

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Fairfield County Chorale
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Fairfield County Chorale Spring Concert Features Celebrated Pianist and Emerging Opera Stars

Saturday, May 14th, 7:30pm · Norwalk Concert Hall · 125 East Avenue, Norwalk

On Saturday, May 14th, at 7:30pm, the Fairfield County Chorale concludes its 2015–2016 Season with Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* and Dvořák's monumental *Stabat Mater*. The Chorale will be joined by four rising stars in the opera world, and four pianists, including the celebrated young Russian-born Ilya Yakushev.

"There is something for every music lover in our varied program," said Music Director, David Rosenmeyer. "Dvořák's *Stabat Mater* is a deeply personal exploration of loss, yet it celebrates the triumph of faith and belief over despair. There is so much expressive singing in *Stabat Mater* that it has become a favorite of singers and audiences. For soloists, we have the emerging opera stars Anna Dugan, Malena Dayen, Alok Kumar, and Adam Lau."

Rosenmeyer continues, "Ludwig van Beethoven was the foremost pianist of his time. The *Choral Fantasy* combined his talents as a pianist and composer in a genre in which he excelled — theme and variations. And there will be Mozart's recitative and aria *Ch'io mi scordi di te... Non temer amato bene?*, unique because the singer is accompanied by both piano and orchestra."

The Chorale is showing off their rosewood 1907 Model B Steinway, a model known by performers as "the perfect piano." Rosenmeyer notes, "It has an extraordinary sound and we are thrilled to have it as our rehearsal and performance piano. Including the Beethoven is the chorale's way of expressing our deeply-felt gratitude to the donors for their great gift."

St. Petersburg native Ilya Yakushev, hailed as one of today's best young pianists, will play the Beethoven with the orchestra and chorale. Quoting the New York Times regarding his performance of Prokofiev's seventh sonata, "In the notoriously difficult Prokofiev ... Mr. Yakushev showed superb control, bringing the music to the brink of hysteria and the piano's capacity for noise making, without ever letting it get away from him ... Mr. Yakushev can do just about anything he wants."

The piano celebration continues with the chorale's associate conductor Michael Sheetz and Maestro Rosenmeyer performing a surprise work with the chorale, and the noted accompanist and teacher Cristina Stanescu joining mezzo Malena Dayen and the orchestra for the Mozart.

Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. \$5 for students. Group rates are available on request. Tickets are available from Chorale members, online, by phone or by mail. To purchase tickets online, please visit fairfieldcountychorale.org. For more information, call (203) 254-1333 or email info@fairfieldcountychorale.org.