

Media Release – March 28, 2017



Scandinavian Spring

Laudate Singers with Guest Conductor Kari Turunen

Sunday, April 30, 2017 – 3:00PM

St. Andrew's United Church

1044 St. George's Avenue, North Vancouver

Tickets: \$25 adult / \$20 senior 65+ / \$10 student (with valid ID) / FREE under 12

Online at www.laudatesingers.com

or email info@laudatesingers.com or call 604-729-6814

Led by Finnish guest conductor Dr. Kari Turunen, Laudate Singers and Artistic Director Lars Kaario are bringing the brilliance of a Scandinavian Spring to the North Shore. A cultural getaway, the concert will take an evocative tour of the musical riches of Finland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Iceland.

Committed to presenting music from all corners of the globe, Laudate Singers are hosting renowned Finnish choral conductor Kari Turunen. As a choral conductor, Turunen was educated at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki and has gone on to become a sought-after professor of choral conducting. He is currently the artistic director of five choirs in Finland, where he was named Choral Conductor of the Year, 2008. The programming for Scandinavian Spring highlights diverse aspects of Scandinavian cultures, and is inspired by nature, folk music, and of course the great choral tradition of the Scandinavian countries. "This program includes gorgeous harmonic sonorities, profoundly expressive melodic lines and poignant musical ideas," notes **Artistic Director Lars Kaario**.

Known for their versatility, Laudate Singers will perform works that range from *Rakastava* (The Lovers), a major choral work by Jean Sibelius, to *Nordisk Suite* by contemporary Danish composer Bo Holten, to a set of tunes made popular by Finnish pop a *cappella* ensemble, **Rajatón**. "The singers love singing them," comments Kaario, "and Scandinavia has been on the cutting edge with this kind of vocal music."

In keeping with Laudate Singers' commitment to new Canadian choral music, the evening will feature a world premiere by **Eric Wettstein**, the ensemble's composer-in-residence. "When I learned about this commission, I started working towards creating a piece that fused the elements of the Scandinavian choral tradition with my own harmonic and rhythmic background. I believe Swedish is one of the most beautiful languages to be sung, and my research led me to the work of poet Karin Boye. I fell in love with her poem *Allting Rymmer Du*, which roughly translates to "Everything Contains You" - it uses the oyster as a beautiful reflection on the two sides of our character," notes Eric. "I cannot wait to hear Laudate's interpretation on April 30th."

Laudate Singers will additionally perform a part of the program, along with a talk by Kari Turunen, at the Scandinavian Community Centre in Burnaby, presented by the Canadian Friends of Finland on April 28th.

More information: www.laudatesingers.com

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