

Peak Performances

For Immediate Release

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STRAIGHT FROM THE EMERALD ISLE

NATIONAL CHAMBER CHOIR OF IRELAND PRESENTS PREMIERE OF *ACALLAM NA SENÓRACH*: "AN IRISH COLLOQUY" AS PART OF PEAK PERFORMANCES OCTOBER 16 AT 3PM

The 17-member National Chamber Choir of Ireland, under the direction of conductor Paul Hillier, will present the regional premiere of *Acallam na Senórach*: "An Irish Colloquy" at the Alexander Kasser Theater, October 16 at 3pm. The English language work by Tarik O'Regan, which combines ancient lore and contemporary religion, tells of St. Patrick's encounter with Caílte and Oisín, the last of Fionn mac Cumhaill's legendary band of warriors.

To learn more about National Chamber Choir of Ireland, please visit

www.nationalchamberchoir.com.

About the Artists:

The National Chamber Choir of Ireland is the country's flagship choral ensemble. Under the artistic directorship of internationally celebrated and multi award winning choral conductor Paul Hillier, the choir is known for its unique approach to programming and has gained a reputation for the high artistic quality of its performances. The choir remains a thriving force on a very active choral scene both at home and abroad.

Since its inception, the National Chamber Choir of Ireland has made a significant contribution to the growth of the choral music repertoire repository in Ireland through its commitment to commissioning new work. The choir's

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repertoire extends from early to contemporary music, regularly commissioning pioneering vocal work by composers such as Gerald Barry, Andrew Hamilton, Siobhan Cleary, Kevin Volans and Tarik O'Regan.

Given its strong commitment to touring in Ireland, the choir is keen to keep developing its touring network in order to present high quality choral concerts to audiences all around the country. Internationally, the choir has toured extensively in Europe, Asia and South America and will embark on a tour of the US in the fall of 2011 with conductor Paul Hillier.

In addition to collaborating with numerous international guest conductors, the choir also provides opportunities for and fosters the talents of young Irish conductors. It maintains welcoming relationships with Irish conductors such as David Brophy and Orla Flanagan and continues to support emerging talent on the conducting scene. The Choir continues to foster relationships with other distinguished Irish performing ensembles and has collaborated successfully with the Crash Ensemble, Irish Baroque Orchestra and the Irish Chamber Orchestra. The ensemble enjoys a unique relationship with Cork International Choral Festival with which it collaborates on an annual basis.

Paul Hillier is from Dorset in England and studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. His career has embraced singing, conducting, and writing about music. Earlier in his career he was founding director of the Hilliard Ensemble, and subsequently founded Theatre of Voices. He has taught in the USA at the University of California campuses at Santa Cruz and Davis, and from 1996–2003 was director of the Early Music Institute at Indiana University. He was principal conductor of the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir (2001–2007) and has been chief conductor of Ars Nova Copenhagen since 2003.

His recordings, over a hundred CDs including seven solo recitals, have earned worldwide acclaim and won numerous prizes. His books about Arvo Pärt and Steve Reich, together with numerous anthologies of choral music, are published by Oxford University Press. In 2006 he was awarded an OBE for services to choral music. In 2007 he received the Order of the White Star of Estonia, and was awarded a Grammy for Best Choral Recording.

In 2008 he took up the position of artistic director and chief conductor of the National Chamber Choir of Ireland.
<http://www.paulhillier.net/>

TICKET, TRANSPORTATION AND DINING INFORMATION

Performance time:

October 16 at 3pm

All tickets are \$15 and are available at the Alexander Kasser Theater Box Office, by calling 973-655-5112 or online at <http://www.peakperfs.org>.

Charter bus service is provided from New York City's Port Authority Bus Terminal – arcade on 41st Street between 8th and 9th Avenues – to the Alexander Kasser Theater (\$10 per person, roundtrip) for all Saturday and Sunday performances. Bus reservations may be made by calling 973-655-5112 or by visiting <http://www.peakperfs.org>.

For restaurants close to the Alexander Kasser Theater, visit <http://www.destinationmontclair.com>

Montclair State University is located at 1 Normal Avenue, Montclair, New Jersey 07043.

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Accallam na Senórach: "An Irish Colloquy" was co-commissioned by the National Chamber Choir of Ireland with funds from the Arts Council/An Comhairle Ealaíon, the University of Notre Dame's DeBartolo Performing Arts Center (IN), and Peak Performances @ Montclair State (NJ). This tour of the National Chamber Choir of Ireland is funded under Imagine Ireland, a year of Irish Arts in America 2011, an initiative of Culture Ireland.

Programs in Peak Performances' 2011/2012 season are made possible in part by funds from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters; the National Endowment for the Arts; the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; New England Foundation for the Arts; Discover Jersey Arts; Alison and James T. Cirenza; and The Honorable Mary Mochary.

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