

## 2012 NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMISSIONED COMPOSERS

*The members of the Worship Committee for the 2012 National Convention are proud to announce the composers who are commissioned to write new works for the worship services.*

### DAVID CONTE



David Conte (b. 1955) is currently Professor of Composition and Conductor of the Conservatory Chorus at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He has received commissions from Chanticleer, the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, the Dayton, Oakland and Stockton Symphonies, the American Guild of Organists, Sonoma City Opera and the Gerbode Foundation. Conte has composed five operas: *The Dreamers*; *The Gift of the Magi*; *Firebird Motel*; and *America Tropical*; (these last two commissioned by San Francisco theater company Thick Description, for whom Conte has been Composer-In-Residence since 1991); and *Famous*, based on the book "Famous for 15 Minutes—My Years with Andy Warhol" by Ultra Violet. He is also the composer of a musical, *The Passion of Rita St. James*, produced at the SF Conservatory in 2003. *The Gift of the Magi* has been produced by the Asheville Lyric Opera, Winnipeg Opera, Muddy

River Opera Company, Greenburg American Opera, and Opera South. He has also composed songs for singers Barbara Bonney, Thomas Hampson and Phyllis Bryn-Julson. His work is represented on many commercial CD recordings.

A Fulbright Scholar in Paris with Nadia Boulanger, a Ralph Vaughan Williams Fellow and an Aspen Music Festival Conducting Fellow, Conte earned his Bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University, where he studied with Ruth Inglefield and Wallace DePue, and his Master's and Doctoral degrees from Cornell University where he studied with Karel Husa, Robert Palmer, Steven Stucky and Thomas Sokol. In 1982, Conte worked with Aaron Copland preparing a study of the composer's sketches. He has taught at Cornell University, Keuka College, Colgate University and Interlochen. With composer Todd Boekelheide, Conte co-wrote the film score for the documentary *Ballets Russes*, shown at the Sundance and Toronto Film Festivals in 2005, (now available on DVD), and composed the music for the PBS documentary, "Orozco: Man of Fire" in 2006, shown on the American Masters Series in the fall of 2007. His composition *The Nine Muses* was commissioned by the American Choral Director's Association for their National Convention and was premiered on March 8, 2007 in Miami.

### ELEANOR DALEY



Born and raised in Parry Sound, Ontario, Eleanor Daley received her Bachelor of Music Degree in Organ Performance from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and holds diplomas in piano and organ from the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, and Trinity College, England. She has been the Director of Music at Fairlawn Avenue United Church (formerly Fairlawn Heights) in Toronto, Ontario, since 1982. During this time, she has established a thriving choral program for which much of her music has been composed, thanks to the continuing support and talent of her choirs.

A prolific composer, Eleanor has a remarkable gift for melody. Her works are most notable for their sensitive interweaving of text and music. She has over 100 published choral compositions and is commissioned extensively throughout North America. Included in her unpublished choral works are dozens of anthems, twelve *Missae Breves*, three pageants, and hundreds of descants, introits, and psalm settings. Her compositions have been widely performed, recorded, and aired throughout North America, Great Britain, Europe, South Africa, and the Far East. Her works are published by 11 publishing houses in Canada, the United States and Great Britain, including Oxford University Press (US and UK), Alliance Music Publications Inc., Hinshaw Music, Rhythmic Trident Publishing, the Royal Canadian College of Organists, Santa Barbara Music Publishing Inc., Treble Clef Press, and Walton Music.

*Rose Trilogy*, commissioned by the ORIANA Women's Choir of Toronto, received the National Choral Award for Outstanding Choral Composition of the Year in 2004. *Requiem*, recorded by the Amadeus Choir

of Toronto in 2000 on their CD, *Songs of the Spirit*, received the same honour in 1994. The CD won the National Choral Award for Outstanding Recording in 2002, all awards being given by the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors (ACCC).

Commissioned works for Canadian Choirs include the Elmer Iseler Singers, the Amadeus Choir, the Bach Children's Chorus, the Toronto Children's Chorus, the Amabile Youth Singers, St. Marys Children's Choir, the Cantabile Singers of Kingston, the Savridi Singers, the Vancouver Men's Chorus and the Victoria Scholars, as well as numerous other community and church choirs. Eleanor was commissioned by the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) to write a choral work for the 2008 Regional Conventions- the first Canadian composer to have received this honour. Other US commissions include the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay, Florida, Texas Women's University Choir, the Alliance World Festival of Women's Singing in Salt Lake City, and the Texas Choral Directors Association. She has also written works for choirs in other states, including New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Kentucky, and Missouri. European commissions include the Norbusang Festival in Bodo, Norway, the Touch the Future Festival in Germany, and Oxford University Press in Cambridge, England. Eleanor was invited to be the first Composer-in-Residence at the international choral festival, FESTIVAL 500, in July 2005, in St. John's, Newfoundland.

As well as being a highly respected choral clinician in Canada and the US, Eleanor is a busy freelance accompanist. She has worked with numerous choirs, including the Toronto Children's Chorus, the Elmer Iseler Singers, the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, the Guelph Youth Singers, and St. Marys Children's Choir. She has been the accompanist for The Bach Children's Chorus, under Linda Beaupre's direction since 1995, and was the accompanist for the Amadeus Choir, under Lydia Adams' direction, from 1991-2005.

The CD, *Canticle to the Spirit*, now in its fourth printing, was released to critical acclaim in November 2000. It features 23 original compositions, sung by the choirs of Fairlawn Avenue (formerly Fairlawn Heights). A second CD entitled *What Sweeter Music*, featuring 21 of Eleanor's Christmas choral compositions (also sung by her church choirs and currently in its third printing), was released in November 2003.