

**For Immediate Release:**

Beverly Seitz

704.374.1564

[bseitz@carolinavoices.org](mailto:bseitz@carolinavoices.org)

Carolina Voices' Festival Singers present

## **"Voices of Courage"**

**2 Performances | November 15 and November 16**

**Festival Singers to perform Vaughan Williams' anti-war cantata**

**CHARLOTTE, NC...** (October 21, 2014) – The Festival Singers, Carolina Voices' chamber ensemble, will present their first concert of the new season, entitled ***Voices of Courage*** on **Saturday, November 15**, 7:30pm at Providence Baptist Church (4921 Randolph Rd, Charlotte, NC 28211) and **Sunday, November 16**, 4pm at Central United Methodist Church (30 Union Street North, Concord, NC 28025). Tickets are \$17 for adults; \$15 for seniors and \$10 for youth age 14 and under. Tickets are on sale through Carolinatix.org or via the Carolina Voices office at 704.374.1564. For more information, **visit [www.carolinavoices.org](http://www.carolinavoices.org)**.

The concert will commemorate our nation's rich history and military sacrifice with a special performance of **Ralph Vaughan Williams'** well known anti-war cantata, ***Dona Nobis Pacem*** ("Grant us peace"). Written in 1936, *Dona Nobis Pacem* is set with powerful text from the Mass, three poems by Walt Whitman, a political speech and sections of the Bible. The work is both a warning that mankind was sliding towards another war and a plea for a world without strife. The piece was performed at countless festivals and concerts in the years leading up to World War II and continues to be performed worldwide today.

The Festival Singers will present Williams' riveting work accompanied by a reduced chamber orchestra. Featured soloists include baritone, Dr. John Blizzard and soprano, Elizabeth Mayhew.

The ***Voices of Courage*** concert will also include favorite, uplifting patriotic pieces, such as *America the Beautiful*, *Armed Forces Medley*, *God Bless the USA* and more. Special guests include Carolina Voices' very own, Paul Zeman and The Carolina Men's Chorus, directed by Tim Hill.

"The Festival Singers are excited to expand its repertoire with the performance of Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*," said Donna Hill, director of The Festival Singers. "Audiences will enjoy the rich heritage of great choral music from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to traditional and familiar patriotic pieces of today. And, we are very happy to welcome back special guests, The Carolina Men's Chorus who will share the rich, warm sound that is made with an all-male choir as well as Paul Zeman who is one of our favorite singers from the Carolina Voices' family."

**Festival Singers** is Carolina Voices' chamber choir and is comprised of 32-auditioned singers. Director Donna Hill is now in her eleventh season with Carolina Voices and is passionate about

presenting programs that have connections to spiritual and social topics of profound relevance and meaning, in an effort to inspire, engage and entertain its audiences. The Festival Singers repertoire ranges from traditional “classical” works to spirituals, folk songs and contemporary choral music.

Carolina Voices Festival Singers is proud to be sponsored this season by the [Voice and Swallowing Center at Charlotte Eye Ear Nose & Throat Associates](#) (CEENTA) and by Classical Public Radio 89.9 [WDAV](#). For further information about Carolina Voices, please visit online at <http://www.carolinavoices.org>.

*Carolina Voices was founded in 1953 as the Charlotte Choral Society, producers of the first Singing Christmas Tree production in the United States. Governed by a Board of Directors, Carolina Voices is an umbrella organization for three distinct choral groups totaling more than 120 volunteer singers. Membership is by audition, with rehearsals and performances year-round. Carolina Voices is a 501c3 organization and is supported in part, with operating support from the Arts & Science Council and from donations by individuals and area corporations. Carolina Voices is a member of Chorus America. For more information, contact Carolina Voices, 1900 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207; 704.374.1564; [www.carolinavoices.org](http://www.carolinavoices.org).*