



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
LOUISVILLEORCHESTRA.ORG + 502.587.8681

Heather O'Mara
+ Media Relations Manager
P: 502.561.7929
C: 502.797.8099
E: homara@louisvilleorchestra.org

The Louisville Orchestra Continues a Holiday Tradition with *Handel's Messiah*

Thursday, December 1, 2016 • 7:30PM • Cathedral of the Assumption
Friday, December 2, 2016 • 7:30PM • Harvey Browne Presbyterian Church
Saturday, December 3, 2016 • 7:30PM • St. John United Methodist Church

Kent Hatteberg, Conductor/Chorusmaster

Erin Keeseey, Soprano • Katherine Calcamuggio, Mezzo Soprano
Ricky Lynn Case, II, Tenor • Chad Sloan, Baritone
Louisville Chamber Choir

Louisville, KY (November 1, 2016) ... The Louisville Orchestra will present Handel's *Messiah* in three locations to celebrate the holidays. On Thursday, December 1 at 7:30PM, the traditional Christmas selections of the work will be performed at the Cathedral of the Assumption on South Fifth Street. A second performance on Friday, December 2 at 7:30PM is at a new location for the Louisville Orchestra, the Harvey Browne Presbyterian Church in Saint Matthews. A final presentation will take place on Saturday, December 3 at 7:30PM at St. John United Methodist Church in Prospect.

A classic of the season, Handel's *Messiah* has inspired music lovers around the world. Enjoy an exceptional performance as singers from the University of Louisville Chamber Choir join the LO under the direction of Dr. Kent E. Hatteberg.

General Admission tickets are \$35 and are available by calling 502.584.7777 or by visiting LouisvilleOrchestra.org.

Tickets will also be available at the door(s) one-hour prior to each performance. Cash or check preferred.

Thursday, 12/1/16 at 7:30PM Cathedral of the Assumption 433 S 5th St, Louisville, KY 40202

Friday, 12/2/16 at 7:30PM Harvey Browne Presbyterian Church, 311 Browns Lane, St. Matthews

Saturday, 12/3/16 at 7:30PM St. John United Methodist Church, 12700 W. US HWY. 42, Prospect

One of the most renowned pieces of English sacred music, Handel's *Messiah* has been performed across the world for more than 250 years. Composed in only three weeks, the work has undergone numerous revisions and re-orchestrations since its premiere performance in 1742. The work focuses on the central beliefs of Christianity from the Old Testament prophecies of the coming of the Messiah to the New Testament Gospel stories of the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Originally associated with Easter, *Messiah* has since become a Christmas tradition with only selected arias, recitatives, and choruses performed.

Composer George Frederic Handel, a German contemporary of Bach, personally conducted more than 30 performances of *Messiah*, many of which were benefits for the Foundling Hospital, of which Handel was a major benefactor. Handel's performances of *Messiah* raised so much money for charity that one biographer noted, "*Messiah* has fed the hungry, clothed the naked, fostered the orphan... more than any other single musical production in this or any country." Another wrote, "Perhaps the works of no other composer have so largely contributed to the relief of human suffering."

Major funding for the Louisville Orchestra is provided annually by the Fund for the Arts, the Kentucky Arts Council and the Association of the Louisville Orchestra.

###