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*Lyric Fest – Connecting People Through Song*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

September 2009

**“FROM CHAMPAGNE – TO SIX PACK”**

**Lyric Fest Opens Its Seventh Season with Love Songs of Every Stripe**

Designed for the aficionado and novice alike, Lyric Fest is a unique musical offering in the city of Philadelphia, equally noted for scholarship and entertainment. The 2009-2010 programs will present a myriad of artists of national and international stature, brought together in the intimate setting of song, a pianist and a spoken word.

**“Four Hands – Warm Hearts”** opens the new season on **Friday, October 2nd at 8 pm** (Haverford College) and on **Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm** (The First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia) and will feature soloists Suzanne DuPlantis, Thomas Lloyd, Randi Marrazzo, Randall Scarlata, Benjamin Sosland and Elizabeth Weigle, with Harold Evans and Laura Ward on the piano.

The entire concert is programmed for an ensemble of solo voices, with all four-hand piano music. “The texts are all about the fun and foibles of love. While the music is delightful and sparkly, it presents lots of difficult challenges to the singers and pianists. But that makes it even more fun... performing it in such a way that the audience never knows the difference,” says pianist Laura Ward, co-founder of Lyric Fest.

Laura Ward and Harold Evans will share one keyboard to offer a lot of piano possibilities with the entire range of the instrument being used all at once.

Indeed, the program offers love songs of all shades and moods to please a crowd, from sublime to ridiculously funny. The Lyric Fest artists will perform the entire Brahms’ *Liebeslieder Waltzes* and the many surprising works they inspired in the 20<sup>th</sup> century like Lowell Liebermann’s *Appalachian Liebeslieder*, a humorous settings of Laren Stover’s *The Bombshell Manual of Style*, *Bohemian Manifesto: A Field Guide to Living on the Edge*, John Greer’s *Liebesleid-lieder* set to poems of Dorothy Parker, Leonard Bernstein’s *Arias and Barcarolles*, and John Corigliano’s *Liebeslied*.

The Friday night performance at Haverford College will have additional new singers: as part of the special relationship as a resident performing ensemble at Haverford College, a selected quartet from Haverford Singers (to be announced) will perform alongside the professionals in a selection of the Brahms waltzes. “Lyric Fest provides this unique opportunity in keeping with our desire to mentor young performers in the genre of classical vocal ensemble repertoire,” says Suzanne DuPlantis, co-founder of Lyric Fest.

The Lyric Fest’s season will continue with more upcoming programs:

***Moving Heaven and Earth - World Spirituality in Song***

Friday, October 30, 2009 at 7:30 PM, The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill;  
Sunday, November 1, 2009 at 3 PM, The First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia.

Featuring a World premiere of *Two Laudate Psalms* (set to Psalms 113 and 150, for a mezzo-soprano and girl choir) by **Kile Smith**, acclaimed Philadelphia composer, whose commission was made possible in part by grant from the Musical Fund Society. With Pennsylvania Girlchoir led by Mark Andersen.

***Biography in Music: William Shakespeare***

Thursday, November 12, 2009 at 8 PM, The University of Delaware - Center for the Arts. *Free Concert.*

Back by popular demand, Lyric Fest brings Shakespeare's life and works in song as his timeless verse threaded throughout 400 years of musical history. *Biography in Music: William Shakespeare* debuted in 2007.

***Biography in Music: Pyotr Illyich Tchaikovsky***

Saturday, February 27, 2010 at 5 PM, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church;  
Sunday, February 28, 2010 at 3 PM, The First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia.

Composer, poet and music critic, Tchaikovsky labored through nationalism, fiery relationships and mental turmoil to emerge as one of his era's most universally beloved and widely performed composers.

***Unplug!***

Saturday, May 22, 2010 at 3 PM, The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill  
Sunday, May 23, 2010 at 3 PM, The First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia

The annual children concert is always highly anticipated by kids and parents alike. The live sound and song journey through Philadelphia winds up with Richard Wargo's *The Music Shop*, a hilarious mini-opera. With Motet Choir of the Keystone State Boychoir directed by Steven Fisher.

**Tickets and Information:** Call 215-438-1702. Tickets can be pre-ordered by phone or purchased at the door. General \$20, Student \$5. Season Subscriptions now available at 15% off regular admission. For more information visit [www.LyricFest.org](http://www.LyricFest.org).

**Concert Venues Addresses:**

Haverford College, Roberts Hall, 370 Lancaster Avenue, Haverford, PA, 19041  
The First Presbyterian Church, 21st and Walnut Streets, Philadelphia, PA, 19103  
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, 625 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA, 19010  
The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill, 8855 Germantown Avenue, Chestnut Hill, PA, 19118  
The University of Delaware, Center for the Arts, Gore Recital Hall, Orchard Road, between Winslow Road and Kent Way, Newark, DE 19716.

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