



# DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

## **PRESSRELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Drake University annual concert to be performed at St. Ambrose Cathedral in celebration of diocesan centennial**

In celebration of the diocese's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, all four Drake University choruses will join together to perform "Missa in angustiis" popularly known as the "Nelson Mass" by Franz Joseph Haydn on Saturday, April 9 at 8 a.m. and Sunday April 10 at 3 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral, 607 High St. in Des Moines. Tickets will be available beginning March 21 at the Drake Fine Arts Box Office, 515-271-3841. Cost is \$5 for students and \$10 for non-students. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Drake University has a long tradition of presenting a major choral/orchestral work each year. For the past 10 years, these concerts have taken place at the Civic Center. This year's location, St. Ambrose Cathedral, is a wonderful, acoustic, beautiful space and, like the location of the Mass's premiere in 1798, a sacred space. The Mass was written for liturgical use, specifically to celebrate the name day of the Princess Esterhazy, the wife of Prince Nicholas II, who was Haydn's employer.

"We are honored to perform at the cathedral and are happy to do so in the centennial celebration year," said Dr. Aimee Beckmann-Collier, director of Choral Studies at Drake University. She is well acquainted with the cathedral, having served as the conductor for diocesan liturgies for more than 25 years.

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Drake University annual concert...add 1

Performers include four Drake University choruses: Drake Choir, Chamber Choir, Chorale and the Drake University/Community Chorus. Also performing will be: faculty/student orchestra and faculty soloists Leanne Freeman-Miller, soprano; Ann Cravero, mezzo-soprano; Edward Corpus, bass; and guest soloist Edwin Griffith, tenor. Approximately 240 singers as well as 60 instrumentalists will be conducted by Dr. Beckmann-Collier.

“The Haydn ‘Nelson Mass’ is a dramatic, delightful and deeply moving work,” Dr. Beckmann-Collier said. “No matter what kind of music you typically listen to, you’ll love this music! We are excited and honored to perform this marvelous piece by one of history’s most renowned Catholic composers in a sacred space during a special year.”

*The Diocese of Des Moines includes 83 parishes in 23 counties in central and southwest Iowa.*