



*Celebrating 25 years*

Thomas Beveridge, Artistic Director  
P.O. Box 6691, McLean, VA 22106-6691  
703-442-9404    [www.newdominion.org](http://www.newdominion.org)

Contact:  
Margaret Volpe  
703-403-4709  
[margvolpe@aol.com](mailto:margvolpe@aol.com)

Thomas Beveridge  
202-244-7191

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **NEW DOMINION CHORALE TO FINISH 25TH SEASON WITH “CARMINA BURANA”**

The 200-voice New Dominion Chorale will end its 25th season with a performance of works for two pianos and percussion on Sunday, May 1, 2016, at 4 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, on the Alexandria campus of Northern Virginia Community College.

Founder and Artistic Director Thomas Beveridge will conduct the ensemble in a program that includes Carl Orff’s “Carmina Burana,” Johannes Brahms’ “Liebeslieder Waltzes,” and his own cantata, “General William Booth Enters into Heaven,” which will receive its Washington premiere.

Metropolitan Opera soprano Danielle Talamantes will be the featured vocal soloist, along with soprano Kathy Hankins, tenor Luke Frels, and baritone Neil Ewachiw. The New Dominion Chorale will be joined by the Fairfax High School Select Ladies’ Ensemble and the National Men’s Chorus.

The instrumental accompaniment will be provided by pianists Jeffrey Chappell and Joel Ayau, together with flautist Karen Johnson, timpanist John Kilkenny, and the George Mason University Percussion Ensemble.

Mr. Beveridge will talk to the audience about “General William Booth Enters into Heaven,” which is based on a poem by the American poet Vachel Lindsay. Lindsay’s poem is a dramatic depiction of the scene he imagined when William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, went to heaven after his death in 1912. Booth, who has been compared to Mahatma Gandhi because of his daring social reforms in 19th-century England, had formed his Christian “army” to fight the evils of child labor, prostitution, hunger, and homelessness. It was reported that 100,000 people lined the streets of London at his funeral procession. Mr. Beveridge’s music

makes ample use of the bass drums, cymbals, tambourines, and flute that characterize the Salvation Army bands, and there are familiar hymns interspersed throughout the piece, including “Onward, Christian Soldiers” and “Are You Washed in the Blood of the Lamb?”

New Dominion Chorale is one of the Washington area’s largest choral societies. The Chorale has received consistent praise from *The Washington Post* for its “opulent, precise and powerful” performances of the classic sacred works as well as selections from opera and musical theater. The Chorale has given the premiere performances of several of Mr. Beveridge’s compositions, including his “Yizkor Requiem: A Quest for Spiritual Roots,” which has subsequently received over 25 performances in the United States and Europe. In addition to its regular performances at the Schlesinger Center, the New Dominion Chorale has performed at the Washington National Cathedral, Washington Hebrew Congregation, the George Mason University Center for the Arts, and the Concert Hall at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Tickets are available at the door of the Schlesinger Center, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria, VA 22311, and online at [www.newdominion.org](http://www.newdominion.org). Ticket prices are \$30 (general admission), \$25 (seniors, 62 or over), and \$15 (youth ages 5–25). Group tickets are available for groups of 10 or more at \$20 per ticket. For more information: [www.newdominion.org](http://www.newdominion.org) or (703) 442-9404.

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