

**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Jet-set Chorus Master: Chorale's Romey is Festival Fixture**

**MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 1.** In the musical world, summer is festival season. And this year, Kathy Saltzman Romey, the Minnesota Chorale's Artistic Director, is having her most festive summer ever.

Romey's peripatetic summer began in June, soon after the Chorale's performances in the Minnesota Orchestra's semi-staged version of Puccini's *Tosca*. As Principal Chorus Master of the Oregon Bach Festival—a world-renowned annual event, under the general direction of Helmuth Rilling, with which Romey has been associated for more than two decades—she prepared critically acclaimed accounts of Mozart's C-minor Mass and Requiem, as well as a recording of Haydn's "Creation" Mass.

Returning to the Twin Cities, where she also serves as Director of Choral Activities and Associate Professor of Music at the University of Minnesota, Romey put the finishing touches on the Chorale's contribution to Bizet's *Carmen*—the grand finale of the Minnesota Orchestra's 2006 Sommerfest. She also auditioned new singers for the Chorale, re-auditioned veterans, and flew to New York to select singers for the Carnegie Hall Festival Chorus, which she will prepare for a presentation of Bach's "St. Matthew Passion" in January, 2007.

Then it was off to Germany, where Romey is heading the choral program of the esteemed Festival Ensemble Stuttgart, also founded and directed by Rilling. Two weeks of intensive rehearsal, with a choir of singers from 20 countries on four continents, will be followed by performances at a host of prestigious European festivals, including Salzburg, Lucerne, and Rheingau. (This being the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mozart's birth, the festival programs are dominated by the music of the Salzburg-born master.)

Romey will be back in Minnesota in time to prepare "Lord of the Rings," the Chorale's next appearance with the Minnesota Orchestra (October 13-14).

Kathy Saltzman Romey is currently available for interview via telephone or e-mail. To arrange an interview or obtain additional information, please call Chorale General Manager Bob Peskin at 612.333.4866, ext. 4, or e-mail [bob@mnchorale.org](mailto:bob@mnchorale.org).

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