

The New Crossroads of American Music

Press Release



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EMF PRESENTS THE NATIONALLY PRAISED: NORTHWEST BOYCHOIR!

Greensboro, NC- As one of the festival's most anticipated bonus concerts, EMF welcomes the highly acclaimed **Northwest Boychoir** conducted by **Joseph Crnko** to join its 2009 season. The choral ensemble will share their astonishing musical abilities in a special performance to be held on **Sunday, July 12, 2009 at 5pm** in the **First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro** (617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401). Tickets may be purchased for \$10 for adults and \$6 for children by calling the EMF Box Office at Triad Stage at 336.272.0160 or 866-579-TIXX, or online at www.EasternMusicFestival.org. This event is free for season ticket holders.

"It has been a great pleasure during my years as music director of the Seattle Symphony to often work with the Northwest Boychoir. They are a superb ensemble; wonderfully trained by their extremely gifted music director, Joseph Crnko. I actually go out of my way to try to find works that incorporate a boys choir so that I can work with these talented young men and they always have all of my support."

-Gerard Schwarz, Music Director, Eastern Music Festival and Seattle Symphony

The Northwest Boychoir, based in Seattle, is recognized all over the country for its discipline, tradition and unique musical endeavors. Having graced numerous stages over the last 36 years, it has served as an exceptional educational institution for many generations. Children start their musical instruction in the first grade, progressively increasing their training's difficulty in accordance to their age, talent and overall improvement. The intense regimen that surrounds the ensemble's educational philosophy, contributes to the development of responsible and talented individuals with a strong passion for music and the arts. Through this learning process combined with constant

performance exposure the boys acquire invaluable skills useful in the musical world, as well as their daily lives.

Tickets: Triad Stage Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579.TIXX or www.EasternMusicFestival.org.

*a service fee will apply

Discounts are available for full-time students with a valid ID, seniors aged 65 or older, and groups of 10 or more for most performances. Young Artists and EMF*kids* concerts offer family-friendly packages. Please call the box office about packages. This season most discounts will be available at the door. Discounts and gift certificates will not be accepted for concerts designated as special events.

**Dates, programs, venues, and artists are subject to change.*

The 2009 Eastern Music Festival season is sponsored in part by the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro, the North Carolina Arts Council, Lincoln Financial Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Southern Arts Federation, WFDD Triad Arts Station, Greensboro's News and Record, Continental Airways, Yes! Weekly, and Piedmont Music Center (Steinway Pianos).

For more information about EMF or its programs, please visit www.EasternMusicFestival.org, or call toll free: 1.877.833.6753

More about the Northwest Boychoir

The **Northwest Boychoir's** musical sophistication, rich tonal quality, dedication to exacting perfection, and extensive performance schedule have established its reputation as one of the nation's premier children's choirs. Its 150 members, ages 6-13, represent 115 diverse public and private schools in King County.

In its 36 years, the Northwest Choirs has trained thousands of young singers and more significantly, shaped the lives of its members by teaching important lessons in personal commitment, and the value of teamwork and diligence. Led by Joseph Crnko, now in his 26th year as music director, the Choir's staff of professional musicians and educators are engaged in the teaching of a rigorous curriculum that trains young singers to be fully-skilled musicians who sing at the highest professional level, read music fluently, and perform in professional settings with confidence.

Young boys, many of whom start their training in first grade, advance through four progressively graded levels of training before entering the Performing Choir, comprised of our most accomplished singers. Members move through the various training levels based on demonstrated ability. By the time members reach the Performing Choir, they have acquired the musical and performance skills needed to make them successful members of this elite group of performers.

The Northwest Boychoir provides a year-round program that includes regular twice-weekly rehearsals, a residential summer camp, a rigorous concert schedule, and a biannual international tour program.

More About Joseph Crnko

Joseph Crnko is in his 26th year as Music Director of the Northwest Choirs. During his tenure, the Northwest Choirs has grown from a small 50-member group with several concerts a year, to a vital arts organization of 200 members in seven progressively graded ensembles, an annual schedule of more than 40 concerts, a biannual international tour program, and a schedule of professional studio recording engagements. In this time, the Northwest Choirs has established itself as a prominent member of the Pacific Northwest performing arts community sharing the stage regularly with the Seattle Symphony, in addition to other area professional arts organizations.

Additionally, Mr. Crnko serves as Associate Conductor for Choral Activities with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra. In this capacity, he is responsible for the Seattle Symphony Chorale.

Mr. Crnko regularly conducts orchestral and choral recording sessions for movie and video game soundtracks. Among his many projects are the films *O, Boondock Saints*, *The Ringer* and *The Celestine Prophecy*, and such video games as *Halo*, *Medal Of Honor*, and *Age Of Mythology*. Prior to his work with the Northwest Choirs, Mr. Crnko served for five seasons as music director and conductor for Civic Light Opera in Seattle, conducting numerous productions. He has also served as music director for productions with Alaska Light Opera Theatre, Evergreen Theatre Conservatory, Seattle Children's Theatre, and the Professional Actors Training Program at the University of Washington. Mr. Crnko lives in Seattle with his wife, Wendee, and their two children, Katharine and Nick.

More about Eastern Music Festival

Now in its 48th year, the Eastern Music Festival & School is recognized for its prodigious contributions to the field of American music and its commitment to nurturing talented American and international youth through a collaborative learning process. The program brings together a cross-section of America's most sought-after artists with pre-professional students in a five-week schedule of 100 concerts and music-related events. **Music Director Gerard Schwarz** heads a distinguished list of participating artists scheduled for 2009, including **Peter Serkin, Sarah Chang, Horacio Gutiérrez, Nadja Salerno Sonnenberg, Xavier Phillips**, plus many others.

The Festival also produces a popular *EMFfringe* series of alternative programming, featuring everything from Americana to alt country, blues, jazz and gospel with artists such as **Mike Cross, The John Cowan Band, Laurelyn Dossett, Steep Canyon Rangers, Waybacks, The Chris Hicks Band**, blues artist **Larry McCray** and more. *EMFkids* offers camps and concerts with each uniquely designed to foster a love and knowledge for classical and non-classical music. This year's concerts are **Shana Banana** and **Dan Zanes**. *EMFjazz&blues* runs each spring and *EMF Fringe* on the Fall each

autumn. Season tickets on sale through June 27th (EMF*fringe* season tickets on sale through July 9th); single tickets on sale now. www.EasternMusicFestival.org; Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579-TIXX.

The Eastern Music Festival's mission is to promote musical enrichment, excellence, professional collaboration, innovation and diversity through a nationally-recognized teaching program, music festival, concerts and other programs which will enhance the quality of life, health and vitality of our region.

EMF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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