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**September 11th Tenth Anniversary Commemorative Concert
Elgin Choral Union's "A Concert of Remembrance"**

Event Highlights:

- Multi-arts organization performance of John Adams' *On the Transmigration of Souls* and Johannes Brahms' *A German Requiem* in "A Concert of Remembrance"
- One performance only on Sunday, September 11, 2011 at 3:30 pm at Hemmens Cultural Center, Elgin, Illinois
- To order tickets call 847.931.5900, visit the box office in person at 45 Symphony Way, Elgin, Illinois or visit www.hemmens.org
- Concert features Elgin Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Andrew Lewis
- 150-voice massed choir from Elgin Choral Union, members of Heartland Voices and Elgin Children's Chorus; Elgin OPERA soloists Solange Sior, soprano and Ghibong Kim, baritone
- Display of world-renowned painter George Kokines' moving work: "September 11"

Elgin, IL – July 2011 – On Sunday, September 11, the Elgin Choral Union (ECU), the City of Elgin and Elgin Symphony Orchestra will present a commemorative concert titled "A Concert of Remembrance," featuring the Elgin Choral Union, Elgin Symphony Orchestra, members of Heartland Voices and Elgin Children's Chorus with generous services provided by Elgin OPERA. This performance will take place on Sunday, September 11 at 3:30pm at Hemmens Cultural Center, 45 Symphony Way, Elgin, Illinois. Tickets will go on sale Thursday, July 21, 2011. Tickets may be purchased through the Hemmens Cultural Center Box Office. Prices range from \$25-\$50. Please call 847.931.5900 for ticket information and to purchase tickets. Order tickets online by visiting www.hemmens.org or in person at 45 Symphony Way, Elgin, Illinois.

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Music Director Andrew Lewis programmed John Adams' *On the Transmigration of Souls* which was written as a September 11th commemorative piece. Adams has deftly interwoven street sounds, prerecorded voices, full orchestra, chorus and children's chorus into twenty-three minutes of music which expresses complex feelings and emotions building to a full carillon of sound as it sweeps the audience along. The text originates from three main sources: brief fragments from missing-person signs that were posted at Ground Zero, from personal reminiscences, and also from a randomly chosen list of names of victims.

Also programmed is Brahms' *A German Requiem*, often referred to as the *Human Requiem*. Instead of using the typical Latin text and Roman Catholic prayer mass for the dead, Brahms selected Biblical passages on the human condition with messages of spiritual healing to comfort the living. Because of its powerful melodies, sensitive use of text and its theme of transition from anxiety to consolation, this piece is known worldwide for its ability to offer reassurance and hope to those who survive.

ECU understands the need for a community to come together and give voice to its feelings regarding the attacks that took place. These two monumental works of music will be performed in commemoration of those 2,000+ individuals from over 81 different countries who lost their lives and also in recognition of the values and courage of common citizens. As a leader in community building since 1947 the Elgin Choral Union has lifted the standards and aspirations of musical organizations, educational groups and our audiences. Music has the transformative capacity to provide light in our darkest moments. Committed to sharing our gifts with Elgin and the surrounding communities, "A Concert of Remembrance" is ECU's way to give back to our community. It provides an opportunity to come together to remember and reflect collectively.

This concert is sponsored in part by the Cornelia A. and Florence B. Palmer Foundation, Walgreens, Otto Engineering, the Duchossois Family Foundation, Jack and Marlene Shales and others.

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About the Elgin Choral Union: As the oldest and largest performing arts organization in the Fox River Valley, Elgin Choral Union presents spectacular live choral music performances unmatched by any other area organization. We are an adult volunteer chorus of over 100 voices and our mission states: We are dedicated to the highest standards of excellence in creating and performing choral music for the joy, enrichment, and education of our membership and our audiences. For more information on the Elgin Choral Union, please visit www.elginchoralunion.org.

Elgin Choral Union is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization and in-residence ensemble at Elgin Community College.

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