

New Pops album, lots of Fanfare

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The May Festival Chorus will be recorded in performance with the Cincinnati Pops next Sunday.

The first Cincinnati Pops album recorded with its new conductor, John Morris Russell, will be a holiday album, to be released in time for the 2012 World Choir Games next summer.

The Cincinnati Symphony and Pops announced today that the recording, "Home for the Holidays," will feature the May Festival Chorus (Robert Porco, director), the popular opera tenor Rodrick Dixon and the Winton Woods High School Varsity Ensemble (David Bell, director).

The album will be recorded in Music Hall next Sunday and will include many of the selections that audiences will hear in "Happy Holidays with the Pops" concerts, Dec. 9-11.

The album will be released locally in July, timed for the World Choir Games, expected to bring record crowds to Cincinnati. National and international distribution will occur later in 2012. Funding for the project was provided by Anne Heldman.

In addition, the orchestra's own record label, which was launched in 2010, will have a new name with this project. Fanfare Cincinnati will replace the former name Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra Media. The new name reflects the orchestra's historic fanfare projects, starting with the 1940s project that resulted in Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man." Naxos will continue to distribute Fanfare Cincinnati's recordings nationally and internationally.

The Cincinnati Symphony and Pops orchestras, which are the same personnel, have sold more than 10 million albums worldwide since 1980. The orchestra was the third orchestra in the United States to make a commercial recording in 1917. Today, more than 140 recordings are available on various labels, and 55 Pops recordings have topped the Billboard charts.

The Pops, led by Erich Kunzel, won a Grammy in 1997 for "Copland: Music of America," and many other of its recordings have been nominated for Grammy Awards.