North Coast Chorale sings 'The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace'

Weekend concerts include photo collaboration with LightBox gallery

ASTORIA — The North Coast Chorale will present two concerts featuring Karl Jenkins' "The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace" this weekend.

In collaboration with LightBox Photographic Gallery, the performances will include projected photo montages.

The concerts

The performances take place at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 21 and at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 22 at the Clatsop Community College Performing Arts Center, located at 588 16th St. A reception for photographer Friderike Heuer will be held immediately before the Sunday program at 1 p.m.

Tickets are \$15, and children 12 and under are

free with an adult. Thanks to a grant from the Clatsop County Cultural Coalition, the performance will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra.

The North Coast Chorale is dedicating the performances to victims of terrorism, with thanks to those who work to keep peace. The concerts are also in memory of Ann Goldeen, who loved singing with the chorale.

"The Armed Man" was commissioned by the U.K. Royal Armories Museum and dedicated to the victims of the Kosovo uprising. The piece, first performed in 2000, is one of Jenkins' most popular works; by March 2008 it had already seen 537 performances worldwide.

Between the musical elements of the mass are songs that take the listener through the successive stages of war: from menace, preparation and heroic fight to horror and death to resignation and new hope. The opening

movement takes listeners in a marching tempo straight into the army preparing for battle. Prayers of the three Abrahamic religions are presented successively: a Muslim "Call to Prayers," the Christian "Kyrie," which means "Lord have mercy," and the Judaic prayer "Save Me from Bloody Men."

The text of "The Armed Man" includes excerpts from religious and historical sources, such as the Islamic call to prayer and the Bible, as well as excerpts from secular writings by Rudyard Kipling, Jonathan Swift, John Dryden, Alfred Lord Tennyson, and Sankichi Toge, who survived the Hiroshima bombing. Woodwinds, brass instruments, bells and percussion provide the backdrop for the singers.

In addition to Jenkins' piece, the chorale will also perform "The Hour Has Come" by Srul Irving Glick, which speaks of love toward all mankind. Born in 1934 and having died



SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Benedictus," a photographic montage by Frederike Heuer.

in 2002, Glick was one of Canada's most prominent composers as well as being a radio producer, conductor and teacher. Glick's music continues to be performed regularly at home, in the U.S. and abroad. His integration of contemporary music, Hebraic lyricism and classical composition

techniques, formed into a masterful character-filled music that is both dramatic and lyrical, won him considerable acclaim.

A Collaboration with LightBox

LightBox Photographic Gallery fostered a collaboration between the North Coast Chorale and photographer Frederike Heuer. To accompany the performances of "The Armed Man," Heuer created 13 dynamic pieces of art; the framed photographic montages will be exhibited in the lobby of the PAC before and after the weekend performances for audiences to see up close.

The montages will also be projected during the movements of the musical piece during the concert.

Much of Heuer's work has been centered on issues of social justice, war and displacement.

"I have often created 'translations' from text to images," Heuer said. "Providing images for a musical piece that focuses on the ravages of war and urges us towards peace was the perfect fit.

"As ('The Armed Man') unfolds, it brings the listener closer and closer to the devastation wrought by war, the emotional emptiness and trauma that comes with loss and being a victim as much as with being part of the perpetrating forces. It ends with appeals to hope, with a belief that we can and must pursue peace and that memory of the suffering must be kept alive to avoid repetition of warfare."

Born in Germany, Heuer immigrated to the U.S. in 1981. After a career as a cognitive psychologist, she has been concentrating on photography and photomontage work for the last decade.

"My montages are computer-processed images that overlay photographs all taken by me in recent years here and in Europe," she said. "I feel strongly that art can and must shape our minds as much as our souls, and I hope that the combination of visual images and beautiful music will contribute to our pursuit of peace."

For more information about Heuer, visit www. friderikeheuer.com or follow her on her blog at www. heuermontage.com



