



Masterworks Chorale Announces Auditions for the 2017-2018 Season

The Masterworks Chorale, the Eastern Panhandle's premiere vocal ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Rachel Carlson, will be holding auditions on August 25 and 28 for the Saturday, December 2, 2017 performance of the beautiful choral masterworks, Mendelssohn *Psalm 42* and Fauré *Requiem*. Masterworks Chorale is particularly seeking **Tenors and Basses**, however, auditions are open to all voices and consist of vocal exercises and sight-reading. Singers should prepare a short piece in advance to be sung without accompaniment that shows off your voice (classical or folk song preferred). The Masterworks Chorale meets Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the Frank Arts Center Rehearsal Hall. The 120-member vocal ensemble, comprised of Shepherd University vocal students and members from the surrounding community, presents two full-length concerts per year of great masterpieces from the choral literature with soloists and orchestra.

Dr. Rachel Carlson, Director of Choral Activities at Shepherd University, is conductor of the Shepherd University Chamber Singers, Women's Camerata, and Masterworks Chorale. In addition to conducting, she teaches choral methods and conducting classes. She founded and serves as Artistic Director of Six Degree Singers, a community choir based in Silver Spring, MD. In 2014, Dr. Carlson was nominated for a Wammie (Washington Area Music Award) for best Classical Conductor/Director. Dr. Carlson has toured extensively with professional choirs across the country, appearing as a soprano soloist with the Washington Master Chorale, Washington Bach Consort, Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Oregon Bach Festival, True Concord Voices and Orchestra, Vox Humana, and Washington Revels, and as a professional choral singer with Conspirare and the Manhattan Chorale. Dr. Carlson holds Bachelor's degrees in Vocal Performance and Music Education from the University of Maryland, a Master's degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a DMA in Choral Conducting from the University of Maryland.

Rehearsals for the Masterworks Chorale begin on Monday, August 28th at 7:30 pm in the McCoy Rehearsal Hall in the Frank Arts Center. For more information or to schedule an audition, contact Dr. Rachel Carlson at (304) 876-5371 or email rcarlson@shepherd.edu.