



CHORAL COMMISSIONING PROGRAM

2014 - 2019

5 YEARS
5 VENUES
50 WORLD PREMIERES

BY 50 RECIPIENTS OF
THE ASCAP FOUNDATION
MORTON GOULD YOUNG COMPOSER AWARD

UNDER THE MENTORSHIP OF HAROLD ROSENBAUM
WITH THE NEW YORK VIRTUOSO SINGERS

THE ASCAP FOUNDATION CHORAL COMMISSIONING PROGRAM: A BRIEF HISTORY

On May 27, 2010, when acclaimed choral conductor Harold Rosenbaum received ASCAP's coveted Victor Herbert Award for Distinguished Service to American Music at the 11th annual ASCAP Concert Music Awards, a kernel of an idea was born.

As part of that same ceremony, recognition was also bestowed upon yet another bumper crop of ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composer Award recipients, the latest annual group of tremendously creative and talented composers to be nationally recognized with that award.

For Dr. Rosenbaum, a lingering thought would fester: Why not harness all the creativity of these composers, and commission a select group of them to compose new choral works? For bonus points, why not give the world premieres at a concert utilizing Dr. Rosenbaum's signature New York Virtuoso Singers?

And from that initial spark, a unique flagship program that would not only inspire but actually support the creation of brand new choral music was born! After several further informal discussions over the course of the next year, in August 2012, Dr. Rosenbaum made his "modest" proposal to The ASCAP Foundation. Or as he described it in an email to ASCAP's Michael Spudic and Cia Toscanini:

"That I [Harold Rosenbaum] commission 10 or so young ASCAP Foundation winners to write a short choral piece for my New York Virtuoso Singers, which the group would perform. We would only choose composers who have not written for choir before.* I would mentor them throughout the process. They can attend rehearsals, etc., and would get an archival recording..."

Then on November 15, 2014, the very first concert was launched at Kaufman Center's Merkin Concert Hall. Entitled "10 Commissions – 10 World Premieres," the concert was greeted by a full house to much fanfare and critical acclaim. In the ensuing five years, with generous support from The ASCAP Foundation Irving Caesar Fund, three workshops, and another five concerts have all taken place at a variety of locations.

So now it is time to bid farewell, with a final concert to be held at another acclaimed home for choral music on Manhattan's Upper West Side, St. Michael's Episcopal Church. It will surely be a meaningful coda to what has been a very special musical journey, and the completion of a legacy that has added to the world 50 sparkling new choral works.

*After the initial round of 10 composers, the criteria were expanded to include composers who may have already written choral works.

SALUTE TO HAROLD ROSENBAUM



DR. HAROLD ROSENBAUM & THE NEW YORK VIRTUOSO SINGERS

Harold Rosenbaum has earned a significant place in the musical life of New York and beyond as one of the most accomplished, versatile and critically-acclaimed choral conductors of our time. A sought-after guest conductor and clinician and editor of two choral series published by G. Schirmer and PeerMusic Classical, Maestro Rosenbaum is currently Professor Emeritus at the University of Buffalo. In 2011 he was awarded an honorary doctorate from his alma mater Queens College. Indeed, over the course of a nearly 50-year career in music, he has taught at four universities, including The Juilliard School. The author of a foundational book imparting nuts and bolts advice to choral art practitioners, *A Practical Guide to Choral Conducting*, Dr. Rosenbaum has conducted well over 1,600 concerts and has collaborated over 100 times with leading orchestras throughout his lengthy career.

Dr. Rosenbaum is the recipient of the 2014 Ditson Conductor's Award established by Columbia University to honor conductors for their support of American music, as well as the 2008 American Composer Alliance's Laurel Leaf Award, in recognition of "distinguished achievement in fostering and encouraging the performance of new American works." In 2010, Dr. Rosenbaum was awarded ASCAP's Victor Herbert Award in recognition of his contribution to the choral repertory and his service to American composers and their music.



Harold Rosenbaum with the New York Virtuoso Singers

Founded in 1988, Rosenbaum's **New York Virtuoso Singers** are regularly invited to perform with leading orchestras at prestigious institutions. They have commissioned over 100 works, and premiered well over 500. Rosenbaum also leads the Canticum Novum Singers, an ensemble he founded in 1973.

It is with admiration and great respect that we congratulate Dr. Rosenbaum on yet another great achievement: the milestone completion of The ASCAP Foundation 50 Choral Commissioning Project!

Find out more at haroldrosenbaum.com & nyvirtuoso.org



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