



The Springfield Choral Society • P. O. Box 1855 • Springfield, IL 62705

October 17, 2008

Dear Friends,

After a memorable year of concerts both here and abroad, your Springfield Choral Society is planning another extraordinary season. Last spring we had the opportunity to accompany the Kronos Quartet in the complex and eclectic “Sun Rings” and we finished our American season on another challenging note with the Springfield premiere of Sergei Rachmaninoff’s *All-Night Vigil (Vespers)*. We sang the *Vespers* in its original Russian, taking full advantage of the forest of intertwined voices. During the summer, 59 singers, family members and friends went on tour to Spain, presenting concerts in Toledo, Segovia, Valencia, Ajorca and Barcelona.

For our winter concert we’ll offer you “*A Quiet December*,” with beautiful seasonal music from Morten Lauridsen, John Rutter, Tomas de Victoria and others, featuring two settings of “O Magnum Mysterium” and pieces that evoke the hope and joy of the holidays. We will present the concert twice: at Central Baptist Church in Springfield on Saturday, December 6, at 7:00 p.m., and at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Chatham on Sunday, December 7, at 4:00 p.m. As in previous years, we’ll be adding our voices to the annual Holiday Walk, with a concert at the Old State Capitol.

Springfield Choral Society has planned its own tribute to Abraham Lincoln as Americans celebrate his bicentennial next spring. SCS has commissioned Carol Barnett, the prominent contemporary composer, for a piece set to Walt Whitman’s elegy for the fallen president, “*When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d*.” Barnett, who has composed for choruses, soloists and orchestras throughout the world, views music as “a language based on nostalgia – remembered sounds which evoke other places, times and emotions.” Whitman’s powerful poem, written at a time of national grief, is a rich vehicle for her creativity. We will be honored to perform her new work for this occasion. The premiere will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., at Westminster Presbyterian Church, with a later performance at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

In the past, you’ve provided essential support to the Springfield Choral Society, a group offering music to our community for nearly 40 years. We’re asking that you help us once more to bring the best of choral music to our city, from the Renaissance to the contemporary (as in the case of our spring premiere). This blend of styles, old and new, sung with precision and a keen understanding of the music, has kept choral music alive and well in Springfield. You can play a part in assuring it continues for many years to come.

We hope you’ll use the enclosed envelope to further the beauty of music. We look forward to seeing you in December and again in May, when we honor President Lincoln with Carol Barnett’s brand-new piece.

Sincerely,

Greg Coughlin  
President

Marion van der Loo  
Music Director and Conductor

*You’ll Love What You Hear*

Marion van der Loo  
Music Director and Conductor

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