

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gregory Wait's Final Season with Schola Cantorum

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA - (October 4, 2018) - After 30 years of conducting the 80-member choral group **Schola Cantorum Silicon Valley**, Music Director Gregory Wait is ready to pass the baton. For his final season, the maestro has chosen a varied repertoire that includes an all-Bach concert, John Rutter Christmas carols, the powerful and dynamic "Carmina Burana," and Brahms's Requiem.

"The bucket list of what I want to do is still long, but these rose to the top," he said.

Over his tenure at Schola, the choir performed major works, including Bach's St Matthew Passion at Stanford Memorial Church, which he viewed as an "opportunity" as well as "a huge undertaking for a community chorus." Over the years, he discovered "there was more music than I thought I could believe in and bring to our audiences, so as to broaden and enrich their knowledge and appreciation of music that they can believe in." Many of Schola's concert programs "influenced our development as a choir, and the singers' understanding of their place in the world and in the ensemble."

He's always pushed back against the perception that Schola is Gregory Wait's choir. "It's owned by the singers and all of us," he said. "I want my final season to be about the music and Schola, and not so much about me. The joy and love that I have for music is in the doing of it every day, not in the applause or accolades."

As for retiring, he said, "It's time. For new energy, new direction." He added: "There are things I want to do on Monday nights and Sunday mornings while I'm still mobile."

The 55th season opens with "For the Love of Bach," featuring three of the composer's festive cantatas. Schola will be accompanied by Sinfonia Schola Cantorum, highlighted by Baroque trumpets and tympani. The performance is Saturday, November 3, 7:30 pm, at the First Congregational Church of Palo Alto.

"A John Rutter Christmas" features feel-good holiday music that's familiar with audiences, and includes a carol sing-along. Sunday, December 16, 3:00 pm, at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts.

“Carmina Burana” by Carl Orff, a cantata beloved by audiences and choirs alike, is described by Wait as having “beautiful tunes and spectacular solos.” Joining Schola at the concert will be Crystal Children’s Choir, two pianos and six percussionists. Saturday, March 16, 7:30 pm, at the First Congregational Church of Palo Alto; Sunday, March 17, 3:00 pm, at the Los Altos United Methodist Church.

The season wraps up with Wait’s “favorite piece of all time,” the Requiem by Brahms. “Ein deutsches Requiem,” which translates to “A German Requiem,” will be performed with a large orchestra at the Stanford Memorial Church where Wait conducted the church choir for three decades. Friday, May 24, 8:00 pm.

Schola will also offer their annual “Messiah Sing” on Monday, December 17, 7:30 pm, at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts. Two sing-along opportunities, where participants follow the lyrics projected on a screen, include: “And the Winner Is,” a selection of show tunes and movie hits, Sunday, November 11, 3:00 pm, and “You’re Just in Love,” a line-up of love songs, Sunday, February 10, 3:00 pm. Both sing-alongs will be held at the Los Altos United Methodist Church.

Subscribers to the 55th season receive a FLEXPass that offers ticket flexibility. For tickets and information, go to ScholaCantorum.org.

Schola Cantorum Silicon Valley is an auditioned 80-voice chorus, under the baton of Gregory Wait. Its mission is to connect the Silicon Valley community with the wonders of choral music through outstanding live performances, educational outreach programs, and collaborations with local artists.

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