

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Saint Mary and Benedictine Concert Chorales Combine Vocal Forces for Handel's 'Messiah'

3 p.m. Sunday, April 3, Annunciation Chapel

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The talented concert chorales of the University of Saint Mary and Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan.,—featuring the soaring sound of 100 voices—will perform two parts of Handel's *Messiah* for this year's joint Spring Oratorio at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 3, in Annunciation Chapel on USM's Leavenworth campus, 4100 South 4th Street.

The concert is free and open to the public.

The Spring Oratorio is an annual tradition for USM and Benedictine dating back over 20 years. As part of the ongoing program, the concert chorales of the two schools work together on joint performances of works from the major oratorio repertoire. The concert is performed on each school's respective campus each spring.

The 2011 choir performance of Parts II and III of *Messiah* will be conducted by Dr. William Krusemark, chair of the fine arts department at the University of Saint Mary. Dr. Krusemark's sister, Dr. Ruth Krusemark of Benedictine, will accompany on organ.

The program will involve several area soloists, including Jenna Schwinn, Brittney Atchison, Ryan Harris-Hernandez, Briana Janas, and Starian Porchia.

"We include solos and duets sung by students of both schools, and ten of the immortal choruses of the *Messiah*, culminating in the 'Hallelujah Chorus,'" said Dr. William Krusemark. "It's a majestic piece of music, and one every college student should be exposed to in their career."

Contact Dr. Krusemark at (913) 682-5151, ext. 6460, or email krusemarkw@stmary.edu for more information.

The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu for more information.

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