

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Note: Both high resolution photos of The Lyric Consort and the complete text of this release can be downloaded from the "Pressroom" page at [www.lyricconsort.com](http://www.lyricconsort.com)*

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### Lyric Consort to Sing Two 20<sup>th</sup> Century Requiems

*Rarely-Heard Gems of Hebert Howells and Eleanor Daley*

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WILKES-BARRE/SCRANTON, PA – The Lyric Consort, northeast Pennsylvania’s critically acclaimed professional vocal ensemble, will continue its 2015-2016 concert season on **Saturday, April 2nd at 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church of Scranton.** The program, entitled *I Heard a Voice from Heaven*, will feature two rarely-heard and related acappella choral masterworks of the past century, the 1932 *Requiem* of the English master, Herbert Howells and the 1993 *Requiem* of the noted Canadian composer, Eleanor Daley. Smaller works by Sir Edward Elgar, Edwin Fissinger, and Frank Ticheli will complete the program.

The direct inspiration for Daley’s *Requiem* was a performance of the Howell’s work, which she heard for the first time in 1992. Howell’s composed his *Requiem* in 1932 but did not share it with the public until the 1980s, perhaps because the tragic loss of his young son to polio in 1935 led him to rework most of its material in his much longer *Hymnus Paradisi* for chorus, soloists, and large orchestra, a work he acknowledged as the musical expression of his grief and similarly kept private for over a decade. In composing her *Requiem*, Daley followed Howells’s model in blending texts from the traditional Latin funeral mass with others from Anglican and Russian liturgies, but also included contemporary and highly personal poetry written in memory of Bronwen Wallace, a noted and beloved Canadian poet who died under quite tragic

circumstances at a young age. Daley's work was named the Outstanding Choral Work of 1994 by the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors.

General Admission is \$10.00 for all adults, with children age 18 and under admitted free-of-charge. Tickets are readily available at the door and a reception will follow.

Formed in 1993, to explore the myriad riches of the world's acappella traditions, the Lyric Consort maintains an annual concert series in Scranton and has performed throughout the northeast United States as members of the Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour program. The ensemble also offered many of its early performances at St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral and has been heard many times on the "Music from St. Stephen's" program of WVIA-FM. Members of the Consort include; Dr. Alan Baker, artistic director/tenor; Lisa Cardoni, alto; Francis McMullen, bass; Christopher Gallo, bass; Martina Barna, soprano; Carol McMullen, alto; Dr. Steven Thomas, tenor; and Leslie Mason Moran, soprano.

This program is supported by state arts funding through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. This Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts program is managed regionally by the Pocono Arts Council. The concert is also generously supported by a Lackawanna County Community Arts and Culture Grant, a program of Lackawanna County Commissioners Patrick M. O'Malley, Jerry Notarianni, and Laureen A. Cummings.

For more information on The Lyric Consort, visit the website at [www.lyricconsort.com](http://www.lyricconsort.com) or call at (570) 343-6707.

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