

Contact Information:
Sheila Lyons/Emma Andelson
executivedirector@apollochorus.org
marketing@apollochorus.org
(312) 427-5620

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Stephen Alltop, Music Director & Conductor and
David Bachmann, Associate Conductor
Announce the Highly Anticipated**



2017-2018 SEASON

Fame, Fate & Fortune: Follow The Apollo Chorus of Chicago as they explore these topics and more as represented in the greatest choral repertoire of all time.

Chicago, Ill. — One of the most renowned musical organizations in the nation, [The Apollo Chorus](#) of Chicago, celebrates 146 years of making music with its 2017-2018 season featuring an exhilarating lineup of choral blockbusters. Kicking off the season is a free preview concert, ***Music in the Neighborhood***, on Sunday, November 5 at 2:30 p.m. at Holy Family Church, 1080 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago. The Apollo Chorus' signature rendition of ***Handel's Messiah*** is back for another festive year on Saturday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 17 at 2:00 p.m. at the Harris Theater for Music & Dance, 205 E. Randolph Dr., Chicago. On Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 7:30 p.m., The Apollo Chorus will return to Holy Family Church for ***Choral Classics: Verdi's Requiem***. Rounding out a season of exceptional performances of iconic masterworks, The Apollo Chorus presents ***Orff's Carmina Burana and Midwestern Masters*** as the season finale Spring Concert with two performances on Friday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut St.; and Sunday, May 6, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at First United Church, 848 Lake St., Oak Park.

Audiences will catch a sneak peek of The Apollo Chorus' historic 146th Season with their annual ***Music in the Neighborhood*** concert, featuring excerpts from upcoming concerts and favorite pieces from last season. Held at the beautiful Holy Family Church in west Chicago, the free event is sure to delight audiences with a wide range of musical styles, including selections from Handel's *Messiah* and Orff's *Carmina Burana*, as well as works by American composers.
Sunday, November 5 at 2:30 p.m. at Holy Family Church, 1080 West Roosevelt Rd., Chicago.

Hailed as a “venerable holiday tradition” performed with “an exultant spirit that came from the heart” by *The Chicago Tribune*, The Apollo Chorus' rendition of ***Handel's Messiah*** has been performed every December since 1879—a track record unmatched by other choral organizations. This year, Apollo welcomes outstanding soloists Jessica Cooper, soprano, Julie Miller, mezzo-soprano, Steven Soph, tenor, and Paul Max Tipton, bass-baritone. Presented at the iconic Harris Theater for Music & Dance, ***Handel's Messiah*** offers audiences the rare opportunity to experience the power and passion of *Messiah* as they've never heard it before. *Saturday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 17 at 2:00 p.m. at Harris Theater for Music & Dance, 205 E. Randolph Dr., Chicago.*

Known for its masterful performances of some of the most beloved choral repertoire, The Apollo Chorus again collaborates with the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra for ***Verdi's Requiem***. With its intimate solo passages and towering choral settings, this venerable masterwork is still unsurpassed, 144 years after its first performance. The Apollo Chorus will be joined by a truly outstanding quartet of soloists: soprano Sarah Gartshore, mezzo-soprano Lauren Decker, tenor Scott Ramsay, and bass-baritone Sam Handley. *Saturday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Family Church, 1080 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago.*

The Apollo Chorus will conclude its 146th Season with its Spring Concert, ***Carmina Burana and Midwestern Masters***. One of the most epic choral works of all time, *Carmina Burana* explores themes as familiar today as they were in the 13th century: fickleness of fortune and wealth, the joy of the return of Spring, and the pleasures and perils of drinking, gluttony and lust. Joined with delightful pieces by some of the Midwest's greatest composers, this concert is not to be missed! *Friday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut St., and Sunday, May 6, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at First United Church, 848 Lake St., Oak Park.*

The Apollo Chorus, founded in the aftermath of the Great Chicago Fire, is one of the most recognizable volunteer choral organizations in the United States. Its approximately 130 auditioned members include men and women of all ages, races, and backgrounds brought together by their love of music. The chorus has performed the masterworks of the choral repertoire, as well as new music from contemporary composers. The Apollo Chorus has performed at notable historic events, such as the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, the Century of Progress International Exposition, the opening of Medinah Temple, the opening of Orchestra Hall (Apollo was considered the official chorus of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra prior to the formation of the Chicago Symphony Chorus), the opening of Navy Pier, and the “Oprah Surprise Spectacular.” The Apollo Chorus continually strives to advance musically and to share the power, beauty, and majesty of choral music by presenting concerts for diverse communities throughout Chicago and beyond.

Season subscriptions are \$120. Regular priced tickets are \$30-\$70. To purchase tickets, call (312) 427-5620 or visit www.apollochorus.org.

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