



For Immediate Release:

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Brett Karlin – Appointed Artistic Director

The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay, Tampa Bay's premier choral organization, announces the appointment of Brett Karlin as Artistic Director.

“I am absolutely thrilled to be the next Artistic Director of The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay. It’s an extraordinary organization with a high-caliber artistic tradition and wonderful relationship with the Tampa Bay community. I look forward to building on the Chorale’s 40-year legacy, and exploring new and unique ways to engage both our singers and audience.”

– Brett Karlin



Leading performances praised as “intense, richly detailed...polished and well-crafted” (Miami Herald), “finely nuanced and expressive” (South Florida Classical Review), and “integrating choral and instrumental sonorities with clarity and impact” (Palm Beach Arts Paper), Brett Karlin is quickly establishing himself as a dynamic conductor of choral-orchestral masterworks. Having worked with a wide variety of ensembles, Karlin is a passionate performer of large-scale symphonic masterpieces, while equally at home with historically informed performances of distinctive Baroque repertoire.

“We are pleased to welcome Brett Karlin as our fifth Artistic Director,” said Robert Hicks, Board Chairman. “Brett brings an exciting combination of talent, entrepreneurial zeal, and a deep connection to the mission of The Master Chorale, which will serve the Chorale well as we begin a new chapter in our history and celebrate our 40th anniversary.”

“Brett is a rising star with tremendous energy who is passionate about the Chorale’s programs,” added Kara Dwyer, Managing Director. “With his commitment to the highest standards of artistic excellence and exuberance for the advancement of the choral art-form, we look forward to many exciting opportunities in our community, nationally, and abroad.”

2018-2019 Season – 40th Anniversary Season

The Master Chorale’s 40th Anniversary season includes powerful concert collaborations with The Florida Orchestra and Lumina Youth Choirs, an inspiring educational program that is set to engage more than 5,000 students in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties, engaging community sing events, and an exciting performance tour to Carnegie Hall.

Performances with The Florida Orchestra will include Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban in Concert, Michael Tippett’s “Child of our Time,” Holst’s “The Planets” paired with Debussy’s “Nocturnes,”

and Haydn's "Creation." The Master Chorale will also present two special concerts of "Christmas with The Master Chorale" with Lumina Youth Choirs, and a themed concert series in May, 2019 right before a performance tour in June to New York City including Carnegie Hall.

Community Sing events will include a special anniversary Summer Sing led by Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe (The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay's Artistic Director from 1997 – 2001), and two BIG SING events in St. Pete at the Vinoy Park and in Tampa at the Portico.

Master Chorale singer auditions for the 40th Anniversary season will take place at the University of South Florida School of Music in August.

About Brett Karlin

Leading performances praised as "intense, richly detailed...polished and well-crafted" (Miami Herald), "finely nuanced and expressive" (South Florida Classical Review), and "integrating choral and instrumental sonorities with clarity and impact" (Palm Beach Arts Paper), Brett Karlin is quickly establishing himself as a dynamic conductor of choral-orchestral masterworks. Having worked with a wide variety of ensembles, Karlin is a passionate performer of large-scale symphonic masterpieces, while equally at home with historically informed performances of distinctive Baroque repertoire.

As the artistic director and conductor of the Master Chorale of South Florida, Karlin leads 120 singers through choral-orchestral masterworks and prepares the choir for collaborative performances with other artists and ensembles, including The Cleveland Orchestra and Andrea Bocelli. This season, he leads Master Chorale of South Florida, orchestra, and guest artists through classical monoliths—Duruflé's *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*—as well as lighter fare for a program featuring selections from Broadway musicals.

Karlin is also the music director of the Broward Symphony Orchestra, a musical institution celebrating over 50 years of vibrant, inspiring performances of the symphonic repertoire. The 2017-18 Season will include four concert series featuring a diverse amount of repertoire from Handel and Vivaldi to Tchaikovsky and Sibelius.

In addition to these appointments, Karlin has maintained guest conducting engagements with a variety of choral and orchestral ensembles, including The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay and The Symphonia, held the position of chorus master for Florida Grand Opera, and mentored the next generation of classical musicians as the artistic director of Florida's Singing Sons, an internationally renowned, award-winning youth choir.

In 2009, he became the assistant conductor for Seraphic Fire, where he assisted with that ensemble's critically-acclaimed and 2012 Grammy-nominated CD, "A Seraphic Fire Christmas." Karlin also served as assistant chorus master and singer for the Professional Choral Institute's recording of the London version of Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, which received a 2012 Grammy nomination for "Best Choral Performance."

Karlin holds a Bachelor of Arts in Voice from Florida State University and Master of Music from University of South Florida. An avid lover of music from the Baroque era and historically informed performance (HIP), Karlin can be found tuning harpsichords and listening to J.S. Bach when not working with ensembles.

About The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay

Praised by music critics from both the Tampa Bay Times and the Tampa Tribune, as "one of the country's finest choirs," "an amazing instrument," and a "cultural treasure," The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay has consistently delivered some of the most profoundly-moving music performances in the Tampa Bay area.

The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay is an auditioned, highly-select 150-voice volunteer chorus embracing a broad representation of singers from the entire Tampa Bay area. The Master Chorale serves Tampa Bay and west central Florida with a mission to advance the art of choral music by performing great works of the past, commissioning and performing new literature and sharing the joy and power of choral music with new and existing audiences and singers.

The Master Chorale performs 15 - 25 concerts a year, serving approximately 25,000+ people annually. In addition to traditional concerts, the Chorale performs a variety of outreach activities throughout the Tampa Bay community. Furthermore, with internationally-distributed recordings and important commissions from renowned contemporary composers, the Chorale is consistently advancing the choral art form. Founded in 1979 by Dr. Robert Summer, The Master Chorale was later incorporated in 1988 as a 501(c)(3). Designated in 1986 as the Principal Chorus of The Florida Orchestra, The Master Chorale is featured annually on The Florida Orchestra's Masterworks season. In 1999, The Master Chorale was appointed as Artist in Residence at the College of the Arts School of Music at the University of South Florida.

Other appointed conductors during the history of The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay include James K. Bass, Jo-Michael Scheibe, Richard Zielinski and interim conductors include Daniel Moe, Duncan Couch, David Brunner, Joseph Holt, and Doreen Rao. The Master Chorale has performed and premiered many major symphonic choral works under the direction of such outstanding conductors as Jahja Ling, Robert Shaw, John Nelson, Julius Rudel, Sir Colin Davis, and Sir David Willcocks.