



PRESS RELEASE

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Famed Oregon Young Women's Choir to Perform at Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House

Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House, in Historic Concord, Massachusetts, is pleased to announce that its Concord School of Philosophy will serve as the preferred venue for the only area performance of the acclaimed **Oregon Young Women's Choir** and their *a cappella* ensemble, "**Synergy**," on **Wednesday, June 22, 2005, at 7:30 p.m.**

The Young Women's Choir (YWC) is part of the Oregon Children's Choir, which was formed in 1982 to supplement musical training offered in local schools. Since then, the group has grown to eight choirs with over 250 choristers. The YWC is for high school students who have the commitment and ability to prepare and perform challenging four-part women's music of all styles.

The YWC has traveled extensively to various parts of the United States and abroad, including British Columbia, Canada and Paris, France, where they were honored guests at the U.S. Embassy in 2002. Their rendition of "America the Beautiful" brought the crowd to tears and their feet, and was especially moving in light of the September 11th tragedy only months before. Members of this choir are also regularly accepted into the Oregon Bach Festival Youth Choral Academy each summer. For the 2004-05 school year, the YWC has 24 members representing 11 high schools.

Within the YWC is the five-member ensemble, "**Synergy**," which provides opportunities for musical enjoyment and participation beyond the structured settings of traditional choral experiences. This smaller group allows capable YWC members to sing *a cappella* music that requires advanced skills in intonation, blend, expression, vocal tone, and range. "**Synergy**" has attained a high level of expertise and professionalism, establishing themselves as an elite group of singers who are not only vocally talented, but dynamic to watch!

Conductor Dr. Paul Westlund earned a B.S. in Music Education and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting from the University of Illinois, and a Master of Music from the University of Wisconsin. He has been with the Oregon Youth Choir since 1985.

This event is free and open to the public, with light refreshments available. For further information, please contact **978.369.4118 x 103** or visit **www.louisamayalcott.org**.