

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lyric Consort will offer a quiet musical interlude amid the rush of the season

Catch your mental & spiritual breath with “A Christmas Acappella Buffet”

WILKES-BARRE/SCRANTON, PA – The Lyric Consort, northeast Pennsylvania’s critically acclaimed professional vocal ensemble, will present a program of all-acappella Christmas music on **Sunday, December 13 at 3:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Scranton, and again on **Friday, December 18 at 8:00 pm** in the sanctuary of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre. Entitled *A Christmas Acappella Buffet*, the program will continue the ensemble’s 2009-2010 concert series theme of “Four Fabulous Musical Menus” with a variety of well- and lesser-known season music arranged for the ensemble’s signature blend of eight unaccompanied voices singing with impeccable tuning and precision. 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 carols as *The Holly and the Ivy*, *I Saw Three Ships*, *Lo How a Rose E’er Blooming*, *Angels We Have Heard on High*, and *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*; as well as new Christmas works from both North and South America. A special feature of the concert will be the regional premiere of a new carol, *Sleep Well, Thou Child of God*, by one of our region’s native sons, David Umla.

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, soprano; Dr. Steven Thomas, tenor; and Lisa Cardoni, alto.

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 visit the website at www.lyricconsort.com or call at (570) 343-6707.

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Note: Both high resolution photos of The Lyric Consort and the complete text of this release can be readily downloaded from the “Pressroom” page at www.lyricconsort.com

