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DATE: OCTOBER 21, 2004
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MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA AND MINNESOTA CHORALE ANNOUNCE PRINCIPAL CHORUS RELATIONSHIP

New title affirms longtime partnership between Orchestra and Chorale

Kathy Saltzman Romey to become choral advisor to the Minnesota Orchestra

The Minnesota Orchestra and Minnesota Chorale announced today that the Chorale will become principal chorus of the Minnesota Orchestra, with Chorale Artistic Director Kathy Saltzman Romey becoming choral advisor to the Orchestra, effective immediately. The Minnesota Chorale, a 33-year choral institution serving the Twin Cities, has offered hundreds of performances with the Minnesota Orchestra since the Chorale's inception, but the relationship between the two independent arts organizations has never before been formalized. The Minnesota Chorale has been under the artistic leadership of Kathy Saltzman Romey since 1995.

"The Minnesota Orchestra and Minnesota Chorale have been partners for many years, and this is our way of emphasizing the importance of our relationship," said Minnesota Orchestra Music Director Osmo Vänskä. "The Orchestra is fortunate in that we can present virtually any great work for chorus and orchestra because we have a highly professional chorus and expert choral leader as our artistic partners. Not every symphony orchestra has this resource, and we must not take it for granted." Romey's new title reflects the longtime role she has played with the Orchestra as a key artistic advisor on choral works.

The Minnesota Chorale first appeared with the Minnesota Orchestra in a 1972 performance of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, conducted by Henry Charles Smith. Since that auspicious debut, the Chorale has been a regular collaborator with the Orchestra for many masterworks, including Beethoven's Symphony No. 9,



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Handel's *Messiah* and Verdi's *Requiem*. Together, they have presented such contemporary works as Michael Tippett's *A Child of our Time* and Aaron Jay Kernis's *Garden of Light*. In November 2002, the Minnesota Orchestra and Chorale gave the world premiere performance of John Tavener's *Ikon of Eros*, which was recorded and released on the Reference Recordings label. 2004-05 season highlights include Bach's *Magnificat* and Mozart's *Mass in C minor* under acclaimed choral conductor Helmuth Rilling (November 4 & 5) and Britten's *War Requiem* with Osmo Vänskä, the Minnesota Orchestra and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (April 7 & 8).

"This new designation marks the latest stage in a landmark choral-orchestral partnership between the Chorale and the Orchestra that has extended over more than 30 years," remarked Chorale Executive Director Camille Kolles, "and heralds the Chorale's plans to serve the community even more broadly by becoming a choral resource for the entire state."

"Given the Chorale's central place in the Twin Cities musical culture and our close collaboration with the Orchestra," Kolles continued, "it's only fitting that Kathy Romey be named the Minnesota Orchestra's new choral advisor, formalizing a long-standing informal relationship between the two organizations."



Founded in 1972, The **Minnesota Chorale** is the preeminent symphonic chorus in Minnesota and ranks among the nation's best. Led by Kathy Saltzman Romey, the Chorale is recognized for its high artistic quality, programmatic innovation, and administrative achievement and is known for its work with the Minnesota Orchestra and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. The Minnesota Chorale is equally dedicated to building community through independent presentations and the Full Voice education program. Their award-winning Bridges outreach series celebrates its 10th anniversary on February 25, 2005, with BRIDGES10, a choral extravaganza reuniting the Chorale with past partner artists and choirs. For further information, visit mnchorale.org.

Led by Music Director Osmo Vänskä, the **Minnesota Orchestra** is recognized as one of America's leading orchestras. Founded in 1903, the Orchestra offers over 150 concerts each year, with nearly 400,000 attending, and reaches more than 85,000 music lovers annually through its outreach programs. The Minnesota Orchestra is heard through an award-winning series of weekly radio broadcasts, produced by Minnesota Public Radio and distributed to more than 150 stations nationwide, and through its vast collection of recordings dating to the 1920s. Having premiered and commissioned more than 175 compositions since 1903, the Orchestra continues to nourish a strong commitment to contemporary composers. For more information on the Orchestra, visit online at minnesotaorchestra.org.