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For Immediate Release

Tucson Chamber Artists to Present Popular Christmas Concert

The Tucson Chamber Artists (TCA), southern Arizona's only professional choir and orchestra, will present its annual Christmas Lessons and Carols by Candlelight concerts beginning Friday, December 12.

Based on The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College in Cambridge, TCA's unique and highly anticipated holiday events follows the tradition of dramatic readings and heartwarming music in an intimate setting by candlelight.

In addition, TCA will perform two pieces by the late composer, Stephen Paulus, in tribute to his life, and many choral works for the holiday season.

"The Lessons and Carols concerts are among my favorite every year," says Music Director Eric Holtan. "For me, they capture the mystery, awe and joy of the season, in a culture that has commercialized the holidays. I can't say it better than one of TCA's subscribers, who said that concerts 'make the season'."

There will be several performances over the weekend. Performances usually sell out, so audiences are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance.

The Festival of Nine Lessons was based on an Order drawn up by Edward Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury in 1880. Tradition says that he organized a 10 p.m. service on Christmas Eve in a temporary wooden structure serving as his cathedral and that the purpose of the service was to keep the men out of the pubs! Since then, the original liturgy has been adapted and used by other churches all over the world, with the best-known version performed annually from King's College, Cambridge, since 1918.

Audiences will join TCA's chorus in singing many beloved carols. Jeffrey Campbell, organist, will offer a recital of music 30 minutes prior to the start of the concert.

Performances for TCA's Christmas Lessons and Carols by Candlelight will be held at the following locations:

Friday, December 12, 7 p.m.

St. Francis of the Valley Episcopal Church, Green Valley

Saturday, December 13, 7:30 p.m. & Sunday, December 14, 3 p.m.

St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church, Tucson

Sunday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.

Episcopal Church of the Apostles, Oro Valley

(New concert location!)

For tickets and information, go to www.tucsonchamberartists.org, or call (520) 401-2651.