

# Chorus Lines

## Join Masterworks for Mozart's *Requiem*, May 14, 2011

When Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart passed away in 1791, leaving his now famous *Requiem* mass unfinished, it created a firestorm of conjecture concerning its genesis. Was Mozart blackmailed or bribed into the commission? Was there a plot against his life? How much of the work did he really complete? Should we even credit Mozart at all for this piece, or does the true authorship rest in someone else's hands? Musicians and scholars debated these issues so vehemently over the following decades that the practice of musicology became *en vogue* throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Starting with the *Requiem*, and continuing with other works by Mozart, Bach, Handel, and Vivaldi, many past pieces of music were re-discovered by current composers and aficionados. Many of these pieces were elevated to an almost sacred status as were the composers who wrote them. Consequently, public concerts began featuring more music by deceased composers rather than living ones. Competition for commissions and publications became fierce; not only were living composers competing with each other, but now they were living under the shadow of past composers who's music was flourishing with popularity.

Mozart's *Requiem*, in addition to being a masterwork of unsurpassed power and beauty, has had a monumental effect on music history. Our attitudes on preservation, authorship, interpretation, performance practice, and historical authenticity all begin within the pages of Mozart's sketches. Today many of the questions surrounding the *Requiem* are still unsolved. We may never know Mozart's true vision for the work, yet the mystery surrounding the music seems to augment its emotional impact on the listener. Masterworks Chorale has taken on the challenge of preparing this breathtaking piece with vigor. My hope is that our audience will find the performance as musically satisfying as it has been for us to prepare. We look forward to sharing this masterpiece with you.

Sincerely,  
Daniel C. Blosser



## MASTERWORKS ADDS NEW & RETURNING SINGERS

Masterworks Chorale's upcoming performance of Mozart's *Requiem* has attracted a number of new singers and several veteran choristers who have rejoined.

"I've always loved listening to the *Requiem*, even before *Amadeus*," says Donna Browne. "This is an opportunity to experience it from the other side, as a singer. The *Requiem* is one of those touchstone pieces that everyone who loves to sing should try to perform at least once."

We were also able to add some family members this time. Mark Mordue, husband of Mary Mordue, and Becca Durovey, daughter of Beth Davis, are singing.

Music professor Mordue had been looking forward to joining the chorale next fall after he and Mary, a long-standing member, retire, but he joined sooner because he thought it would be fun to sing the *Requiem*.

"I've never sung it before. I'm glad to do it, enjoying myself and looking forward to singing more next year," he says.

Mordue teaches tuba at Ball State University and performs with Muncie Symphony and Marion Philharmonic orchestras.

"I've been sitting by different people during (Masterworks) rehearsals," says Mordue. "The choir is good and there seems to be a large number of people wanting to sing this, so it was a good choice. I like Dan (Blosser) and his conducting style and his rehearsal schedule."

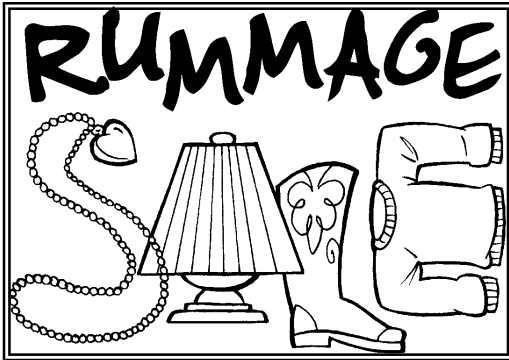
Mordue sang with Planet Earth Singers the last four years and served as choir president. Retirement will allow him to accommodate Masterworks' more demanding rehearsal schedule.

Judy Wagley, one of our longest-standing members, has returned and brought with her Susan McCollum. "I look forward to learning and performing this beautiful work with all of you," McCollum says.

Rehearsals for this performance give older singers an opportunity to polish the music and improve on the performance they gave under the direction of Bob Kvam. New singers can deepen their appreciation for Mozart's most popular work.

"It's wonderful to watch the parts interact on the page and to hear the voices swirling around you during rehearsal. The music evokes so many emotions - grief, terror, gratitude, hope - to illustrate the text and its prayers," adds Donna.

New singers are: Omar Academia, Leonard Atherton,, Jordan Brewer, Daniel Brinkman, Donna Browne, Andrew Crow, Becca Durovey, Tandy Jarboe, Susan McCollum, and Mark Mordue. Returning singers are Lee Formanek, Judy Wagley, and Alan Wilson, A warm welcome to all!



## Masterworks Rummage Sale

Saturday, May 21, 2011, 8 am-2pm  
Muncie Women's Center  
2501 W Jackson, Muncie

Guaranteed to be the best junk in town!

### Splinters from Board of Directors President, Sue Sponseller

Spring has finally sprung! After a long winter, we are filled with excitement to see the trees and the grass turn green. The flowers present themselves in all their glory.

This, also, is the time that Masterworks Chorale prepares for our spring concert. People from all walks of life - doctors, lawyers, nurses, teachers, pastors, homemakers, and administrative assistants - come together on Monday nights *to sing* and to make music together. We love music. Over the years we have shared our love of music with the community. If you have benefited from our concerts, we ask for your charitable contributions to keep our organization in operation. We thank you for your gifts and donations that you have graciously given to us over the years. We appreciate your sharing with us as we have shared with you. Thank you.

#### Mozart Myth:

The most famous myth surrounding Mozart's *Requiem* comes from a 19<sup>th</sup> century play, *Mozart and Salieri*, by Alexander Pushkin. It was made into an opera of the same name by Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov and was first performed 7-December-1898 in Moscow. The movie *Amadeus* which is based upon the opera was released in 1984.



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With Orchestra

Presents

## **Mozart's Requiem**

Saturday, May 14, 2011  
Sursa Hall, Ball State University  
Pre-Concert Lecture 6:30 pm  
Performance 7:30 pm

Tickets: Adult \$12, Senior \$10, Students & Children - Free  
(765) 286-5347 x22  
[www.4masterworks.org](http://www.4masterworks.org)