



Department of Music

February 10, 2012

(909) 607-2671

MILLENNIUM CONSORT SINGERS AND POMONA COLLEGE CHOIR PERFORM PREMIERE BY TOM FLAHERTY

The acclaimed **Millennium Consort Singers** under the direction of Grammy Award nominee **Martin Neary**, former organist and master of choristers at Westminster Abbey, returns to Pomona College to join the Pomona College Choir on **Saturday, February 18 at 8 p.m.**, in Bridges Hall of Music (150 E. Fourth St., Claremont). The water-themed concert is free and open to the public.

The program, underwritten by the Mellon Elemental Arts Initiative at Pomona College, features selections staying with this year's initiative focus of water. Highlighting the program is the premiere of Tom Flaherty's new work *Water Ruminations*, composed for and performed by both ensembles. Flaherty says of the work, "The text comes from a lovely setting of six poems by the 13th-century poet Rumi, in English translations by Coleman Barks, and I've set them to music for double choir and organ. The poetry sings of literal and spiritual connections between water and sky, a drop of water and human life, flowing water and love, drinking water and its container, the giddiness of spring and rolling seas, and the ocean's gifts and singing."

The program also offers choral works from an early piece by Thomas Morely to 19th-century composers Herbert Howells, Frederick Delius, Stanford and Vaughan Williams, to contemporary composers Michael Tippett, Orange County-based composer J.A.C. Redford and Pomona College composer Tom Flaherty. Additionally, organist Edward Murray will offer a couple of solo pieces.

The Millennium Consort Singers were founded in 2007 and their premiere performance was given at St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Los Angeles in April of that same year, and have since performed throughout the Los Angeles area. The *Los Angeles Times* praised their performance as "vividly conveyed...effortlessly spanned the centuries...and [Neary's] gifted consort took the audience back to the future." Among the Consort's singers is Donna M. Di Grazia, Pomona College professor of music.

Neary, who is based in London, was hailed by the *L.A. Weekly* as "an institution in his own right." Among his many accolades is an appointment by the Queen of England as Lieutenant of the Royal Victoria Order, in appreciation of Neary directing the music for Princess Diana's funeral. He reprised that role in the critically acclaimed film *The Queen*. Neary's numerous recordings include the Grammy-nominated CD *Music for Queen Mary—Henry Purcell*. He has led the Winchester Cathedral and Westminster Abbey choirs on tours worldwide—from Carnegie Hall to the Kremlin—introducing audiences to works by contemporary British composers.

The Pomona College Choir, under the direction of Di Grazia, boasts a membership of between 70 and 90 auditioned singers per semester, with student, faculty and staff representatives from each of the Claremont Colleges. Its repertoire includes Western classical art music from all historical periods, with a certain focus on large choral masterworks. Recent and especially memorable performances have included Handel's *Messiah*, Brahms's *Ein deutsches Requiem*, Berlioz's *Grande Messe des morts*, Bach's *Christ lag in Todesbanden*, Mozart's *Mass in C minor (K. 427)* and *Requiem*, Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Orff's *Carmina burana* and Verdi's *Requiem*.

Further program details are below. For more information, call: (909)-607-2671; e-mail: concerts@pomona.edu; or visit: www.music.pomona.edu.

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**February 18, 2012
Millennium Consort Singers Program:**

<i>Hard by the crystal fountain</i>	Thomas Morley
<i>Napili Bay, 2 pm</i>	J. A. C. Redford
<i>Like as the hart</i>	Herbert Howells
Chorale prelude: <i>Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kamm</i> ^o	Johann Sebastian Bach
<i>To be sung of a summer night on the water I</i>	Frederick Delius
<i>The Bluebird</i>	Charles Villiers Stanford
<i>Full fathom five</i>	Vaughan Williams
<i>Water Ruminations</i> ^{*^}	Tom Flaherty
<i>Naiades</i> ^o	Louis Vierne
<i>At Twilight</i>	Percy Grainger
"Shenandoah" <i>Sea Chanty Settings</i>	Grainger
"Deep River" from <i>Five Negro Spirituals</i> [^]	Michael Tippett

* *world premiere*

^o *Organ selection*

[^] *with the Pomona College Choir*