

Press Release –

March 25, 2024

Choral Arts Ensemble's May concert marks the end of an era as long-time director retires.

ROCHESTER, MN – Choral Arts Ensemble (CAE) closes its 39th season with ***What's Past is Prologue***, Artistic Director Rick Kvam's final concerts on **May 4 and 5**. Kvam founded the *Rochester Men's Cappella* in 1983, which became the *Choral Arts Ensemble* in 1985, and directed the choir for 30 years. He took a short break while raising two daughters and continuing his career as an emergency room physician at Olmsted Medical Center, returning in 2012.

For this final concert, Kvam chose some of his all-time favorite pieces — including the first piece to spark his love of choral singing in high school, an Irish folk tune that brought an early Choral Arts Ensemble singer to tears at every rehearsal, and the premiere of *The Once Invisible Garden*, a piece by Dale Trumbore, commissioned by Choral Arts Ensemble in honor of Rick and Jan Kvam. Jan Kvam has been CAE's collaborative pianist for over 25 years and is also retiring.

In addition to his work with adults, Kvam founded the *Honors Choirs of Southeastern MN* in 1992, and over his illustrious career, he has worked with thousands of high school singers, many of whom have gone on to sing with college choirs, church and faith choirs, and even with CAE. He has also been a champion of commissioning work for CAE, drawing on the talents of well-known and diverse composers. Concerts frequently feature collaborations with local organizations that highlight the rich variety of activities in the area.

Barb Depman, a long-time singer with CAE, said, "I can attest to the personal growth and fulfillment of singing in a choir. Rick has brought so much joy to so many. Each concert this year has been extra special as we honor his great work."

"Rick has made this organization what it is, and it has been an honor to serve as Board Chair during this important time," says **Eric Stinson**.

***What's Past is Prologue* Concert Information:**

Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 3:00 pm

Christ United Methodist Church, 400 5th Ave SW, Rochester, MN 55902

Tickets and more information at www.ChoralArtsEnsemble.org

Choral Arts Ensemble is a premier choir of 60 singers who perform in Rochester and Southeast Minnesota from October to May. Members of the choir are required to audition each year. The mission of the Choral Arts Ensemble (CAE) is ***to inspire, educate, and enrich the community at large through outstanding choral performance.***

For more information please contact Karen Sessler at Execdir@choralartsensemble.org or 507-252-8427.