

The Crossing Wins Prestigious ASCAP AWARD

Donald Nally's professional chamber choir recognized for Adventuresome Programming

Philadelphia, PA, June 13, 2009: The Crossing, a contemporary chamber choir, has received a prestigious ASCAP Programming Award. In a ceremony at Philadelphia's Penn's Landing Hyatt, Saturday morning, June 13, The Crossing was honored by Chorus America with the Chorus America/ASCAP award for Adventuresome Programming. The award was in the category of professional choirs and comes with a cash prize to support future programming.

Pulitzer-prize winning composer David Lang presented the award to conductor Donald Nally, noting The Crossing's world-class performances of music written in the last fifteen years and its mission to bring to Philadelphia audiences music to which they would otherwise not have access. The award was presented as part of Chorus America's National Conference, held in Philadelphia this past weekend, for which The Crossing was invited to sing the opening concert before a packed St. Peter's Church.

The award comes as the crown of The Crossing's Month of Moderns, a full month of concerts that attracted full houses and received wide and unanimous critical acclaim. All sung at the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill, the season included premieres of Kile Smith, David Shapiro, and Kirsten Broberg, and the local premieres of works by Erhard Karkoschka, Joby Talbot, John McCabe, Paul Fowler, and many more. Famed Danish composer Bo Holten attended the final concert, at which The Crossing sang his music.

The Crossing is the recipient of a Philadelphia Music Project grant that will support the commissioning and performances of three new works next summer by David Lang, Lansing McLoskey, and Paul Fowler. They will also give the local premiere of Lang's Little Match Girl Passion, the work that won the Pulitzer in 2008.



In addition to leading The Crossing, conductor Donald Nally is Chorus Master at Lyric Opera of Chicago and Music Director of Cincinnati's Vocal Arts Ensemble, a choir that also performs primarily new music. While living in Philadelphia in 2002, he received the Margaret Hillis Chorus America National Award for Excellence in Choral Music (the nation's highest award in choral music) for his work with the Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia.

The Crossing's first CD, Kile Smith's *Vespers* with Piffaro, the Renaissance Band, is featured this month in Gramophone magazine, with the accolade: *"The Crossing intones the chant-like passages well, but its expertise shines in the shimmering timbre it creates for Smith's contemporary counterpoint."*

Recent reviews are included in this document.

About The Crossing

The Crossing was founded in 2005 by Donald Nally and colleagues specifically to perform new and modern choral music. Since then The Crossing has been garnering accolades acclaiming the beauty and accuracy of its performances. The Crossing is comprised of individual singers from many cities who come together with a shared vision of sound and phrasing based upon years of singing together. Its prior critically-acclaimed concerts have included works by David Lang, Thomas Adès, Kaija Saariaho, Thomas Jennefelt, Jonathan Harvey, James MacMillan, Gabriel Jackson, Judith Bingham, Robert Convery, Jonathan Dove, Judith Weir, Henryk Gorecki, Philip Moore, Arvo Pärt, John Tavener, Herbert Howells, Bruno Bettinelli, Edwin Fissinger, Gian Carlo Menotti, Erhard Karkoschka, Tarik O'Regan, Thea Musgrave, Kenneth Leighton, Luigi Nono, and new works of David Shapiro, Kile Smith, Kirsten Broberg, and Benjamin C.S. Boyle.

For more information, visit www.CrossingChoir.com.

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The logo consists of the words "FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE" in a bold, white, serif font, stacked vertically. The text is set against a black rectangular background. A solid red horizontal bar is positioned at the bottom of the black rectangle.