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PRESS RELEASE

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Heritage Signature Chorale Introduces African-American Composers Series with the Music of Moses George Hogan

Chorus Showcases Influential 20th-Century Composer, Performing His Electrifying Modern Arrangement of the Spirituals

January 10, 2005 – The Heritage Signature Chorale, hailed by the *Washington Post* for its “spectacular vocal polish,” continues its fifth season Sunday, February 20 with the introduction of the African-American Composers Series, featuring the music of Moses George Hogan, one of the most acclaimed names in modern choral music and a central figure in the renaissance of the Negro Spiritual. Joining the chorale will be the Duke Ellington School of the Arts Concert Choir. The concert takes place at 4 p.m. at the historic Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1518 M St., N.W. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$22 at the door; \$15 for youth 18 and under, and \$18 each for groups of 10 or more. For tickets and information, call (202) 310-3283

Under Thurston’s direction, the Heritage Signature Chorale has become one of Washington’s premier choruses and a virtuosic interpreter of African-American sacred music. The chorus has won praise from critics and casual listeners alike for its distinctive delivery and astute attention to technical nuance. Singer-songwriter Ysaye Barnwell of the perennial singing group Sweet Honey in the Rock described the chorale’s sold-out annual concert in June as “thrilling... gut wrenching.”

The chorale’s tribute to Hogan will include “Abide with Me,” “His Light Still Stands,” “Wade in the Water,” “Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel,” and other songs. His arrangements of the spirituals placed him in high demand as a pianist, conductor and arranger. His songs have been performed and recorded by luminaries such as Barbara Hendricks, the Boys Choir of Harlem and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. He was editor of the 1995 *Oxford Book of Spirituals* and the same year was commissioned to perform several compositions for the PBS documentary “The American Promise.”

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