

**PRESS RELEASE: May 8, 2008**

**THREE BOSTON-AREA CHORAL GROUPS TO PRESENT CARMINA BURANA ON MAY 17 at 8pm IN DURGIN HALL, UMASS LOWELL**

In a major musical event, Carl Orff's masterpiece 20th century choral work, Carmina Burana, will be performed as a first-time ever collaboration of three greater-Boston area choral groups: Harvard Pro Musica, Nashoba Valley Chorale, and The Treble Chorus of New England. The concert will take place at the Durgin Concert Hall, U.Mass. Lowell, South Campus, on Saturday May 17, 2008, at 8:00 p.m. Tickets \$15/\$12 at door or in advance at [www.nashobachorale.org](http://www.nashobachorale.org) For information call 978.456.5039

Composed in 1935-36, Carmina Burana is joyous, lusty, boisterous—even bawdy and banal—but also tender and moving in many places. As conductor Mark Bennett comments, Carmina "has a text that in many places is gloomy and fatalistic, but the music is predominantly ebullient, bursting with energy and affirming of life in the face of fate and death. Perhaps this is why Carmina is one of the most frequently performed works of the twentieth century." Drawn from an anthology of more than 200 songs written by 13th century monks, Carmina's themes are decidedly earthy, extolling the virtues of board, bottle, and bed, but are framed by opening and closing movements bemoaning humanity's bonded state to the rotation of Fortune's wheel.

The conductor for the performance is Dr Mark Bennett, Artistic Director of Harvard Pro Musica. Dr. Bennett received his Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He has done advanced studies in Germany, and performed with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. He currently performs in Boston with the Cantata Singers. For 25 years he has worked as a conductor, and for many years he has been a soloist and taught individual singers and college-level classes. He lives in Malden MA.

The performance will also feature three professional soloists -- Heather Chu (soprano), Rockland Osgood (tenor), and Raymond Ayres (baritone) -- two professional pianists (Susan Minor, music teacher at Nashoba Brooks School; and Bonnie Anderson, Adjunct Professor and Chair of the Piano Department at UMass Lowell) and a professional percussionist (Abe Finch, Chair, Percussion Department at Indian Hill Music Center and instructor at both Salem State College and the Groton School).

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Harvard Pro Musica was established in 1969 to promote the common good and general welfare of the people of Harvard and local communities by providing periodic choral concerts of fine quality for the public; and to provide, for interested people of sufficient musical ability, an organized group with which to sing. The chorus consists of about 35 members and is a non-profit organization supported, in part, by grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Support also comes from contributions from individuals and businesses, and program advertisements. [www.harvardpromusica.org](http://www.harvardpromusica.org)

The Nashoba Valley Chorale was founded in 1976. The Chorale has 40 members, most of whom live in the area northwest of Boston, including southern New Hampshire. The Chorale performs serious (but not necessarily solemn) music of all styles and periods under the artistic leadership of Director Anne Watson Born. [www.nashobachorale.org](http://www.nashobachorale.org)

The Treble Chorus of New England is a youth choral program founded in 1975 serving communities in the greater Merrimack Valley. Three choirs range from young emerging voices to an advanced young adult ensemble. In addition to developing singing voices, weekly rehearsals are designed to prepare young people to perform great music, to teach teamwork, and to build confidence and foster creativity. Performing a rich diversity of choral music from around the world, including opera and professional collaborations, TCNE serves over 100 young people ages 6-19 from over 35 socio-economic and ethnically diverse communities. [www.treblechorus.com](http://www.treblechorus.com) The baritone soloist, Raymond Ayers, started his musical career with the Treble Chorus of New England.