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NEWS RELEASE

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**AUGUSTA SYMPHONY FEATURED
IN BRAHMS' A GERMAN REQUIEM
A COLLABORATION WITH CONCERTS WITH A CAUSE
SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 4 P.M.
Free Concert to Benefit Heritage Academy***

On **Sunday, March 16**, *Concerts with a Cause* concert series presents a performance of **Brahms' A German Requiem** featuring the **Augusta Symphony, five area choruses, and soloists** under the direction of renowned conductor **Joseph Flummerfelt**. **This free concert is at 4 p.m. at First Baptist of Augusta.**

Founded in 2003, *Concerts with a Cause* is a concert series of St. John United Methodist Church directed by Jamie Garvey. Generous donors underwrite the concerts, enabling *Concerts with a Cause* to provide free community performances. *At each concert an offering is taken for a local "cause." All of the contributions benefits the chosen cause. In its fifth season of performances, *Concerts with a Cause* has donated \$50,628 to twenty-five local service organizations.

This **free concert benefits Heritage Academy**, a unique urban school committed to making a quality Christian education available to children from racially, ethnically, socially and economically diverse families. "*Heritage Academy could not exist without the strong support of the Augusta community,*" comments Linda Tucciarone, Heritage Academy Executive Director. "*Seventy-five percent of our operating budget is covered by donors, the remainder from tuition that is scaled to a family's income. This concert takes that support to another level.*"

The performance features the Augusta Symphony, soloists Tonya Currier and Jack Brown, and a chorus composed of members from the Augusta State University choir, directed by Bill Hobbins; Georgia Southern University choir, directed by Rob Caldwell; The Church of the Good Shepherd choir, directed by Jim Nord; First Baptist Church choir, directed by Stan Pylant; and St. John United Methodist Church choir, directed by Jamie Council Garvey. "*The Symphony is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with renowned conductor Joseph Flummerfelt and area choruses to bring this performance to our community*" states Symphony Executive Director Sandra Self. "*We strongly believe quality education is important to our community's children and are proud to participate in such a worthy cause.*"

Musical America's 2004 Conductor of the Year, **Joseph Flummerfelt's** musical artistry has been acclaimed in many of the world's concert halls for nearly 40 years. He is founder and musical director of the New York Choral Artists, is an artistic director of Spoleto Festival USA, and for 33 years was conductor of the world-renowned Westminster Choir.

A gifted orchestral conductor, Maestro Flummerfelt has conducted over 50 performances with the Spoleto Festival Orchestra in Italy and in the U.S. He has also appeared as guest

conductor with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke's, the Juilliard Symphony Orchestra, and the San Antonio and Phoenix Symphonies. In 1988 he made his New York Philharmonic debut with a performance of Haydn's Creation, and in 2001 he conducted the world premiere of Stephen Paulus' Voices of Light with the Philharmonic and the Westminster Choir.

For 33 years, Joseph Flummerfelt served as artistic director and principal conductor of Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, New Jersey – a position from which he retired in 2004. He has been director of choral activities for the Spoleto Festival U.S.A. in Charleston, South Carolina, since 1977 and for 23 years was the maestro del coro for the Festival dei Due Mondi in Spoleto, Italy. He is chorus master for the New York Philharmonic, the founder and conductor of the New York Choral Artists, and former music director of Singing City in Philadelphia. In 1971, Maestro Flummerfelt began his choral collaboration with New York Philharmonic. From 1979 to 2001 both his Westminster Choir and New York Choral Artists were responsible for all of the orchestra's choral performances. Though now retired from Westminster Choir College, the New York Choral Artists continue to appear regularly with the orchestra and Flummerfelt continues to oversee the choral life of the New York Philharmonic.

Tonya Currier, soprano, has performed leading roles with opera companies such as Chicago Lyric, Milwaukee Florentine, Fort Worth, Central City, Opera Carolina, Augusta, and many others. Her solo concert appearances include major works with the orchestras of Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Lake Forest, Santa Cruz, among others. Other credits of note include her recent appearance with the Metro Chamber Orchestra of New York and her Carnegie Hall debut with the New England Symphonic Ensemble. Ms. Currier is a graduate of the Crane School of Music and the New England Conservatory and formerly was an Associate Professor at the University of South Carolina School of Music.

Jack Brown made his professional singing debut as Elijah at Tanglewood's Ozawa Hall in 1995. Since then, he has established himself as a critically acclaimed soloist in over 100 oratorio performances throughout the northeast and Canada. He sings the full range from Handel's Messiah, the passions and cantatas of J.S. Bach, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, and 20th century works by Durufle, Szymanowski, and Bloch. Performances include the Brahms Requiem in Albany, Vaughan Williams' Dona Nobis Pacem in Boston, Einhorn's "Voices of Light" in Albany with Albany ProMusica and Dave Brubeck's jazz mass, "To Hope", in Hartford. His early training as an instrumentalist and conductor was followed by his primary vocal study with Richard Cross at Juilliard. He also teaches voice and directs the choral programs at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville Ct. and at Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington. Mr. Brown is the owner/manager of Beethoven House Music, a national source for classical and educational print music.

For more information about this performance contact Jamie Garvey at jcgarvey@stjohnumcaugusta.com or call 706.724.9641. Visit www.augustasympphony.org, call 706.826.4705, fax 706.826.4735 or email marketing@augustasympphony.org for more information about the Augusta Symphony. Located on the second floor of Sacred Heart Cultural Center, the Symphony office is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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