



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 4, 2019**

TWO CHORAL CONCERTS IN GERMANTOWN WILL RECOGNIZE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

PHILADELPHIA, PA.— The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, 35 W. Chelton Ave., will offer two choral concerts in recognition of Women's History Month. The public is invited to attend. A free-will offering is requested.

Sunday, March 17, at 4 p.m.

The Germantown Oratorio Choir, with concert pianist Gayle Martin and organist Ted Barr, under the direction of Dr. F. Anthony Thurman, will present a Brahms Festival Concert on Sunday, March 17, at 4 p.m. The program is organized around the life of Brahms, his close relationship with the Schumanns, and the bicentennial of Clara Schumann's birth.

The program will include Robert Schumann's rarely performed *Requiem*, his final work, which Clara Schumann edited for publication; *Sechs Lieder (Six Songs)* by Clara Schumann for solo voice as arranged for three-part women's chorus; Brahms's *Schicksalslied (Song of Destiny)* and *Geistliches Lied (Sacred Song)*. In addition to the choral selections, Gayle Martin will perform Robert Schumann's *Widmung (Dedication)*, an art song solo transcribed for piano by Liszt.

The Germantown Oratorio Choir was founded in 1910 as a community outreach program of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown. The choir performs seasonally and rehearses weekly October–December, and January–March. Members of the choir, representing a wide diversity of age, socioeconomic, racial, and educational backgrounds, are drawn from throughout the Delaware Valley. The semi-professional choir unites volunteers and professional musicians working side by side toward a common goal of musical excellence while promoting classical music to an underserved community.

Friday, March 29, at 7 p.m.

The College of William & Mary Women's Chorus, under the direction of Sarah Frook Gallo, will perform on Friday, March 29, at 7 p.m. In recognition of the 100th anniversary of women attending William & Mary this year, the concert program is dedicated to female composers and will include choral works spanning five centuries, including a world premiere.

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Founded in 1923, the chorus consists of approximately 60 undergraduate women, representing a wide variety of interests and majors. At home, they present a dozen concerts each year, including a candlelight concert at the historic Bruton Parish Church in Colonial Williamsburg.

The College of William & Mary is a public research university in Williamsburg, Virginia. Founded in 1693 by letters issued by King William III and Queen Mary II, it is the second-oldest institution of higher education in the United States, after Harvard University. Three U.S. Presidents received their education at William & Mary: Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, and John Tyler. In addition, William & Mary educated many other key figures in the development of our nation, including sixteen members of the Continental Congress and four signers of the Declaration of Independence, earning the college the nickname "the Alma Mater of the Nation."

Transportation:

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown is easily reached by SEPTA bus and regional rail service (Chestnut Hill East: Germantown Station; Chestnut Hill West: Cheltenham Station). Free parking is available on each side of the church building complex, on the street, and at the Germantown Life Enrichment Center one block away. The church building is ADA accessible.

For more information, call the church office at 215-843-8811, visit www.fpcgermantown.org or e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com.

**The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
35 W. Cheltenham Ave. | Philadelphia, PA**
