

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WHAT: Virginia Chamber Orchestra, Music Director David Grandis present
America's Musical Keepsakes

WHEN: Sunday, May 7, 2017 at 4:00 P.M.

WHERE: Ernst Community Cultural Center
Northern Virginia Community College - Annandale Campus
8333 Little River Turnpike
Annandale, VA 22003

FEATURE: Alexandria Choral Society joins Virginia Chamber Orchestra

ART ON DISPLAY: Jim Steele, photographer, will display a selection of work.

TICKETS: Available at door: adults, \$25; seniors, \$20
On-line discount adults/seniors \$20
Purchase tickets at www.virginiachamberorchestra.org
All students admitted free. Group rates available.

Parking is free. Complimentary reception will follow.

Additional information is available at www.virginiachamberorchestra.org

Alexandria Choral Society Joins Virginia Chamber Orchestra on May 7th "America's Musical Keepsakes" Blends the Modern with the Nostalgic

Music Director David Grandis and the Virginia Chamber Orchestra (VCO) will return to the Ernst Center stage at the Northern Virginia Community College on Sunday, May 7th, at 4 pm, joined by the Alexandria Choral Society. "America's Musical Keepsakes" will feature music by three celebrated 20th century composers—Charles Ives, Aaron Copland and Samuel Barber—and a gifted contemporary composer, Michael Mauldin. Inspiration from the past is a significant aspect of all these works.

Symphony No. 3, "The Camp Meeting," by Charles Ives, brings to mind country meetings during his childhood. However, the musical language of the hymns, bells and children's games is characterized by complex meters and harmonies. This is the only one of Ives' symphonies written for chamber orchestra: a single flute, oboe, clarinet, and bassoon, two horns, trombone, bells and strings. Ives' music was not widely appreciated during his lifetime, although in 1947 the Symphony No. 3 was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Music. His music has come into much greater prominence in recent years.

Aaron Copland orchestrated two sets of folk songs that he had originally arranged for solo voice and piano, entitled *Old American Songs*. They were transcribed for chorus by others, based upon Copland's solo settings. Among them are "Long Time Ago" and songs from the nineteenth century, including "Simple Gifts," a Shaker hymn which Copland had first used in his ballet *Appalachian Spring*. Copland adjusted the melodies. In the words of Brian Wise, "the songs present a diversified portrait of America itself, linked by the unity of Copland's style."

"Reincarnations" is a set of three pieces composed for the Curtis Institute Madrigal Chorus which Samuel Barber conducted from 1938–1941. That title refers to the entire set of poems by Irish poet James Stephens (1882–1950), based on the works of Anthony Raftery. Raftery wrote in Gaelic. Stephens referred to the set not as "translations" but rather as "reincarnations." Unlike Ives, Barber enjoyed acclaim early in his career. His works were performed and recorded by prominent soloists and conductors, and his lyrical "Adagio for Strings" is an American classic.

Contemporary composer Michael Mauldin's *Petroglyphs for Strings* was inspired by the evocative rock-drawings inscribed throughout the southwestern United States by the Anasazi, ancestors of the Pueblo Indians. Mauldin's music has been described as portraying "the power and magic of the rugged beauty and ancient cultures of his adopted state of New Mexico."

The venue for the "America's Keepsakes" program will be the Ernst Community Cultural Center on the Annandale Campus of the Northern Virginia Community College at 8333 Little River Turnpike. Discounted advance purchase tickets, which include a complimentary reception, are available at www.virginiachamberorchestra.org.

Works by a Virginia visual artist are on display at each VCO concert. The featured artist in May will be noted photographer Jim Steele, who maintains a studio in the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria.

Parking is free. Additional information is available at www.virginiachamberorchestra.org
The Virginia Chamber Orchestra's mission is "to present fine music performed with highest artistic integrity for the broadest possible audience."

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