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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**USF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP WITH CUTTING-EDGE CHAMBER CHOIR
CULMINATES IN RELEASE OF THRILLING RECORDING OF BRAHMS' *REQUIEM***

TAMPA, FL – The **University of South Florida** and **Seraphic Fire**, the exciting young professional chamber choir based in Miami, **announce the release, on August 22, of a recording of *Brahms: Ein Deutsches Requiem***, conducted by Seraphic Fire founder and artistic director **Patrick Dupré Quigley**, and recorded on the campus of USF. The recording is the first to feature musicians from the **Professional Choral Institute (PCI)**, a partnership between Seraphic Fire and the USF designed to recognize and foster the next generation of professional ensemble singers. The recording was produced by **GRAMMY winning producer Peter Rutenberg**, and is released on the **Seraphic Fire Media** label.

Prepared by Seraphic Fire chorus master and USF faculty member **James K. Bass** and coached by Seraphic Fire singers, the aspiring professionals of PCI came to the Tampa campus of USF for two weeks of intensive professional training workshops, rehearsals and concerts. The PCI students combined with the forces of Seraphic Fire, soprano **Teresa Wakim**, baritone **Paul Max Tipton** and pianists **Scott Allen Jarret** and **Justin Blackwell** under the direction of Seraphic Fire founder and artistic director **Patrick Dupré Quigley** to realize a revelatory and fresh rendering of Brahms' masterwork.

The results, as heard on the *Requiem* recording, are a **radiant testament to the high level of singing talent** in the United States. Brahms' four hand piano score, used in this recording, **reveals a ravishing *tour de force for keyboard and voices***, enhancing the genius of Brahms' counterpoint and highlighting the virtuosity of the combined singers and keyboardists.

The recording is produced by **GRAMMY winning producer and conductor Peter Rutenberg**. Rutenberg is the conductor/producer of GRAMMY-winning album "Padilla: Sun of Justice." Mr. Rutenberg was also the producer of Seraphic Fire's Number 1 iTunes hit Classical album *Claudio Monteverdi: Vespers of the Blessed Virgin*.

For more information, advance copies, high resolution photographs or interview requests, please contact Ashleigh Gallant at agallant@usf.edu or 813-974-1756. Artist and ensemble bios are attached below. ***Brahms: Ein Deutsches Requiem*** may be purchased online at Amazon.com or downloaded on iTunes.

www.usf.edu
www.seraphicfire.org

About the University of South Florida

The University of South Florida is the first public university established specifically to address the needs of Florida's rapidly emerging urban regions. State Rep. Sam Gibbons championed USF's creation. John S. Allen, the first president, helped Gov. LeRoy Collins break ground in September 1958. On Sept. 26, 1960, nearly 2,000 students began classes in five buildings .

USF developed rapidly. In 1965, the St. Petersburg campus opened, and USF was accredited, gaining additional academic respect. In 1967, enrollment passed 10,000. In 1968, USF was admitted to the National Collegiate Athletic Association. In the 1970s, the College of Medicine was established, New College in Sarasota became part of USF, and a strong academic program in Sarasota/Manatee was developed.

The university came of age in the 1980s. The graduate school was established, the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute opened, the Lakeland campus opened, and enrollment passed 30,000. USF awarded its 100,000th diploma; and USF alumni were everywhere, working and giving back to their communities. Research funding passed \$100 million. USF was recruiting superb scientists, creative artists, and cutting-edge scholars. The 1990s brought widespread recognition of USF as a major research university.

To date, USF has more than 250,000 graduates and almost 47,000 students in over 200 undergraduate and graduate programs. The university is ranked in the top tier of U.S. research universities by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Learning and on a clear path to becoming one of the Top 50 research universities in the country.

The College of The Arts at USF is continually developing as a distinguished metropolitan-based center for learning and research in the arts, preparing tomorrow's artists, scholars, and arts leaders as they explore new forms of artistic expression and examine contemporary perspectives within the arts. There are many incentives that attract music students to USF, including distinguished artist faculty, splendid ensembles that perform regularly at state, regional and national music events, an exceptional jazz studies program, one of the most complete electronic music studios in the nation (SYCOM), a visionary music education program, and an environment that boasts a wide range of excellent cultural activities. The Choral Studies department at USF, directed by Dr. James K. Bass, has four exceptional choirs that each specialize in different types of choral literature; Collegium Choir (20 voice), Collegiate Singers (70 voice), Chamber Singers (40 voice) and the Master Chorale (120 voice).

ARTIST BIOS

About Seraphic Fire

Founded in 2002 by Artistic Director Patrick Dupré Quigley, Seraphic Fire has garnered critical acclaim locally and nationally. Lauded by *The Miami Herald* as "one of the best choirs anywhere," Seraphic Fire has gained a reputation for dynamic, cutting-edge performances. In an exciting crossover collaboration in 2004, Seraphic Fire was invited to record with international pop star Shakira on a track for her album *Oral Fixation Vol. 2*, which ultimately went platinum on the Billboard Pop Charts.

Seraphic Fire's programming is broad, including classical and contemporary, sacred and secular choral works. This programming has won the organization awards and earned wide-ranging praise. Over the past nine seasons, the organization has commissioned and premiered works by up-and-coming young composers. In 2005, Seraphic Fire commissioned *The Road From Hiroshima: A Requiem*, a 50-minute work from 28-year-old composer Shawn Crouch. It was subsequently nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

In recent years, Seraphic Fire has made significant organizational and artistic strides. Recent seasons have experienced record-breaking ticket sales with many sold-out performances. In 2007, Seraphic Fire was awarded a Knight Foundation grant for the formation of the Firebird Chamber Orchestra, which debuted in 2008. Seraphic Fire currently performs full seasons at several South Florida venues in Coral Gables, Miami Beach, Miami, Boca Raton and Fort Lauderdale. In 2007, the ensemble began touring nationally, and launched its first international tour in 2010. Seraphic Fire has nine CDs in circulation, including the critically acclaimed Monteverdi *Vespers of the Blessed Virgin 1610*.

In 2010, Seraphic Fire launched its education initiative, Miami Choral Academy. The Choral Academy is a program designed to create a Little-League style network of choirs in Miami's inner-city schools. In partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the Choral Academy seeks to make positive academic and social change through participation in choral singing and an integrated academic enrichment program.

About the Professional Choral Institute

The Professional Choral Institute is a partnership between Seraphic Fire and the University of South Florida which focuses on ushering aspiring ensemble singers from talented amateurs to professional musicians. The two-week-long program teaches undergraduate, graduate and pre-professional singers the skills needed to move into the growing field of professional choral singing. Areas of vocational training include: vocal technique, musicianship skills, rehearsal comportment, audition skills, and résumé and headshot evaluation. PCI's participants work with Seraphic Fire to rehearse, perform and record masterworks of the Classical choral repertoire. PCI makes its home in USF's newly opened Performing Arts Teaching Facility.

About Patrick Dupré Quigley

The founding artistic director of Seraphic Fire, Patrick Dupré Quigley, has conducted ensembles throughout North America, Europe, China and Israel. Patrick is the recipient of the 2004 Robert Shaw Fellowship, given annually by the National Endowment for the Arts and Chorus America to one conductor between the ages of 25 and 40 who demonstrates the potential for a significant professional career. At 26, Patrick was the youngest person ever to receive this award.

In nine seasons, Patrick has built Seraphic Fire into a nationally recognized ensemble, now considered one of the four major performing arts institutions in Miami. The international classical music magazine *Gramophone* has declared that Seraphic Fire "has quickly become one of the top attractions in the [South Florida] region. No group programmes more adventurously." *The South Florida Sun Sentinel* calls Seraphic Fire "the smartest, most creative and consistently excellent classical music ticket in South Florida."

Patrick has led numerous recording projects, including the Monteverdi *Vespers of the Blessed Virgin 1610*. *Vespers* is a standout recording that became the No. 1 best-selling classical album on iTunes in 2010 and remained in the top 20 albums for more than a month.

In October 2006, he was one of 16 conductors from around the world invited to Stockholm, Sweden to compete in the tri-annual Eric Ericson Award. Under his leadership, Seraphic Fire was the recipient of the 2006 ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) Award for Adventurous Programming of New Music. In June 2011, Patrick received the Louis Botto Award for Innovative Action and Entrepreneurial Zeal from Chorus America.

Patrick has commissioned and premiered numerous works, including the Pulitzer Prize-nominated *Road from Hiroshima: A Requiem* by Shawn Crouch and the acoustic version of Ingram Marshall's *Hymnodic Delays*. Known for its high-quality and exciting performances of Baroque and New Music, Seraphic Fire is also the first classical ensemble since the Benedictine Monks of Silos to reach the Top 10 on the *Billboard* Pop Charts, appearing with international pop star Shakira on her platinum-selling album, *Oral Fixation Vol. 2.*

Patrick received his Master of Music degree in conducting from Yale University, where he studied on a full scholarship. He earned a Bachelor of Music from the University of Notre Dame.

About Teresa Wakim

With a voice of "extraordinary suppleness and beauty," (*The New York Times*) soprano Teresa Wakim's performances of opera, oratorio and chamber music have garnered her wide acclaim. A graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory and Boston University, she enjoys an international career performing and recording music from the Renaissance to the newly composed, and is perhaps best known as "a fine baroque stylist." (*The Miami Herald*) Noted engagements include performances with the Cleveland Orchestra, Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra, San Antonio Symphony, Apollo's Fire, Charlotte Symphony, the Handel and Haydn Society, Boston Baroque and Tragicomedia. She has sung under the batons of Harry Christophers, Ton Koopman, Roger Norrington and Laurence Cummings. A recipient of many honors, she won first prize in the Internationaler Solistenwettbewerb für Alte Musik in Brunnenthal, Austria, and was named a Lorraine Hunt Lieberson Fellow by Emmanuel Music. She is featured on two Grammy-nominated recordings of Lully operas with the Boston Early Music Festival, *Psyché* (Flore) and *Thésée* (Bergere) and as well as Charpentier's *Actéon* (Diane). She has also recorded with Blue Heron, the Handel and Haydn Society and Musik Ekklesia. In addition to Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, her work with Seraphic Fire includes Handel's *Messiah*, Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, Purcell's *King Arthur* (Venus) and *Dido and Aeneas* (Belinda).

About Paul Max Tipton

Described by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* as a "dignified and beautiful singer," baritone Paul Max Tipton enjoys an active career in opera, oratorio and chamber music and has performed and recorded throughout the United States. A versatile singer, his repertoire ranges from Schütz and Monteverdi to Britten and Bolcom, with his interpretations of the Bach Passions being acclaimed in particular for their strength and sensitivity. Recent and upcoming engagements include Britten's *War Requiem*, Handel's *Dettingen Te Deum*, Rameau's *La Lyre Enchantée*, the title role in *Don Giovanni*, and Frank Martin's *Sechs Monologe aus Jedermann*.

Tipton has collaborated with artists and conductors including Masaaki Suzuki, Helmuth Rilling, Nicholas McGegan, Ton Koopman, Leonard Slatkin, Ted Taylor, Paul Hillier, Craig Hella Johnson, Ricky Ian Gordon, Simon Carrington and Martin Katz. Recent engagements include performances with the symphonies of San Antonio, Grand Rapids, Lincoln and Stamford, in addition to appearances with the Yale Camerata, New Trinity Baroque, The Rose Ensemble, Seraphic Fire, Ensemble Florilege, the Yale Collegium Players, Lyra Baroque, Conspirare and Oregon Bach Festival.

He studied in the Oratorio & Early Music program at the Yale University Institute of Sacred Music where he was mentored by tenor James Taylor. He also studied on full fellowship at the University of Michigan School of Music in Ann Arbor where he trained under tenor George Shirley and mezzo-soprano Loretta Bybee.

About Justin Blackwell

Justin Thomas Blackwell is the associate director of Music at Marsh Chapel, Boston University, and is principal organist for the chapel's Sunday morning service, broadcast weekly on National Public Radio. In 2009, he performed the complete organ sonatas of Felix Mendelssohn, commemorating the 200th anniversary of the composer's birth, and in the following year, performed the complete organ works of Robert Schumann. He has appeared frequently as a continuo keyboardist, and has played organ or harpsichord for the four major choral/orchestral works of J. S. Bach (the two passions, the *B-minor Mass*, and the *Christmas Oratorio*); four oratorios of G. F. Handel; Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*; and more than 35 Bach cantatas. He has accompanied the Boston University Symphonic Chorus in performances of Duruflé's *Requiem*, Ives's *Psalm 90* (Boston Symphony Hall) and Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*. In addition to his responsibilities at Marsh Chapel, he also serves as the associate music director of the Back Bay Chorale, and has appeared with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Cantata Singers in Massachusetts and Seraphic Fire. He began his musical studies at age 5 in his native Charleston, S.C., and holds music degrees from Furman University (organ performance) and Boston University (choral conducting).

About Scott Allen Jarrett

Scott Allen Jarrett, DMA, is the director of Music at Boston University's Marsh Chapel, and the associate director of Choral Activities in the College of Fine Arts, School of Music. His appointment at Boston University includes lectureships in both the School of Theology in sacred music, and in the School of Music on the conducting faculty. As director of Music at Marsh Chapel, Jarrett oversees the rich musical life of the chapel, including a music staff of associates, managers, Choral Scholars and the Inner Strength Gospel Choir. Jarrett is the music director of Boston's Back Bay Chorale and is on the conducting staff of the Charlotte Symphony, where he is music director of the Oratorio Singers of Charlotte.

Dr. Jarrett regularly conducts the great masterworks of the choral/orchestral repertoire, with a particular focus on the works of J.S. Bach. Having established the Marsh Chapel Bach Cantata Series, he has conducted more than 35 cantatas, and multiple performances of each of Bach's four major works (*St. John Passion*, *St. Matthew Passion*, *Mass in B Minor*, and the *Christmas Oratorio*). As a keyboardist, he was a frequent accompanist for the late Robert Shaw, and appears regularly as a continuo player with Seraphic Fire. He is also the rehearsal accompanist and a member of the chorus of the Oregon Bach Festival in Eugene, Ore.

Dr. Jarrett served eight summers on the conducting staff at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute in the Berkshires. BUTI is part of the Tanglewood Music Center, the summer home of the Boston Symphony.

About James K. Bass

James K. Bass is director of Choral Studies in the School of Music at the University of South Florida and the artistic director of the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay. At USF he conducts the University Chamber Singers, Collegium and the Collegiate Singers, and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in choral conducting, philosophy and literature. He was formerly on the faculty at Western Michigan University and the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Bass received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Miami where he was also a doctoral fellow; a Master of Music and Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of South Florida; and is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy.

Bass's conducting experience includes a variety of choral and orchestral ensembles including chamber choirs, women's choruses, mixed-voice choirs, symphony orchestras, string orchestras and string

chamber ensembles. The Western Michigan University Chorale was one of 11 nationally auditioned choirs to appear as a featured performer at the 2008 convention of the National Collegiate Choral Organization in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has conducted choirs at the University of Central Florida and University of Miami and has appeared as a guest conductor and clinician. He has served as director of choral and orchestral activities at Howard W. Blake High School for the Performing Arts in Tampa, Fla., and conductor of the Tampa Bay Youth Orchestra. He has prepared choirs for Sir Colin Davis, Sir David Willcocks, Jahja Ling, Michael Tilson Thomas and Robert Shaw.

Bass was selected by Ton Koopman, the master conductor of the Amsterdam Baroque Soloists, to be one of only 20 singers for a presentation of cantatas by J.S. Bach in Carnegie Hall, and was an auditioned member of Robert Shaw's workshop choir at Carnegie. As a bass soloist, he has performed at Winchester Cathedral in London, has sung three world premieres of large works, and appears on CD recordings on the Albany and Seraphic Fire Media label. He has appeared with the New World Symphony and Michael Tilson Thomas, The Florida Orchestra, the Grand Rapids Symphony and the Firebird Chamber orchestra as bass soloist.

Bass is a bass member and chorus master for Seraphic Fire and was appointed choirmaster for the Classical Music Festival in Eisenstadt, Austria. He is on the executive board of the American Choral Directors Association Central Division, serving as College Repertoire and Standards chairperson. His professional affiliations include the American Choral Directors Association, Music Educators National Conference, American Symphony Orchestra League, Pi Kappa Lambda national music honor society and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia music fraternity.