

Vance Y. George 2007

Vance George is internationally recognized as one of America's leading choral conductors. He has conducted throughout the U.S. as well as Europe, Australia and Asia; most recently in Salzburg, Sydney, Minneapolis, and Indianapolis. He has received great acclaim for his unique knowledge of musical styles, languages, mastery of vocal colors, and synthesis of the choral-orchestral tradition.

His work embodies the legacy of the great maestros he has known as protégé and colleague, especially Kurt Masur, John Nelson, Helmut Rilling, Robert Shaw, Julius Herford, Margaret Hillis, Robert Page, Otto Werner-Mueller, and Mary Oyer. During his 23 years with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus the group was hailed as one of the finest in the world. On their behalf he accepted two Grammy awards for Best Performance of a Choral Work Orff's *Carmina burana* – 1993 and Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem* -1966. Other Grammy-winning recordings featuring the chorus include Stravinsky's *Perséphone* and Mahler's *Symphony III*. TV and film credits include an Emmy for *Sweeney Todd* in 2002 and soundtracks for *Amadeus*, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, and *Godfather III*.

His performances encompass the choral/orchestral works of Bach, Mozart, Haydn, Schubert, Beethoven, Verdi, and Faure. Twentieth century composers include Stravinsky, Schoenberg, V. Williams, Penderecki, Lutoslawski and Meredith Monk. Highly regarded as a teacher of conducting he has presented workshops throughout the U.S. including Buffalo, Eastman, Cincinnati, Berkeley, and the San Francisco Conservatory. A graduate of Goshen College he was awarded an honorary doctorate by Kent State University, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from Chorus America. He has served on the board of Chorus America and the National Endowment of the Arts.