



### ***About Albany Pro Musica***

Albany Pro Musica (APM) is the preeminent choral ensemble in New York's vibrant Capital Region, and is renowned for its distinctive artistic style and its mastery of a wide range of musical genres. Critically acclaimed for its performances and recordings of intimate *a cappella* pieces and large-scale choral works alike, APM is led by Artistic and Executive Director Dr. José Daniel Flores-Caraballo and is Chorus-in-Residence at the historic Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. Maestro Flores-Caraballo has led APM since 2014 and has elevated the ensemble through ambitious programming, prestigious national and international collaborations, a renewed commitment to civic and educational engagement, and a bold vision for the future.

### ***Locally and Internationally Celebrated***

Albany Pro Musica's reputation as a world-class chorus attracts large, diverse audiences who encourage newer, bolder projects to satisfy their growing desire for exposure to a rich choral repertoire. It's also a draw for distinguished guest conductors, soloists, and composers, including composer-in-residence Ola Gjeilo, who has joined APM for the 2017-2020 seasons through a series of concerts, premieres, and commissioned works. In addition to long-standing hometown collaborations with the Albany Symphony Orchestra, the Musicians of Ma'alyck, the Capital District Youth Chorale, and others, APM has developed exciting new relationships with numerous internationally renowned musicians and ensembles, including Canadian Brass, the American String Quartet, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the New York City Ballet at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC), and—new in the 2018-19 season—the Vienna Boys Choir, New York City-based baroque ensemble ACRONYM, and the Puerto Rican chorus Camerata Coral.

### ***Voices Capturing the Human Spirit at the Intersection of Creativity and Excellence***

Albany Pro Musica is now in its fourth decade as a driving musical force in the Capital Region, the Northeast, and beyond. At the heart of Albany Pro Musica is the vital realization that choral music at its best is not merely entertainment but rather a transformational and emotional experience for performers and audiences alike. This perspective is reflected in Artistic Director Dr. Flores-Caraballo's vision for APM, which balances exceptional technical competency, exquisite artistry, and purposeful programming that is relevant and meaningful in today's society.

Under the leadership of Dr. Flores-Caraballo, APM is continuing to push the boundaries of choral performance in the area, embracing challenging musical programming and innovative new partnerships that elevate the ensemble to new heights. Dr. Flores-Caraballo has laid out a bold plan for APM's next three seasons that includes the premieres of commissioned works by composer-in-residence Ola Gjeilo; concerts in Boston, New York City, and Vermont; new civic events and partnerships; and the inaugural, week-long [Pro Musica International Choral Festival](#) in partnership with the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts at Queen's University in Ontario, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC), and in collaboration with the University at Albany.

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As a trained organist as well as a celebrated orchestral and choral conductor, Dr. Flores-Caraballo places a strong emphasis on technical precision as the fundamental seed from which musical artistry can grow. He is known for his integrity in stylistic performance of choral literature, his methodical and uncompromising approach to music learning, and his gifts as a patient and inspiring teacher; he brings that unique combination to APM along with an ambitious and energizing mission to ultimately position APM as one of the nation's top choral groups.

## ***Our Season***

Albany Pro Musica's core Concert Chorus is composed of 64 auditioned volunteer singers from several counties and states. For large choral and orchestral masterworks, the group expands to more than 100 singers, the Albany Pro Musica Masterworks chorus, and is joined by the instrumentalists of Orchestra Pro Musica. Albany Pro Musica offers four series concerts each season, including "Artist Series" concerts which bring world-renowned artists and ensembles to share the stage with APM; "Masterworks Series" performances of oratorios and other large-scale choral works with orchestra; and an annual Christmas program, which has quickly become a new holiday tradition for the region. Each season is deliberately curated to include classical masterpieces from the choral canon, new compositions from modern and contemporary composers, and popular selections from the worlds of Broadway, traditional, folk music, and more.

During the 2018-2019 season, APM's Concert Chorus will present the Artist Series concert "Bach Bliss" with ACRONYM and the Boy Choristers of The Cathedral of All Saints (Oct. 21, 2018); "The Many Moods of Christmas" with Orchestra Pro Musica (Dec. 9, 2018); "The Americas, Land of Many Cultures" with Camerata Coral (Mar. 3, 2019); and the Masterworks Series concert "Mozart's Grand Mass in C" with a world-premiere performance of a newly commissioned work for chorus and string orchestra by Ola Gjeilo (May 5, 2019). In addition to the four subscription concerts that make up APM's regular season, the group will offer several special performances during the year, including Holst's "The Planets" with the Philadelphia Orchestra at SPAC (Aug. 3, 2018); the "Music in the Barn" season preview event (Sep. 16, 2018); Britten's monumental "War Requiem" with the Albany Symphony Orchestra in honor of the centenary of the 1918 Armistice that ended World War I (Nov. 10, 2018); a holiday-themed "Victorian Stroll" (Dec. 2, 2018); the annual High School Choral Festival with guest composer and conductor Brad Ellingboe (Jan. 27, 2019); and an exciting musical collaboration with The Vienna Boys Choir (Apr. 3, 2019).

## ***Our Commitment to Education***

Music education is one of APM's pillars, and the organization's educational programs have made a mark on the lives of more than 3,500 young students in the Capital Region and beyond. APM's annual ***High School Choral Festival*** brings together hundreds of gifted musicians from regional high schools for an intensive day of rehearsal and performance with Maestro Flores-Caraballo as well as a guest composer or conductor of national prominence. The day culminates with a fun-filled concert that showcases each individual ensemble and is crowned by a grand finale, in which all the students join the voices of Albany Pro Musica's Concert Chorus on stage for a festival chorus performance. APM also offers highly selective ***youth apprenticeships***

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each year, providing a unique opportunity to talented high school students to sing and train with a professional-caliber ensemble. The group hosts *vocal and instrumental masterclasses* for high school students throughout the year, and APM's *composer-in-residence program* allows students to engage with distinguished visiting composers, conductors, and performers. In 2020, APM will partner with the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts at Queen's University in Ontario, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and SPAC, in collaboration with Skidmore College and the University at Albany, to offer the inaugural, week-long *Pro Musica International Choral Festival*; the festival represents the group's largest educational offering to-date and will be an opportunity for students and adults from across the United States and Canada to study and perform with distinguished faculty and world-class musicians.

## *Our History*

Albany Pro Musica was founded in 1981 by University at Albany Distinguished Professor Dr. David Griggs-Janower, who created a community chorus capable of performing at a professional level. He remained the group's Artistic Director until his passing in August 2013. After an extensive national search, Dr. José Daniel Flores-Caraballo succeeded Griggs-Janower as Artistic and Executive Director in August 2014. Dr. Flores-Caraballo came to Albany Pro Musica with an ambitious vision to build upon the group's impressive and cherished legacy and elevate APM to be among the best choirs in the nation.

APM has made numerous recordings and was one of only 16 choruses selected for inclusion on the 2005 National Public Radio (NPR) CD *Christmas Around the Country*. In 2004 APM collaborated with the Albany Symphony Orchestra and composer Michael Torke to record the opera *Strawberry Fields* for mass distribution. The group has toured nationally and internationally, including to France in honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day at Omaha Beach, and to the Czech Republic, Spain, and Ireland.

Albany Pro Musica has commissioned numerous works from American composers and premiered masterpieces such as Bristow's *Oratorio of Daniel* and Handel's *Oratorio of Esther*. Under the composer-in-residence program launched by Dr. Flores-Caraballo, APM has expanded the group's library of commissioned works, sponsoring new compositions by celebrated local, national, and international composers including Steven Murray, Donald McCullough, and Ola Gjeilo. As the premier chorus in the region, APM is frequently invited to sing at high-profile events such as gubernatorial inaugurations, civic celebrations, and on stage with Judy Collins, Kenny Rogers, and Andrea Bocelli. APM continues to introduce local audiences to challenging and bold choral repertoire, including Frank Martin's *a cappella* "Mass for Double Choir," the New York State premiere of the "Requiem" by Raymond Torres, entire concerts devoted to musical theater, innovative programs including art forms such as visual arts and dance, and a powerful multimedia presentation of Karl Jenkins' "The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace."