



For Immediate Release

October 18, 2017

Contact: Patricia Freedman

412-241-4044

[patricia@bachchoirpittsburgh.org](mailto:patricia@bachchoirpittsburgh.org)

## Bach Choir of Pittsburgh presents WAR – A Reflection in Music

Outrage, Fear, Love, Loyalty, Anger, Anguish, Hatred, Heartbreak, Triumph, Hope! On Saturday and Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> the Bach Choir of Pittsburgh presents WAR, the first of three concerts of the 2017- 2018 season that will trace the human experience of conflict from WAR to HOPE and, finally, to PEACE. The Hunt Armory will resonate with the power of 80 voices and orchestra proclaiming a shared response through music.

Central to the performance is Joseph Haydn's beautiful and uplifting *Mass in Time of War*, one of the most popular of the fourteen Mass settings the composer wrote. Composed in 1796 as a response to the effect of the Napoleonic Wars on Austria, the dramatic use of tympani, especially in the Agnus Dei section, reflects the unsettled nature of life during war. For this reason, the Mass is also known as 'Paukenmesse' or 'Drum Mass'. Framing this monumental work are two pieces by Mohammed Fairouz: *Anything Can Happen* (2011) depicting the anguish of the September 11th attacks, performed partially in Arabic using ancient texts and poetry by Seamus Heaney, and *The Second Coming* (2015), based on the apocalyptic poem by W. B. Yeats. Deeply moving and not to be missed!

Artistic Director **Thomas W. Douglas** says:

'We are all touched by the turmoil and conflict in the world today, some more than others. We felt we had to say something about war in the best way we know – by bringing these musical responses to life. The works we have chosen for our opening concert, WAR, reflect the range of emotions that are as relevant today as in Haydn's time, from the fear and anguish of conflict and death to our enduring capacity for compassion and hope for a better day. *Mass in Time of War* was Haydn's response, building to a climax with the chorus, orchestra and timpani, and ending with hope and yearning for peace. Fairouz sets ancient Arabic text and thought-provoking poetry to music. Our response is to sing with our hearts.'

**The Bach Choir is proud to offer free admission to Active-Duty Military, Veterans, and First Responders (including Police Officers, Firefighters, Paramedics, and Emergency Medical Technicians) In appreciation for their service. For free admission present affiliation ID at the box office.**

Mohammed Fairouz, born in 1985, is one of the most frequently performed, commissioned, and recorded composers working today. Hailed by The New York Times as "an important new artistic voice" and by BBC World News as "one of the most talented composers of his

generation,” his large-scale works engage major geopolitical and philosophical themes with persuasive craft and a marked seriousness of purpose. Fairouz’s cosmopolitan outlook reflects his transatlantic upbringing and extensive travels. His catalog encompasses virtually every genre, including opera, symphonies, vocal and choral settings, chamber and solo works.

Hunt Armory (also known as Pittsburgh Armory) is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (1991) and is a City of Pittsburgh historic landmark (2014). Designed by Pittsburgh architects W.G. Wilkins Co., the building was completed in 1916 and named after Spanish American War hero, metallurgist, and industrialist Captain Alfred E. Hunt (1855-1899), best known for founding the company that would eventually become Alcoa. The armory occupies an entire city block and has a floor area of 1.84 acres.

Until the Pittsburgh Civic Arena was completed in 1961, the Hunt Armory was the largest auditorium in Pittsburgh and was frequently the host for concerts and political events including: Presidents Truman (1948), Eisenhower (1956), Evangelist Billy Graham (1952), and Led Zepellin (1969).

The Urban Redevelopment Authority, which recently took ownership of the property, and the Shadyside community are reviewing developer proposals to install: an urban beach with sand, a pool, and palm trees; a skating rink; a multi-use sports facility; or a mixed-use facility with a rink, a movie theater, and a restaurant.

#### **Concert information:**

**Who:**           **The Bach Choir of Pittsburgh  
with the Academy Chamber Orchestra  
Thomas W. Douglas, Artistic Director**

**What:**           **Mass in Time of War  
by Joseph Haydn**

**Anything Can Happen  
The Second Coming  
by Mohammed Fairouz**

**When:**           **Saturday, November 11th @ 8:00pm  
Sunday, November 12th @ 4:00pm**

**Where:**           **Hunt Armory, 324 Emerson Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206**

Tickets are available in advance at [bachpgh.showclix.com](http://bachpgh.showclix.com) or at 1-888-718-4253

And at the door on the day of performance.

Prices range from \$12.00-\$30.00

More info at [www.BachChoirPgh.org](http://www.BachChoirPgh.org)

###