

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Nashua Symphony Orchestra & Chorus
joined by children's chorus for Nashua premiere**

(Nashua, NH) On Saturday, November 21, the Nashua Symphony Orchestra & Chorus will present the Nashua premiere of John Rutter's *Mass of the Children* as part of its "Awake, my soul" concert. The program, which also includes Tchaikovsky's stirring *Serenade for Strings*, begins at 8 pm in Nashua's Keefe Memorial Auditorium. Jonathan McPhee, the NSA's Music Director and Principal Conductor, and Diane Cushing, Director of Choral Activities, will share conducting duties for the evening. The concert is sponsored by [Crowne Plaza, Nashua](#).

For the performance of Rutter's *Mass*, the orchestra and chorus welcome SCORE, an accomplished children's chorus based at Nashua's Birch Hill Elementary School, under the direction of Deb Kneeland. "The last time SCORE joined the Symphony Chorus was in the spring of 2006 for two performances of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*," notes NSA Executive Director Eric Valliere. "They were wonderful then, and I expect their youthful energy and considerable talent will bring an extra level of excitement to this concert," he added.

The British composer – well known to American choruses for his many audience-friendly works in that medium – had his reasons for including the voices of young people. "The effect of combining children's and adults' voices is unique, and I wanted to write a work that would bring them together in a joyful context," explains Rutter. "I had never written a Mass, and it seemed to me a perfect opportunity to interweave texts and music coming from the different perspectives of children and adults."

In addition to the children's and adult choruses, Rutter's score calls for two vocal soloists, and the NSA has engaged soprano Nouné Karapetian and baritone Jimi James. Both may be familiar to New Hampshire audiences; James and Karapetian last sang together as Germont and Violetta in the Granite State Opera production of *La Traviata* in November of 2008.

The appearance of Ms. Karapetian and Mr. James is made possible by the generous support of [Hesser College](#) and [Triangle Credit Union](#).

Upon completing his *Serenade for Strings*, Tchaikovsky wrote his publisher: "I am violently in love with this work and cannot wait for it to be played." The first public performance, however, took place nearly a year later in St. Petersburg to an enthusiastic response, with listeners carried along through beautiful melodies and the rich luxurious sounds of the string orchestra.

"It's one of my very favorite works," exclaims NSO Music Director Jonathan McPhee, "and I'm delighted to have the opportunity to share it with our New Hampshire audience."



WHEN: Saturday, November 21, at 8:00 p.m.

WHAT: AWAKE, MY SOUL!
Nashua Symphony Orchestra & Chorus
Jonathan McPhee
Music Director & Principal Conductor [PHOTO ATTACHED]
Diane Cushing
Director of Choral Activities [PHOTO ATTACHED]

Noune Karapetian, soprano [PHOTO ATTACHED]
Jimi James, baritone [PHOTO ATTACHED]
Birch Hill SCORE, children's chorus

RUTTER
Mass of the Children

TCHAIKOVSKY
Serenade for Strings

WHERE: Keefe Memorial Auditorium, 117 Elm Street, Nashua NH.

Ticket Information

Tickets, priced from \$10 to \$47 (free for veterans), are available at the Nashua Symphony Box Office, 6 Church St., can be charged to major credit cards by calling 603.595.9156 or can be purchased online by visiting the NSA website, www.nashuasymphony.org. Discounts for seniors and groups are available. Request a season brochure online, by phone, or via email to NSO@NashuaSymphony.org

