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**The Nashua Symphony Chorus captures the beauties of autumn in New England.**

Conductor Diane Cushing brings “New England Pastoral”

This fall, the Nashua Symphony Chorus will tour southern New Hampshire and Northern MA with a program entitled *New England Pastoral*. The program includes selections connected in some way with New England, including several by New England composers past and present. The tour will bring the NSC to Keene State College’s recital hall (on Friday, September 21 at 8:00 p.m.), Plymouth Congregational Church in Plymouth, NH (on Sunday, September 23 at 5:00 p.m.), First Church in Salem, MA (on Friday, September 28 at 8:00 p.m.) and Portsmouth’s South Church (on Sunday, September 30 at 4:00 p.m.). All concerts are free and open to the public, thanks to the generous support of the NH State Council on the Arts’ “American Masterpieces: NH Inspirations” program, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

New Hampshire composer Kevin Siegfried’s arrangement of *Shaker Songs* pays homage to the remarkably deep piety of the communities that once flourished across New England. The *Shaker Songs* include four of our favorites from these lovely and heartfelt arrangements. Siegfried, who earned his DMA in composition from the New England Conservatory, currently teaches at the Boston Conservatory. The NSA’s Director of Choral Activities Diane Cushing praises Kevin’s music, saying, “we’ve so enjoyed working with Kevin Siegfried who arranged the *Shaker Songs*. His harmonies bring out the text in such a meaningful way. It’s a joy to sing them because they have so much inspiration for all of us.”

Robert Frost, winner of four Pulitzer Prizes, and American composer Randall Thompson knew and admired each other’s work. When commissioned to compose a piece for the town of Amherst, Massachusetts, Thompson selected seven appropriate Frost poems that depict the simple, everyday experience of rural life. *Frostiana: Seven Country Songs* aptly captures the text, painting a picture of rural New England and emphasizing the small but significant choices we make in our lives.

Also on the program are traditional favorites – like Aaron Coplands’ “Zion’s Walls” and “At the River” – which echo the many cultural riches to be thankful for in America. Mark Winges’ arrangement of shape-note tunes made popular by singing colonists, ably capture the spirit of America’s early folk-music. “I can’t keep from singing” releases the bottled-up joy we sometimes feel during a New England autumn. Traditional selections “Battle Hymn of the Republic”, “My soul’s been anchored in the Lord”, and “Amazing

Grace” will no doubt have the power to uplift and heal at this most beautiful time of the year.

The Nashua Symphony Chorus, founded in 1964, is a highly respected, volunteer chorus committed to excellence in choral performance. Led since 2006 by conductor Diane Cushing, the group includes talented individuals from the community performing several concerts each season. The Symphony Chorus has a rich history, which includes several European tours, joining other choruses for performances in England, Scotland, Wales, Denmark, Belgium, Austria and Italy. Concerts scheduled for the 2007-08 season include a November performance of Mozart’s *Requiem*, December’s *Holiday Pops!*, and *A Lasting Peace* in April 2008.