



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARTSWAVE PRESENTS

A MAY FESTIVAL CHORAL-ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING WORKSHOP BY ROBERT PORCO, DIRECTOR OF CHORUSES

CINCINNATI --- The May Festival is offering its first ever **Choral-Orchestral Conducting Workshop**, led by Director of Choruses, **Robert Porco**. This workshop is designed for Choral Conductors, Music Educators, and Church Musicians who want to strengthen their instrumental conducting technique. Practical conducting experience in such topics as recitative and aria accompaniment, orchestral passages, ensemble balance and efficient use of rehearsal time will be covered throughout the day. Participants will work with members of the May Festival Chorus and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and soloists.



The all-day workshop will be held from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, on **Saturday, March 24** at Hope Church in Mason, OH. **The workshop is free, but reservations are required.** Lunch will be provided. CEU Certificates will be available at the end of the workshop for interested educators. The repertoire for the workshop will be from Part One of Handel's *Messiah*. Scores will be available for purchase.

There are two levels of participation in the workshop:

- **Conductors** – will receive podium time and personal instruction time with Mr. Porco in a masterclass format. Interested individuals need to submit video conducting samples that best represent their skill level, as well as an application outlining their experience. Five conductors will be chosen to work directly with Mr. Porco.
- **Observers** – will be able to audit the workshop and gain insights into conducting techniques while studying the Conductor participants as they work with Mr. Porco.

The application and more information are on the May Festival website at www.mayfestival.com.

Robert Porco has been Director of Choruses for the May Festival since 1989. He has been recognized as one of the leading choral musicians in the United States and for more than 36 years has been an active preparer and conductor of choral and orchestral works, including most of the major choral repertoire. Notable events during Mr. Porco's tenure with the May Festival are three highly acclaimed appearances by the Chorus in Carnegie Hall. In 2011, Mr. Porco was honored by Chorus America as the recipient of the annual Michael Korn Founders Award for a lifetime of significant contributions to the professional choral art.

This Choral-Orchestral Conducting Workshop is sponsored by *ArtsWave Presents*, a program bringing musicians, dancers, actors and artists from Cincinnati's arts organizations into local neighborhoods for public performances. In 2011, *ArtsWave Presents* supported performances by Cincinnati Ballet, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati Art Museum, and the Contemporary Arts Center in community arts and civic centers throughout our region.