

the American Guild of Organists National Convention and the American Choral Directors Association Regional Convention, as well as numerous Northwest festivals.

Seattle Pro Musica has appeared as a featured ensemble on the NPR radio show Saint Paul Sunday, and has performed by invitation for the World Festival of Women's Singing, Festival Vancouver in Canada, the American Guild of Organists National Convention and the American Choral Directors Association Regional Convention.

Known for its adventurous programming and compelling performances, Seattle Pro Musica has an annual subscription concert season of repertoire ranging from Medieval chant to choral masterpieces and the works of living composers. Seattle Pro Musica also performs outreach concerts and workshops, and has an active education program. The music of American composers also features prominently in Seattle Pro Musica's repertoire, with a special emphasis on the composers of the Northwest. Musical highlights of the last few years include numerous world premieres and Seattle premieres, as well as performances of Brahms' Ein deutsches Requiem, Bach's St. John Passion, Mozart's Requiem as well as the Great Mass in C minor, Vaughan Williams' Dona Nobis Pacem, Poulenc's Gloria and Fauré's Requiem, plus major works by Britten, Brahms, Handel, Monteverdi and Pärt.

Karen P. Thomas, composer and conductor, has appeared as guest conductor at the Bergen International Festival, International Conference on Women in Music, and the Alliance World Festival of Women's Singing. Her compositions are regularly performed and broadcast on radio and television throughout the U.S., Europe, and Latin America. Her recent work for clarinet and orchestra, *When night came...* (dedicated to the women of Bosnia-Herzegovina), has received performances in London, New York City and throughout the U.S. Thomas has received fellowships from Artist Trust and the Washington State Arts Commission, and was a fellow at the Oregon Bach Festival, Dorland Arts Colony and Chorus of Westerly. Her commissions include works for the Grand Jubilee 2000 in Rome, the American Guild of Organists, and the Goodwill Arts Festival. In 1998 she received the first Distinguished Alumna Award from Cornish College of the Arts. Currently serving on the board of the American Choral Director's Association (Washington State) and the Conductor's Guild, Thomas has been a Board member of the International Alliance for Women in Music and of the League-ISCM, and has served on the faculties of Pacific Lutheran University, Evergreen State College, Cornish College and Edmonds Community College. She holds advanced degrees from the University of Washington and Cornish College.

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107th Season, 6th program



SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DANCE

Beall Concert Hall
8:00 p.m.

Monday evening
October 16, 2006

THE VANGUARD SERIES

presents

AMERICAN MASTERPIECES

featuring

SEATTLE PRO MUSICA
Karen P. Thomas, conductor/composer



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

PROGRAM

Music of the Shakers Traditional Shaker
Come life, Shaker life
Mother Ann's Song
Virgins clothed in a clean white garment
Seattle Pro Musica Women's Schola

Hark, I hear the harps eternal Spiritual
arr. Alice Parker

The paper reeds by the brooks Randall Thompson
from *The Peaceable Kingdom* (1899–1984)

Lux Aurumque Eric Whitacre
(b. 1970)

O nata lux Morten Lauridsen
(b. 1943)

How can I keep from singing arr. Karen P. Thomas

INTERMISSION

Spring Song from *The Lark* Leonard Bernstein
(1918–1990)

To Mistress Margaret Hussey Karen P. Thomas
from *Medieval Lyrics*

Madrigali Morten Lauridsen
"Fire Songs" on Italian Renaissance Poems
Io piango
Amor, io sento l'alma
Se per havervi, oime

Voices for Peace Robert Kyr
(b. 1952)

Dorma, Ador Aaron Jay Kernis
(b. 1960)

Great O Antiphons John R. Muehleisen
O Adonai (b. 1955)
O Root of Jesse

Amazing Grace New Britain
arr. Harold Owen

Pilgrims' Hymn Stephen Paulus
(b. 1949)

McKay from *An American Thanksgiving* Carol Barnett
(b. 1949)

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ABOUT TONIGHT'S ARTISTS

Seattle Pro Musica, winner of the Margaret Hillis Achievement Award for Choral Excellence and the ASCAP/Chorus America Award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music, is a critically acclaimed choral ensemble, performing under the direction of conductor and artistic director Karen P. Thomas.

Seattle Pro Musica is widely considered to be one of the finest ensembles in the Pacific Northwest—American Record Guide ranks it “among America’s very best choirs.” Seattle Pro Musica has received international recognition and acclaim for its CD recordings and live performances. Of the CD *Alnight by the Rose*, Choir and Organ magazine (Great Britain) writes: “...there is great depth and purity in this performance... Seattle Pro Musica presents a cappella singing at its best...” Fanfare Record Magazine writes: “The Seattle Pro Musica’s intonation is razor sharp...” and “the tone and blend are exquisite.” Of Seattle Pro Musica’s recording of Rachmaninov’s *Vespers*, American Record Guide says:

“They sing with incredible smoothness, rich sonic textures, impeccable technique, and truly heartfelt emotionality. It is fully on a par with (Robert) Shaw’s account in terms of choral accomplishment, but Thomas and company do an even better job of plumbing the piece’s deep spirituality and credibly evoking the Slavic pathos... this is a masterly and utterly gorgeous reading that illuminates many of the work’s profoundest passages with subtle clarity, while delivering plenty of power and punch where called for.”

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer has praised the group’s “crystalline textures and precise musicality” and “technical finesse” as well as its “provocative and evocative” programming. Seattle Pro Musica has performed by invitation for the World Festival of Women’s Singing, Festival Vancouver,