose nine-movement suite, *Nativitas*, will be heard complete in its regional premiere. A festive wassail reception will follow in the church’s Kreitler Hall.

According to the ensemble’s Artistic Director, Alan Baker, the intent of the program is to offer “at least a brief respite from the harried pace of the holidays; a short break to catch one’s breath while sitting quietly in a beautiful space filled with beautiful music. So many complain

that the season goes by in a blur,” he continues, “but maybe that’s because we’re all rushing through every minute of it.”

Formed in 1993, to explore the myriad riches of the world’s acappella traditions, The Lyric Consort maintains annual concert series in both Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, and has performed throughout the northeast United States, including recent appearances with the NEPA Philharmonic and the Four Nations Ensemble at New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art. The ensemble’s early success with Medieval and Renaissance repertoires has been increasingly balanced by similar success with contemporary vocal works, and the ensemble now regularly premieres new works from the region’s finest composers and arrangers, and has produced four compact disc recordings and a celebrated concert video recording for WVIA public television.

Members of The Lyric Consort include; Dr. Alan Baker, artistic director/tenor; Susan Kelly, soprano; Lisa Cardoni, alto; Francis McMullen, bass; Christopher Gallo, bass; Carol McMullen, alto; Dr. Steven Thomas, tenor; and Leslie Mason Moran, soprano.

This program is generously supported by The Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts, a joint effort of the PA Council on the Arts and the Scranton Area Foundation; and by a Lackawanna County Arts and Cultural Grant, a program of the Lackawanna County Commissioners and the Lackawanna County Council on Art, Culture and Education.

For more information on The Lyric Consort or to order or reserve tickets for this concert, visit the website at [www.lyricconsort.com](http://www.lyricconsort.com) or call at (570) 343-6707. Tickets will also be available at the door 30 minutes prior to the concert.

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