

## Dear Friends,

This is the beginning of our Artistic Director and Conductor Eric Knapp's tenth anniversary with the Connecticut Choral Society. It will be a very full and exciting year, as you can see. His first concert with us was entitled, "From The Poet's Quill." Our spring concert includes some of the pieces we sang in that concert.

With Maestro Knapp at the helm of our chorus, we never cease to be surprised and amazed by his programming, production acumen, and rehearsal techniques.

This season we will sing the musical drama *Cassandra*, celebrate winter with songs about snow, share the power of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, and give voice to the beauty of poets' words.

We hope you will join us for all or part of our season. We promise that you will be inspired, transported, and elevated.

Warmly,

Jill Heidel, President



ERIC DALE KNAPP

## The Connecticut Choral Society

We are excited to present the Connecticut Choral Society's 36<sup>th</sup> season. We have performed in Carnegie Hall and have toured in Europe, Asia, and Australia. In July 2014, CCS singers traveled to Rouen, Normandy, and Paris singing the Fauré *Requiem* to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. We were privileged to present a program that honored the heroes of World War II, the Allied "Band of Brothers" who gave so selflessly to secure a better world.

CCS is committed to performing choral music of the highest artistic quality and to "making music that makes a difference" in local communities. We have a tradition of giving back to the community. We have sung concerts for organizations whose efforts benefit the residents – children and families – of our area towns.

Our Chamber Singers, an ensemble of a *cappella* voices, is available for events throughout the community, and has performed extensively at town festivals, libraries, senior centers and facilities, and benefit concerts.

CCS is dedicated to bringing beautiful and inspiring choral works to our Connecticut audiences. As Ambassadors of Great Choral Music, we are known for high performance standards, outstanding contributions to the arts, and community outreach. Experienced singers are welcome to join us, with auditions in September and in January.



P.O. Box 42, Southbury, CT 06488-0042  
888-927-2933 [ctchoralsociety.org](http://ctchoralsociety.org)

a Season of  
*Celebration*

Connecticut  
Choral Society  
2016 | 2017

# THE 2016 | 2017 SEASON CELEBRATES ERIC DALE KNAPP'S 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY as Artistic Director and Conductor of the Connecticut Choral Society

## VITTORIO GNECCHI'S CASSANDRA

**Saturday, October 8, 2016**

The Gerald Lynch Theater at John Jay College  
524 W 59<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY 10019

Presented by TEATRO GRATTACIELO  
FOUNDER and ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, DUANE PRINTZ  
CONNECTICUT CHORAL SOCIETY  
NEW JERSEY CHORAL SOCIETY  
NJCS FESTIVAL YOUTH CHORUS  
The Teatro Grattacielo Orchestra  
Conducted by Israel Gursky

*Starring, in order of appearance*

**Stefanos Koroneos, baritone**

Il Prologo

**Meredith Mecum, soprano**

Una Coèfora/Una Voce/Una Vecchia

**Elena O'Connor, soprano**

Clitennestra (NYC Debut)

**Joseph Flaxman, baritone**

Il Fazionario

**Shea Owens, baritone**

Egisto

**Arnold Rawls, tenor**

Agamemnone

**Alessandra Volpe, mezzo-soprano**

Cassandra

**Peter Kendall Clark, baritone**

Il Navarca

**John Tetelman, tenor**

Un tenore solo

The Greek Tragedy *Cassandra* whose libretto, adapted from *Oresteia of Aeschylus*, was first set by Gnechi, then entrusted to the librettist Luigi Illica. *Cassandra* was completed in 1903 and premiered on December 5, 1905 at the Teatro Comunale di Bologna under the baton of Arturo Toscanini. *Cassandra* (also called *Alexandra*), in Greek myth, is the prophetic daughter of Priam, King of Troy, and Hecuba his wife. The opera is a large-scale story-telling event of the life and times of *Cassandra*.

## CANDLELIGHT AND CAROLS

**Friday, December 9, 2016 – 8:00 pm**

Trinity Church | Newtown, CT

**Saturday, December 10, 2016 – 3 pm**

**Sunday, December 11, 2016 – 3 pm**

North Congregational Church | Woodbury, CT

Arijana Lempke, soprano  
Michael Breaux, soprano saxophone, Jeff Fuller, bass  
Linda Sweetman Waters, piano  
Eric Dale Knapp, conductor

*SNOW!* "Snow is falling silent and soft and slow" is from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "Snow-Flakes." Snowflakes form in a wide variety of intricate shapes, leading to the popular expression that "no two are alike." Complex shapes emerge as the flakes move through differing temperatures and humidity, making each unique in structure. Join us for a holiday celebration featuring music inspired by snow. At once heart-warming, unique, and inspiring.

Gustav Holst/arr. Mark Shepperd *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Edward Elgar *Snow*

Ron Dukenski *Snowflakes Fall* WORLD PREMIERE

arr. Hayes Winter *Wonderland of Snow*

Lady Antebellum/arr. Ed Lojeski *On This Winter's Night*

## ODE TO JOY

Beethoven Symphony No. 9

**Saturday, April 22, 2017 – 8 pm**

CONNECTICUT CHORAL SOCIETY

NEW JERSEY CHORAL SOCIETY'S CAMERATA

NAUGATUCK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE CHORALE

Waterbury Symphony Orchestra

Leif Bjaland, Music Director and Conductor

Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* is one of Western culture's towering monuments. It is a celebration of joy, composed by a man cut off from the world by deafness. When three monumental movements lead up to a finale with vocal soloists and a huge choir, it feels that the entire world has joined in a hymn to our shared humanity here beneath "the starry realm."

## THE POET'S QUILL

**Saturday, May 20, 2017 – 8 pm**

Walnut Hill Community Church | Bethel, CT

**Sunday, May 21, 2017 – 3 pm**

North Church | Woodbury, CT

Megan Knapp, soprano

Piano Trio featuring

Linda Sweetman Waters, piano

Eric Dale Knapp, conductor

Julian Revie *The Poet*

Randall Thompson *Choose Something Like a Star*

Morten Lauridsen *Sure on this Shining Night*

Richard Strauss *Beim Schlafengehen* from *Four Last Songs*

Z. Randall Stroope *Omnia Sol (Let Your Heart Be Staid)*

Eric Whitacre *Five Hebrew Love Songs*

Jules Massenet *Thaïs Aria - "Dis-moi que je suis belle"*

Astor Piazzolla *Primavera Porteño* and *Oblivion*

Aaron Copland *Heart, We Will Forget Him*

Renee Clausen *O My Love's Like a Red, Red Rose*

arr. Z. Randall Stroope *How Can I Keep from Singing?*

Dan Forrest *Always Something Sings*

Aaron Copland *The Promise of Living*

## GIUSEPPE VERDI REQUIEM

Milan | Lake Como | Venice | Verona

**July 5-14, 2017**

Eric Dale Knapp, conductor

Linda Sweetman Waters, festival accompanist

Megan Knapp, soprano

Teresa Buchholz, mezzo-soprano

Jonathan Tetelman, tenor

Jared Schwartz, bass

Join CCS on tour as the chorus joins the Festival Chorus and Orchestra at the 2017 Summer Music Festival. At the request of the Music Committee, Eric Dale Knapp has been invited to lead a performance of Verdi's epic *Requiem* as part of this prestigious festival. You are warmly welcomed to join CCS on tour. For more information please go to [www.ctscentr.al/2017VERDI](http://www.ctscentr.al/2017VERDI) or at tel. 313.565.8888 x170 and register to join Eric Dale Knapp and CCS on tour!