News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spring Choral Concert
University of St. Thomas University Singers
Feature Mozart's *Missa brevis in Bb, K. 275*

HOUSTON (March 6, 2009) – At 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 in the Chapel of St. Basil on the University of St. Thomas campus, the University Singers will perform Mozart's *Missa brevis in Bb, K.275*. Director is Dr. Brady Knapp, UST Assistant Professor of Music and guest conductor is Courtney Daniell-Kanpp. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Monique Dupleich at 713-52-3159.

Composed during the summer of 1777 when a young Mozart was under the service of Archbishop Hieronymus Colloredo in Salzburg, the *Missa brevis in Bb, K. 275* demonstrates contrast in dynamics and texture between major and minor, sprightly marcato and elegant legato, and soloists and choir. This Mass aims at following the liturgical text as closely as possible, and the composer provides musical unity through the use of identical accompanying motives in the organ and strings.

The individual movements are *durchkomponiert*, or through-composed, and feature a lucid texture "imbued with contrapuntal inspiration, thus approaching that 'mixture of neatness and poetic grace' which is characteristic of the mature Mozart's style." (*The Mozart Companion*, edited by H.C. Robbins Landon and Donald Mitchell)

The buoyant Kyrie, vigorous Gloria, sweeping Sanctus, stately soprano aria Benedictus, and dramatic Agnus Dei, ending with the joyfully insistent "*Dona nobis pacem*" section, comprise this brief, engaging work.

Soloists are Avi DePano, soprano; Vivian Jimenez, soprano; Rachel Boehm, mezzo-soprano; Eric Murillo, tenor; and Walter Canales, baritone.

The concert also features the works of Albrechtsberger, Bouman, Ford, Marcello, Ness Beck, Reynolds, Rutter, Self, Stroope, Wagner, and Ward.

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