

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 21, 2017

The Fortas Chamber Music Concerts
presents

Cantus

[Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.](#)

(WASHINGTON)—The Fortas Chamber Music Concerts rings in the holidays with the all-male a cappella ensemble, **Cantus**. Last seen at the Kennedy Center in 2013, Cantus returns to the Center bringing *Three Tales of Christmas*, a holiday program of favorites new and old. The performance will take place on Wednesday, December 6, at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$45.

In their polished chamber music–style technique, Cantus reimagines beloved holiday stories through familiar carols alongside new classics for their program *Three Tales of Christmas*. Featuring narrated passages from such classic holiday tales as *A Christmas Carol*, *Gift of the Magi*, and *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, *Three Tales of Christmas* reminds audiences of the joy of the season with fresh perspective and just the right amount of nostalgia.

About Cantus

The “engaging” (*New Yorker*) men’s vocal ensemble **Cantus** is widely known for its trademark warmth and blend, innovative programming, and engaging performances of music ranging from the Renaissance to the 21st century. The *Washington Post* has hailed the Cantus sound as having both “exalting finesse” and “expressive power” and refers to the “spontaneous grace” of its music making.

As one of the nation’s few full-time vocal ensembles, Cantus has grown in prominence with its distinctive approach to creating music. Working without a conductor, the

members of Cantus rehearse and perform as chamber musicians, each contributing to the entirety of the artistic process.

Integral to the Cantus mission is its commitment to preserve and deepen music education in the schools. Cantus works with more than 5,000 students each year in master class and workshop settings across the country. Now in its eighth year, the award-winning High School Residency program brings Cantus into Minnesota schools several times a year for mentoring with a culminating public concert in the spring.

Program Details

Fortas Chamber Music Series

Terrace Theater

Wednesday, December 6, at 7:30 p.m.

Cantus

Three Tales of Christmas

TRADITIONAL arr. Willcocks/De Paur	“God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen”
HORVATH	“Demon in my View”
WALTON arr. Powell	“Make We Joy Now in this Feast”
TRADITIONAL arr. Lichte	“Wassail”
ROSETTI arr. Dickau	“Love Came Down at Christmas”
MARTIN/BLAINE	“Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas”
OLA GJEILO	“Ubi Caritas”
TRADITIONAL arr. Handel	“Joy To The World”
PAUL WILLIAMS	“With A Thankful Heart”
JOHNNY MARKS	“Silver and Gold”
TRADITIONAL arr. McGlynn	“Noel Nouvelet”
GUSTAV HOLST	“In The Bleak Midwinter”
TRADITIONAL arr. CANTUS	“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”
HEALY WILLAN	“The Three Kings”
CHRIS FOSS	“Twas the Night Before Christmas”

Tickets: \$45

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets are \$45 and information is available from the Kennedy Center Box Office, web site, and Instant-Charge, (202) 467-4600. Patrons living outside the metropolitan Washington area may call toll-free at (800) 444-1324, or online at kennedy-center.org.

About The Fortas Chamber Music Concerts

The 2017–2018 season marks the 35th season of the Kennedy Center’s chamber music series, established in the 1981–1982 season by Marta Istomin, who, at the time, was the Kennedy Center’s Artistic Director. The Fortas Chamber Music Concerts, established as part of the Terrace Concerts during the 1983–1984 season, began a vibrant new life in the 1999–2000 season when—in addition to the generous contributions of loyal supporters of the Fortas Fund—income from a major gift to the Fortas Fund from the late Carolyn E. Agger, widow of Abe Fortas, became available to support the artistic programming. The Fortas Chamber Music Concerts series is named for the former Supreme Court Justice, who was instrumental in the creation of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and later, the Terrace Theater. The Kennedy Center’s Board of Trustees established the Abe Fortas Memorial Fund in 1982 for the support of concerts in the Terrace Theater, and for the further development of the musical programs he envisioned.

Through its history the series has featured frequent appearances by artists such as the Guarneri, Emerson, Juilliard, and Alban Berg Quartets; early music ensembles Anonymous 4, Trio Medieval, and the Waverly Consort; performances by Eugene Istomin, Emanuel Ax, Edgar Meyer, Susan Graham, Isaac Stern, and Yo-Yo Ma; as well as ensembles that actively perform and commission new works, among them David Lang’s *love fail*, Imani Winds; as well as many other distinguished artists.

FORTAS CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS SCHEDULE

Date	Artists
January 24, 2018	Calidore String Quartet
February 6, 2018	<i>Leonard Bernstein, His World Through Music</i> part of <i>Leonard Bernstein at 100</i>
March 21, 2018	Takács Quartet
April 5, 2018	Dawn Upshaw and So Percussion
April 15, 2018	Isabel Leonard in Recital
April 23, 2018	Steven Isserlis and Richard Egarr
May 3, 2018	Les Violons du Roy with Isabelle Faust
June 11, 2018	A Night of Schumann and Brahms with Christoph Eschenbach and NSO Members

FUNDING CREDITS

The Fortas Chamber Music Concerts are supported by generous contributors to the Abe Fortas Memorial Fund, and by a major gift to the fund from the late Carolyn E. Agger, widow of Abe Fortas.

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For more information, please visit the [Kennedy Center website](https://www.kennedycenter.org).



#KCFortas

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TICKETS & INFORMATION

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