



Music Director: Ronald Royer



Artistic Director: Geoffrey Butler

MEDIA RELEASE - January 18, 2010

A musical collaboration on Russian masterworks

Toronto. ON - On Saturday, February 27th, the Scarborough Philharmonic and the Toronto Choral Society will present their first fully collaborative concert, ***A Celebration of Russian Music***, featuring Russian Romantic repertoire for chorus and orchestra. The program will include music by Tchaikovsky and Rimsky-Korsakov, Borodin's beloved *Polovtsian Dances*, as well as Khachaturian's brilliant *Spartacus Suite*. Baritone soloist Dion Mazerolle will join the ensemble for Rachmaninov's *Spring* cantata.

Founded in 1845, the 150-voice **Toronto Choral Society** is one of Toronto's longest-running community choirs. The **Scarborough Philharmonic** is a community orchestra with a professional core that is currently celebrating its 30th season. The TCS has been a guest of the SPO twice, for their December concerts in both 2008 and 2009. The February 2010 concert marks their first jointly-presented venture, as two established community ensembles further strengthen their musical friendship.

The concert will be conducted by the Music Directors of both ensembles: the SPO's newly appointed **Ronald Royer**, and **Geoffrey Butler** who has led the TCS since 1994. They will be joined by conductor **John Barnum**, a former Music Director of the Scarborough Philharmonic who held that position from 2006 to 2008. Maestro Barnum is one of several former conductors of the SPO who has been invited to return this season to mark the 30th anniversary of the orchestra.

The evening's repertoire will also include the world premiere of *Ascension* for orchestra by Toronto composer **Kevin Lau**, who was one of three composers commissioned by the SPO for their 30th anniversary season.

Tickets are available at the door, by calling the SPO box office at (416) 429-0007, or online at www.torontochoralsociety.org.

You can read more about the rest of the SPO's 30th anniversary Celebration Season at their newly-renovated website, www.spo.ca.

WHEN: Saturday, February 27th, 8:00 pm (pre-concert chat at 7:15)

WHERE: Birchmount Park, C.I., 3663 Danforth Ave., East of Birchmount
(free parking, wheelchair accessible)

TICKETS: Regular \$30 Seniors \$25 Youth \$10 **Group rates available**

BOX OFFICE: 416 429 0007 or online at www.torontochoralsociety.org

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