

**For More Information Contact**  
Kathy Matthews: (847) 841-7700  
Executive Director, EYSO

**For Immediate Release:** February 2010

**It's a First – Elgin Choral Union Performs at EYSO Concert**  
*A Musical Celebration of Sacred Places and Sacred Spaces*

Elgin, IL – February, 2010 – On Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> 2010, the Elgin Choral Union (ECU) will perform at an Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra (EYSO) concert, *Sacred Spaces: Spiritual Music for Orchestra*, for the first time in its history.

The collaboration between these two organizations occurs during the 7:00 p.m. concert. Parts of *A German Requiem* of Johannes Brahms will be performed by EYSO and ECU featuring the well-known and accomplished baritone soloist Peter van de Graaff will be conducted by EYSO Music Director Randal Swiggum.

Elgin Choral Union (ECU), under the direction of Andrew Lewis, is the oldest performing arts organization in the Fox Valley. Over 100 voices combine to bring song to life at performances throughout the year. This non-professional singing organization works with several other performing arts groups in the region.

ECU has distinguished itself as a unique opportunity for non-professional singers to engage in ambitious programming, performing master choral works and contemporary compositions, and commissioning several world premieres.

Additional performances of the evening will include the EYSO Brass Choir with Conductor Jason Flaks, the Sterling Brass Quintet, and viola soloist Teresa Goh, Winner 2010 EYSO Young Artists Concerto Competition, of Saint Charles, Illinois.

The 4:00 p.m. concert will feature the EYSO Prelude Orchestra with Conductor Daniel Beder and Philharmonia with Conductor David Anderson performing several pieces including Bach's *Elgar Fantasia and Fugue in C Minor* and pieces from Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*.

"The Prelude Orchestra will be performing music spanning the last 4 musical eras, including Mozart's *Symphony No. 29* and a minimalist piece by Philip Glass," stated Daniel Beder, Prelude Orchestra Conductor.

Both performances of *Sacred Spaces: Spiritual Music for Orchestra* will take place in the Blizzard Theater at Elgin Community College Arts Center on the main campus of ECC, 1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin. Tickets can be purchased for \$23, \$18 for seniors, and \$12 for students by calling the box office at (847) 622-0300, or online at [tickets.elgin.edu](http://tickets.elgin.edu).

#### **4:00 p.m. Concert Repertoire:**

*The Arethusa* by Turlough O'Carolan (arr. D. B. Monday)

*Company*, mvts. 1 & 2 by Philip Glass

*Hansel and Gretel, Evening Prayer* by Engelbert Humperdinck (arr. Del Borgo)

Symphony No. 29, mvt.1 by Mozart

*Fantasia and Fugue* in C Minor, BWV 537 (Op. 86) by Bach (trans. Elgar)

*Enigma variations, Nimrod* by Elgar

*L'Arlesienne* Suite No. 1, mvt. IV Carillon by Bizet

*Firebird, Berceuse and Finale* by Stravinsky

#### **7:00 p.m. Concert Repertoire:**

*Sonata pian'e forte* by Gabrieli

**Fugue in G minor (the "Little") by J.S. Bach/arr. Stokowski**

Von Gott will ich nicht lassen ("From God I will not depart") by J.S. Bach/ arr. Swiggum

Der Schwanendreher by Paul Hindemith

Requiem Mass by Giuseppe Verdi

*blue cathedral* by Jennifer Higdon

All Night Vigil by Sergei Rachmaninoff

A German Requiem by Johannes Brahms

*EYSO is more than great concerts. It's a life-changing opportunity.*

#### **About Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra Conductors**

EYSO Conductors are dedicated to helping young musicians appreciate and enjoy music while helping them understand the rich history of music around the world. Each conductor has an extensive history of music appreciation, education and performance. Detailed conductor information can be obtained by calling the EYSO office. Interviews are available: Randal Swiggum, Music Director and Youth Symphony Conductor; David Anderson, Philharmonia Conductor and Chamber Music Institute Director; Daniel Beder, Prelude Orchestra Conductor; Jason Flaks, Brass Choir Conductor; and Beth Mazur Wood, Primo Conductor.

#### **About Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra**

The Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra (EYSO), an In-Residence Ensemble in the Arts Center at Elgin Community College, is home to five orchestras with nearly 300 students from over 65 communities. Founded in 1976, the mission of the EYSO is to create a community of young musicians, enriching their lives and the lives of their families, schools, communities and beyond, through the study and performance of excellent music. This program is partially supported by grants from the Palmer Foundation, the Elgin Cultural Arts Commission, the Illinois Arts Council, and the JP Morgan Chase Foundation.