

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
January 23, 2012

Contact: Megan Balderston  
[megan@chicagochorale.org](mailto:megan@chicagochorale.org)

**CHICAGO CHORALE AND  
THE SYMPHONY OF OAK PARK & RIVER FOREST AND CHORUS  
PRESENT BEETHOVEN *MISSA SOLEMNIS***

First performed in 1824, *Missa Solemnis* is often viewed as Beethoven's response to J.S. Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, a work Beethoven in fact never heard, but of which he was intensely aware. Composed at the same time as his *Ninth Symphony*, the *Missa* shares the *Symphony's* position at the final peak of Beethoven's compositional powers—his mastery allowed him to strive for expression beyond anything heard before it. This is powerful, transcendently beautiful music for orchestra, chorus and soloists. The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest and Chorus and Chicago Chorale return to Symphony Center under the baton of SOPRF Music Director Jay Friedman, and Chorus Director Bruce Tammen. Featured soloists include Marcy Stonikas, Tracy Watson, Kurt Hansen, and Peter Van De Graaff.

A pre-concert lecture will be presented by Carl Grapentine, host of WFMT's Morning Program, one hour prior to the concert.

**Monday, March 5, 7:30 pm**  
**Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Avenue**

Tickets are available by phoning the Symphony Center box office, 312-294-3000.  
Season subscribers will receive a 20% discount.

**ABOUT CHICAGO CHORALE**

Over the last ten years, Chicago Chorale has gained a reputation for sensitive, thought-provoking performances of great music throughout the city. Led by Artistic Director Bruce Tammen, the 60-voice ensemble performs repertoire from the sixteenth century to the present day, from well-loved choral works to overlooked masterpieces—but always music that stimulates and engages its singers and audiences. Past performances include appearances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Symphony of Oak Park and River Forest, and the Baroque Band. Chorale has appeared numerous times on "Live from WFMT" with host Kerry Frumkin and has recorded five CDs.

**ABOUT THE SYMPHONY OF OAK PARK & RIVER FOREST**

The **Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest**, founded in 1931, is one of the oldest continuing community symphony orchestras in the United States, and celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Season in 2005-2006. Jay Kenneth Friedman, principal trombone with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, has been Music Director since 1995. The Illinois Council of Orchestras has recognized the Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest with awards in 1998 (Programming of the Year), 1999 (Special Events of the Year), 2000 (Conductor of the Year), 2002 (Outstanding Community Relations), 2004 (General Manager of the Year) (Orchestra of the Year), and 2011 (Orchestra of the Year, Conductor of the Year). The orchestra consists of approximately 100 musicians from the Chicago metropolitan area. Over 85% are non-professional and volunteer their time and joy in making music. The Chorus of the Symphony of Oak Park and River Forest is under the direction of Bill Chin.

BRUCE TAMMEN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

1100 East 55th Street • Chicago, Illinois 60615 • 773.306.6195 • [info@chicagochorale.org](mailto:info@chicagochorale.org) • [www.chicagochorale.org](http://www.chicagochorale.org)

Chicago Chorale is a non profit 501(c)(3) organization.