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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Southland Symphony Orchestra Chorus Choir Invited to Perform at Carnegie Hall

NYC, N.Y. – August 21, 2017

Outstanding music program receives special invitation

Distinguished Concerts International New York City (DCINY) announced today that director Sylvia Lee Mann and the Southland Symphony Orchestra Chorus have been invited to participate in a performance of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Requiem* on the DCINY Concert Series in New York City. This performance is planned to take place on Monday, February 19, 2018 – President's Day Weekend- in Carnegie Hall's Isaac Stern Auditorium under the baton of Dr. James Meaders, DCINY's Associate Artistic Director. These outstanding musicians will join with other choristers to form the Distinguished Concerts Singers International, a choir of distinction. Dr. Meaders will serve as conductor of the performance and clinician for the residency.

Why the invitation was extended

Dr. Jonathan Griffith, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor for DCINY states: "Southland Symphony Orchestra Chorus received this invitation because of the quality and high level of musicianship demonstrated by the singers as well as the exceptional quality of their audition recording.

It is quite an honor just to be invited to perform in New York. These wonderful musicians not only represent a high quality of music and education, but they also become ambassadors for the entire community. This is an event of extreme pride for everybody and deserving of the community's recognition and support."

The singers will spend 5 days and 4 nights in New York City in preparation for their concert. "The singers will spend approximately 9-10 hours in rehearsals over the 5 day residency." says Griffith. "Not all of the time is spent in rehearsals, since there is so much history and culture to see in New York City. However, the performance is the primary purpose for their visit to the city." Members of the community are encouraged to give financial support in sending these singers to New York by contacting Sylvia at drmann@southlandssymphony.com.

Conductor Dr. James Meaders

Dr. James M. Meaders, DCINY Associate Artistic Director and Conductor, moved to New York in July 2014 to accept a position with Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY) after 16 years

on faculty at Mississippi College. As Professor and Director of Choral Activities in the Department of Music, Dr. Meaders' choirs performed multiple invitational performances for conventions of the American Choral Directors Association at the state, divisional, and national level. He led the Mississippi College Singers on four international tours and concerts in such venerable venues as Washington National Cathedral, St. Peter's, Vienna, Canterbury Cathedral, Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall. He has also presented multiple sessions on varied choral topics to state and divisional ACDA conventions. In February 2015, Meaders, along with Dr. Alicia Walker from the University of South Carolina, presented a session on the integration of service learning and music education for national ACDA in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dr. Meaders appeared as a guest conductor with DCINY on many occasions, including with the Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and Distinguished Concerts Singers International in the 2014 New York premiere of *Requiem for the Living* by Dan Forrest. Recent conducting engagements include a reprise of *Requiem for the Living* in January 2016 and Ola Gjeilo's *Sunrise Mass* in March 2016, both at Carnegie Hall. Meaders was honored to conduct the New York premiere of Kim Arnesen's *Requiem* in January 2017 at Carnegie Hall.

Dr. Meaders has taught undergraduate and graduate conducting, applied voice, and chaired a university department of music. He was a practicing church musician for more than 25 years before moving to New York and has conducted community choirs, numerous honor choirs, and many festivals. Dr. Meaders, in partnership with several US choral colleagues, created The International Partnership for Choral Music Education, an annual service learning-based symposium in Johannesburg, South Africa, that is dedicated to promoting the development of the choral arts of South Africa. He is past-president of Mississippi ACDA and has served as College and University R&S Chair for Southern Division ACDA.

DCINY Productions

Founded by Iris Derke and Jonathan Griffith, Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY) is the leading producer of dynamically charged musical excellence. With its unforgettable concert experiences in renowned venues, empowering educational programs, and its global community of artists and audiences, DCINY changes lives through the power of performance.

Tickets

For more information on tickets, group sales or other special offers, please contact us at 212-707-8566 Ext. 307, or BoxOffice@DCINY.org.

Contact, Interviews, and Photos

To acquire high-resolution images of DCINY performances at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center for media use, interviews, and press requests, please contact Andrew Ousley at Unison Media at 212-707-8566 Ext. 316, or Press@DCINY.org.

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