FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Emily Weddle, eweddle@cantatasingers.org

Cantata Singers presents F.J. Haydn’s oratorio *The Creation*
Featuring soprano soloist Amanda Forsythe in her Cantata Singers debut

Date and Time: Friday, March 22, 2019 at 8pm
Location: Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston, MA
Pre-Concert Talk at 7pm with conductor Martin Pearlman, free to all ticketholders, in Williams Hall
Tickets: $25-$75 can be purchased by calling 617-868-5885 or visiting www.cantatasingers.org

**Boston, MA**—Cantata Singers presents F.J. Haydn’s resplendent oratorio *The Creation* on Friday, March 22 at 8pm at New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall.

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) was inspired to write *The Creation* after two visits to England, the first in 1791-1792 and the second in 1794-1795. While visiting England, Haydn attended performances of oratorios by George Frideric Handel, including his monumental *Israel in Egypt*, and Haydn became inspired to write his own oratorio with his patron, librettist, and artistic adviser Baron Gottfried van Swieten.

Haydn and Swieten first began working with an anonymous poem entitled *The Creation of the World* that contained text from three different sources: the book of Genesis, the book of Psalms, and John Milton’s *Paradise Lost*. This text, originally written in English, was translated by Swieten into German for Haydn to use to compose. Swieten then translated the work back into English for the final version, but adjusted the poetry to match Haydn’s composition, resulting in an awkwardly worded text. *The Creation* was first published with both the German and English text, and thus became popular immediately across Europe. It was performed many times during Haydn’s life, including its world premiere in Vienna in 1789 using the German text, and a London premiere in 1800 using the English text.
Considered one of Haydn’s greatest works, Music Director David Hoose and Cantata Singers return to *The Creation* for the first time since 2002. Scored for soloists, four-part chorus, and orchestra, the gloriously rich orchestral passages in *The Creation* showcase Haydn’s mastery of text painting, while the monumental choruses punctuate the triumphant nature of the work. Cantata Singers will perform the German version of *The Creation*.

*The Creation* tells, in three parts, the biblical story of how the world was created, formed, and shaped by God in six days. Three angels, represented by three soloists, narrate the story, including the angel Gabriel, performed by soprano Amanda Forsythe in her Cantata Singers’ debut, the angel Uriel, performed by tenor William Hite, and the angel Raphael, performed by bass Mark Andrew Cleveland. The first part focuses on the creation of life in heaven and on earth, the second part describes the creation of animals, and the third part shows the creation of man and woman, featuring soloists soprano Alexandra Whitfield as Eve and bass Brian Church as Adam.
About Cantata Singers

A singular desire to bring to Boston's listeners music that isn't being heard anywhere else has inspired Cantata Singers' programming for 55 years.

In 1964, that music included the cantatas of J.S. Bach. Today, it may be hard for us to believe, but when Cantata Singers was founded in 1964, live performances of Bach cantatas were quite a rarity. In fact, Cantata Singers' early concerts featured the first Boston performances of many of the cantatas.

Bach's music, from the cantatas to the B-minor Mass to the Passions, remains an essential part of Cantata Singers' repertoire. However, the ensemble's repertoire has expanded to include music from the 17th century to today. Cantata Singers has commissioned 15 works for choir and orchestra—including one that was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Music—and has presented more than fifty Boston premieres of music both old and new.

Many of Boston’s most talented musicians perform regularly with Cantata Singers. The chorus is made up of singers who have careers as musicians, educators, doctors, and architects. Many of these members appear as soloists with Cantata Singers, as well as with other highly respected organizations; some conduct other choruses and orchestras in the area. Although many of our musicians perform actively as solo singers, they choose to sing with Cantata Singers because of the reward they find in performing music of the choral canon at the highest possible level.

Cantata Singers has always focused on the music—be it by Bach, Verdi, Harbison, or Pärt—and its audiences do, too. Our audiences return year after year to hear fresh visions of iconic music, or an intriguing unfamiliar work that is—in fact—quite approachable. Each Cantata Singers concert is often surprising, sometimes challenging, always beautiful, and ultimately inspiring.

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CANTATA SINGERS
2018-2019 SEASON

CONCERT SERIES

Saturday, November 3, 2018
8 p.m. at NEC’s Jordan Hall
Pre-concert talk at 7pm
David Hoose, Music Director
J.S. Bach: “Wachet auf,” BWV 140
John Harbison: Sacred Trilogy
  The Flight Into Egypt
  But Mary Stood
  The Supper at Emmaus
  First Complete Performance

Friday, December 7, 2018
8 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, Boston
Sunday, December 9, 2018
3 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, Boston
David Hoose, Music Director
Jacobus Gallus Handl: Mirabile mysterium
Heinrich Schütz: Dulcissime et benignissime Christe
Giovanni Gabrieli: O magnum mysterium
Dieterich Buxtehude: In dulci jubilo
Dieterich Buxtehude: Das neugeborne Kindelein
William Byrd: Vidimus stellam
William Byrd: Out of the Orient Crystal Skies
William Byrd: Hodie beata Virgo
William Byrd: Surge, illuminare, Jerusalem
Henry Purcell: O Sing Unto the Lord
Robert Parsons: Ave Maria

Friday, January 25, 2019
8 p.m. at NEC's Jordan Hall
Pre-concert talk at 7pm
David Hoose, Music Director
James Primosch: Matins
Peggy Pearson, oboe
Béla Bartók: Divertimento for Strings
Arvo Pärt: Te Deum
Friday, March 22, 2019
8 p.m. at NEC’s Jordan Hall
Pre-concert talk at 7pm
David Hoose, Music Director
Franz Joseph Haydn: The Creation

Friday, May 17, 2019
8 p.m. at St. Paul Church, Cambridge
Pre-concert talk at 7pm
David Hoose, Music Director
Anton Bruckner: Mass No. 2 in E minor
Igor Stravinsky: Mass
Giovanni Gabrieli: Jubilate Deo

CHAMBER SERIES

Friday, February 8, 2019
7:30pm at American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge
Pre-concert talk at 6:30pm
Allison Voth, Chamber Series Director
Clara Schumann: Liebst du um Schönheit
Clara Schumann: Liebeszauber
Alma Mahler: Waldseligkeit
Fanny Mendelssohn: Ferne
Fanny Mendelssohn: Bergeslust
Pauline Viardot: Madrid
Lili Boulanger: Parfoi, je suis triste
Lili Boulanger: Un poét disait
Nadia Boulanger: J'ai frappé
Nadia Boulanger: Le couteau
Cécile Chaminade: J'avais douté de votre amour
Cécile Chaminade: Villanelle
Germaine Tailleferre: Vrai dieu, qui m'y confortera
Germaine Tailleferre: Mon marie m'a diffamée
Pauline Viardot: Les Bohémiennes
Elizabeth Maconchy: On Stepheners Day
Rebecca Clarke: Shy One
Judith Weir: The Romance of Count Arnaldos
Jenni Pinnock: Bells in the Rain
Régine Wieniawski (Poldowski): Colombine
Rhian Samuel: In Memorium
Florence Aylward: The Window
Emily Hall: Stillborn
Charlotte Bray: While the Bell Tolls
Thea Musgrave: Daffodils
Thea Musgrave: Willie Webster
Thea Musgrave: Hate whom ye list

Friday, April 26, 2018
7:30pm at American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge
Pre-concert talk at 6:30pm
Allison Voth, Chamber Series Director
Amy Beach: "The Year's at the Spring," Op. 44, No. 1
Amy Beach: "Forgotten," Op. 41, No. 3
Amy Beach: "In the Twilight," Op. 85
Margaret Bonds: "Poème d'Automne"
Margaret Bonds: "Summer Storm"
Libby Larsen: My Antonia
Marjorie Merryman: Allison Joseph Songs
Lori Laitman: And Music Shall Not End
Ruth Crawford Seeger: "Chinaman! Laundryman!"
Tania León: "Mi Amor Es"
Susan Botti: "Listen, it's Snowing"
Kamala Sankaram: "The Last Blast of Anthony the Trumpeter"
Sheila Silver: "A Visit to the Asylum"
Sheila Silver: "Recuerdo"
Sheila Silver: "I, being born a woman"
Sheila Silver: "First Fig (Round II)"
High resolution photos available on our website at: http://www.cantatasingers.org/press-kit

Please contact eweddle@cantatasingers.org for information and questions.

Cantata Singers
Photo Credit: James Luo

Soprano Amanda Forsythe