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The 15th annual



Christmas at the Cathedral to present “Repeat the Sounding Joy” December 15-18

Christmas at The Cathedral, the nationally acclaimed Christmas celebration, despite adding a sixth concert this year has already sold out all performances, Thursday through Sunday, December 15 – 18, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Sioux Falls. “We are both amazed and gratified by the community response to *Christmas at The Cathedral*,” said Mark Conzemius, Producer of *Christmas at The Cathedral*. “Fortunately *Christmas at The Cathedral* will again be broadcast statewide 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve without commercials on KELOland Television.”

This year’s production is titled *Repeat the Sounding Joy*, celebrating the joy of Christmas and the joy of the successful completion of the Cathedral’s comprehensive, two-year restoration. “The theme of rejoicing and joy was an easy one for this year’s production,” said Conzemius. “I believe that the audience members who are experiencing the restored Cathedral for the first time are going to be amazed with its transformation.”

Christmas at The Cathedral Music Director/Composer, Dan Goeller, has composed three new numbers for *Repeat the Sounding Joy*, including “Heaven’s Lamb,” a duet that ends the first half with a depiction of Joseph and Mary contemplating the implications of Christ’s birth, and the concert finale, “Rejoice This Day.”

Laura Pedersen returns as a featured soloist in *Repeat the Sounding Joy*, performing Mozart’s “Alleluia,” “Rejoice Greatly” from Handel’s *Messiah* and Gounod’s “Ave Maria.” *Christmas at The Cathedral* welcomes internationally renowned tenor, Javier Abreu, to his first appearance to the

Cathedral of St. Joseph. Abreu will perform special arrangements by Goeller of “O Holy Night” and “I Believe,” a hopeful song of a future of peace for people of all nations.

“We are very fortunate to have the extraordinary talent of soloists Laura Pedersen and Javier Abreu,” said Conzemius. “They not only have incredible voices, they also have tremendous stage presence that communicates the message of Christmas in a powerful way.”

The music is anchored by members of the South Dakota Symphony Chamber Orchestra. Guest artists will be a choir of 103 voices, including the St. Joseph Cathedral Choir and O+Gorman High School Concert Choir. Actor, Rick Huffman, ties the program together with thoughtful stories and reflections.

A live nativity scene made up of children representing the global family of mankind, welcomes the newborn Christ child to our world with Dan Goeller’s new arrangement of, “Welcome to Our World,” that is performed by the South Dakota Symphony and O+Gorman Concert Choir. *Repeat The Sounding Joy* culminates with the Halleluiah Chorus from Handel’s Messiah.

“*Christmas at the Cathedral* is an inspiring musical celebration that brings the community together at this special time of year,” said Conzemius. “It lifts the spirit in preparation for Christmas.”

For early notification of next year’s *Christmas at the Cathedral* concerts, contact the Catholic Foundation Office toll free at 1-888-246-3386 or visit www.cfesd.org.

Proceeds from this year’s event will go towards the restoration of the Cathedral of St. Joseph – one of South Dakota’s most significant civic and sacred landmarks. To learn more about the Cathedral restoration, visit www.stjosephcathedral.net. The Cathedral of St. Joseph is open daily for prayer and visitors. Guided tours are available weekdays at 1:00 p.m.