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### **For Immediate Release**

*Part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Desert Song Festival*

### **TCA Presents Orff's Rarely Performed *Carmina Burana* Pour Deux Pianos et Percussion**

Tucson, AZ (Dec. 11, 2014)— *Carmina Burana* has been described as the most popular classical music, as 'O Fortuna' has appeared in many films and been performed by both pop and classical musicians worldwide.

In January, the Tucson Chamber Artists will bring a rarely performed version of the popular cantata to Tucson in partnership with the third annual international Tucson Desert Song Festival.

Most music lovers are familiar with the orchestral version of Carl Orff's profane cantata *Carmina Burana*, but few are familiar with the version prepared by Orff's disciple Wilhelm Killmayer in 1956 and authorized by Orff himself 20 years after the original composition, to allow smaller ensembles the opportunity to perform the piece. This version features two pianos, percussion and choir. In addition, TCA will feature special guest soloists Edwin Vega, tenor; Hye Jung Lee, soprano; and Hugh Russell, baritone.

Orff's classic deals with mortality and fate, nature, drinking, and tender, explicit, and highly sensual love. It's no wonder the authors of the original text, the Goliards, were a group of defrocked monks and minstrels known for their rioting, gambling and intemperance! Don't miss this rarely performed and equally exhilarating version of Orff's timeless masterpiece!

This concert is being done in partnership with the [Tucson Desert Song Festival](#), a three-week international music extravaganza pairing Tucson's leading musical organizations with international musicians.

Concert times and locations:

- Friday, January 23, 7 p.m., Valley Presbyterian Church, Green Valley
- Saturday, January 24, 7:30 p.m., Catalina Foothills High School
- Sunday, January 25, 3 p.m., Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church

A preconcert program will accompany all performances 45 minutes prior to the start of the concert.

Tickets are \$40 for premium seating, \$25 for general seating. All seats in Green Valley are \$30. Students are \$5 at all concert venues.

To order, go to <http://www.tucsonchamberartists.org/buy-tickets/>, or call (520) 401-2651.

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### About Tucson Chamber Artists

Tucson Chamber Artists (TCA) is the only professional chamber choir and orchestra in Southern Arizona. Founded in 2004, TCA's mission is to enrich lives through the transformational power of classical music. We accomplish our mission primarily through the performance of masterworks and the diverse music of America.

### About the Soloists

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#### [Edwin Vega, Tenor](#)

Hailed as a "remarkable young tenor," Edwin Vega made his professional debut with the English National Opera as Molqi, in a new production of John Adams' *The Death of Klinghoffer*, a co-production with the Metropolitan Opera, directed by Tom Morris (Tony Award winner for *War Horse*).

*The New York Times* recently praised Mr. Vega as an ardent, youthful tenor as the title character in the staged world premiere of Prototype: Opera/Theater/Now's production of Mohammed Fairouz's *Sumeida's Song* (the first Arab-American opera to be fully produced on an American Stage). This will be Mr. Vega's first performance with the TCA.

#### [Hye Jung Lee, Soprano](#)

Korean Soprano Hye Jung Lee is quickly emerging as one of the top young coloratura sopranos with a silvery voice and expressive dramatic stage presence. According to *Opera News*, "Hye Jung Lee may well be the reigning Olympia of her generation..."

This season, Lee makes her concert debut with the Tucson Chamber Artists Chorus and Orchestra for Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

Hye Jung Lee's 2012-2013 season included her house and role debut as Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte*, Lisa in *La sonnambula* with Florida Grand Opera, directed by Renata Scotto. She made her role debut as Olympia from Laurent Pelly's New Production of *Les contes d'Hoffmann* with San Francisco Opera under the baton of Patrick Fournillier. As a concert artist, Ms. Lee made her debut at Issac Stern Auditorium in Carnegie Hall as a soloist in Mozart's *Mass in C Minor* in 2009 with St. Cecilia Orchestra and Chorus. The following year, she returned to Carnegie Hall, singing as a soloist in Bach's *Weihnachts Oratorio*. She has been praised by *The New York Times* as "the most striking singer (was Hye Jung Lee), the soprano. Her sound was sweet and focused, but its soubrette quality was deceptive: when she needed to project over the orchestra, Ms. Lee summoned considerable power."

#### [Hugh Russell, Baritone](#)

Canadian baritone Hugh Russell continues to receive high praise for his charisma, dramatic energy and vocal beauty. He is widely acclaimed for his performances in the operas of Mozart and Rossini, and is regularly invited to perform with symphony orchestras throughout North America. At the center of his orchestral repertoire is Orff's popular *Carmina Burana*, which Mr. Russell has performed with The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Houston Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Toronto Symphony, and Vancouver Symphony, among others. The *New Orleans Times-Picayune* said, "Baritone Hugh Russell also grasped the theatrical nature of Orff's work, nearly stealing the show with a voice that ranged from organ-deep rumbles to flute-like falsetto – and an acting style that drew roars of laughter as he captured the bullishness of an intoxicated medieval abbot."