

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lyric Consort will offer musical “Tastes of Autumn”

Concert launches 2009-2010 theme of Four Fabulous Musical Menus

WILKES-BARRE/SCRANTON, PA – The Lyric Consort, northeast Pennsylvania’s critically acclaimed professional vocal ensemble, will present “Tastes of Autumn” **Friday, October 30 at 8:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary of St. Stephen’s Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre, and again on **Sunday, November 1 at 3:00 pm** in the sanctuary of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Scranton. Presented in the ensemble’s trademark eight-voice acappella style, general admission for the program is \$10.00 for adults, with all students offered free admission with presentation of a current school ID.

According to the ensemble’s Artistic Director, Alan Baker, the program launches the Consort’s new concert season, based on the theme of “Four Fabulous Musical Feasts.” “A grand meal moves from appetizers through a main course and accompaniments toward desert,” he notes. “We’re trying to follow the same recipe in constructing musical programs filled with a variety of styles and weight.” This opening program will thus feature Benjamin Britten’s *Hymn to St. Cecilia*, a musical homage to musicians and the creative spirit, but also autumn-inspired music of Johannes Brahms and Japan, love songs of Samuel Barber and Z. Randall Stroepe, and a variety of lighter fare including spirituals, King’s Singers arrangements, Americana, and vocal jazz settings of the classics *Autumn Leaves* and *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*.

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 visit the website at www.lyricconsort.com or call at (570) 343-6707. High resolution photos of The Lyric Consort can be readily downloaded from www.lyricconsort.com

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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