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UCHS Women's Choir Performs Major Works with The Saint Louis Chamber Chorus

Highlights Include Performances of Centuries Old Works and "Alleluia Amen," a Commissioned Work by Haitian-American composer, Sydney Guillaume

St. Louis, MO (March 28, 2018) -- On Sunday, April 8, at 3 p.m., The Saint Louis Chamber Chorus (TSLCC) will welcome the University City High School (UCHS) Women's Choir to perform a composition of select works in the Chamber's "The Time of Our Lives." The concert will be held at the Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church (5020 Rhodes Ave., St. Louis, 63109). Tickets are available at www.chamberchorus.org at a cost of \$30 for adults and \$10 for students.

The first collaboration of the evening is a performance of the cantata, "A Pageant of Human Life," by British composer Sir Granville Bantock. Reflecting the season's theme, *Dance To the Music of Time*, Bantock's piece explores the cycle of life from childhood through death, which prompted the Chamber Chorus to partner with a youth choir. According to TSLCC Executive Director Laura Frank, "The Bantock piece lends itself to this type of collaboration as it explores different stages of life. The University City High School Women's Choir will sing the sections of the piece representing youth."

Both choirs are practicing independently and will come together for rehearsals under the direction of Philip Barnes, artistic director for TSLCC. The same two choral forces will be heard in the world premiere of, "Alleluia Amen," commissioned for this concert from the Haitian-American composer, Sydney Guillaume, who will be flying to St. Louis for the occasion.

UCHS Choir Director **Caroline Ibnabdeljalil**, who has performed with the Chamber Chorus since 2006, said, "When Phillip approached me about this opportunity, I was thrilled for our students and a bit nervous! It's been wonderful teaching and watching these young women grow as musicians this past season and I am excited for them to have this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to sing with one of the world's finest a capella choirs."

Frank explained, "It's unusual to have three professionals from a school district performing in the choir. In addition to Caroline, teachers **Bria Jones** and **Darby Dachroeden** will also be singing. It really speaks to the quality of the District's music program."

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"That's significant because music, unlike soccer or baseball, is something you carry with you your whole life." Frank added, "In this concert, the students will perform alongside adults from a wide range of professions including teachers, doctors and lawyers - music is something they can share with each other as well as with the audience members. The students will also see that music can be a companion for life; it can carry them through many phases and stages."

Performing alone, the Chamber Chorus will reprise an earlier commission by Judith Bingham. "The Shepherdes Calender" examines sin and forgiveness through the backdrop of the changing seasons. The audience will also hear three new reconstructions of double choir motets (sacred choral works) by Gabriele Fattorini. This concert will mark the first performance of this music in four centuries. Previously unperformed because of missing or damaged parts, local musicologist Dr. Craig Monson has created an entirely new soprano part to compensate for the lost works.

The Saint Louis Chamber Choir performances are made possible by The Missouri Arts Council with support from the Regional Arts Commission. Artistic collaborations in season 62 are made possible by the E. Reuben and Gladys Flora Grant Charitable Trust. This event represents the Chamber Chorus' fifth performance of the season.

Join the Saint Louis Chamber Chorus as it celebrates "The Time of Our Lives" on Sunday, April 8, at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church. Parking is free and available in a large lot behind the church. Tickets are on sale now for \$10 for students and \$30 for adults. For more information about the concert, and to purchase tickets, visit the Chamber Chorus' website at www.chamberchorus.org or call [636-458-4343](tel:636-458-4343).

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