



Building Bridges *and* Transforming Lives *through the* Power of Music

Washington, D.C. | April 22-25, 2025

Two Composers: Two Requiems



Composer &
Conductor

Ms. Heather Sorenson
Composer, Arranger &
Orchestrator



Composer &
Conductor

**Mr. Michael John
Trotta**
Composer & Conductor

The Setting

Artistic Experience

Join Heather Sorenson and Michael Trotta for a unique opportunity to perform their “Requiems” at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Heather and Michael will lead rehearsals, and provide insightful background about their compositions. Artistic faculty, including conductor, instrumentalists, and production team, will be provided. Chorus development, rehearsal space, and professional collaborators are included in the preparation. Enjoy a catered post-concert reception, archival recording, and complimentary photos. Hotel accommodations, transportation, and meals are provided, with rehearsals at the Holiday Inn Capitol.

National Cathedral

The Washington National Cathedral, officially known as the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, is a prominent landmark in Washington, D.C. with a rich history and a significant role in both music and national events.

History: Construction of the National Cathedral began in 1907 and was completed in 1990. The cathedral is the sixth largest in the world and serves as the seat of the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church. It has been the site of numerous historical events, including state funerals, inaugural prayer services, and memorial services.

Music: The National Cathedral has a strong musical tradition, featuring a renowned choir and hosting various musical events. The cathedral’s acoustics and majestic architecture contribute to the exceptional musical experience for both performers and audiences. The cathedral houses a grand organ with over 10,000 pipes, making it one of the largest organs in the world. The organ is often featured in concerts and religious services, showcasing its impressive range, and enhancing the overall musical atmosphere of the cathedral.

Throughout its history, the National Cathedral has been a venue for concerts, recitals, and special musical events that celebrate the intersection of music, spirituality, and national identity. The combination of its architectural grandeur and commitment to musical excellence makes the National Cathedral a unique and cherished cultural institution in Washington, D.C.



The Organizer: Perform America

“Building Bridges and Transforming Lives through the Power of Music”

Boldly informed by the belief that music inherently speaks as an expression of the human spirit beyond borders and in all cultures, Perform America seeks to empower music directors and ensembles to realize meaningful and life-changing immersion experiences and performances around the U.S.

- We empower music directors, music ensembles and individual musicians to share and grow in their artistic expression and understanding of people and cultures.
- We design and create rewarding performances as well as educational and cultural immersion opportunities by building and maintaining relationships with domestic and international musicians and music education organizations.
- We partner with concert venues, publicity teams, airlines, hotels, and tour guides to plan and implement operational methods that enhance rather than distract from the artistic experience.
- We provide meaningful and life-changing performance tour experiences that are personal, thoughtful, and efficient in the processes of conceptual artistic and educational development.

Faculty



**Heather
Sorenson**

Composer & Conductor

Heather Sorenson is an internationally known composer, arranger, and orchestrator whose works are performed in churches, schools, universities, concerts, and competitions worldwide. Initially recognized for her skill as a pianist, she is now widely known for her choral and instrumental works, with hundreds of compositions in print through various publishing houses including Hal Leonard, Shawnee Press, Alfred Music, the Lorenz Corporation, Hope Publishing, Lillenas, Fred Bock Music, and others.

Eclectic in her musicianship, Ms. Sorenson easily maneuvers the contemporary, traditional, and classical genres of music. Her ability to navigate such a wide diversity of style and venue earns her the qualification of being one of the most versatile musicians in the industry. Her recent commissions include works for Texas A&M University and the John F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation, in addition to many privately-funded commissions. Her latest extended commissions are *Requiem*, and *These Ancient Words*, large works that live in both the concert hall and the sanctuary.

Teaching has been a large part of Ms. Sorenson's career. She taught all elementary levels of music at Grace Academy of Dallas for 4 years, served as an adjunct instructor at Baylor University, and was Music Associate at Lavon Drive Baptist Church (Garland, TX) for fourteen years. She has served on many master class panels in piano and songwriting, and is a sought-after guest speaker and conductor at churches across America, leading scores of sessions each year at various worship conferences, schools, and universities.

Currently Ms. Sorenson spends her time juggling a full writing load as well as traveling as a guest artist and lecturer. In her free time, she is usually planning and performing benefit concerts for her favorite non-profit organizations. Ms. Sorenson makes her home in the Dallas, TX area with her beloved dog, Darla.



**Michael John
Trotta**

Composer & Conductor

Fueled by a passion for combining tradition and innovation, American composer Michael John Trotta (b.1978) creates music that resonates with modern audiences around the world. From Carnegie Hall to cathedrals and concert halls around the world, he creates “elegant, singable music with a strong, spiritual heft” (Choir and Organ Magazine).

Seasoned by his experience as a conductor at the primary, secondary, and university levels – as well as a church music director – his works are infused with an “intimate knowledge of the human voice and a rare sensitivity to the capabilities of a choral ensemble” (Fanfare). The “dynamic interplay of time-honored musical gestures with present-day sonorities” (Choral Scholar) create “tender harmonies and a palette of glowing vocal and instrumental colors” (Gramophone).

In addition to a significant output of music for unaccompanied choir, he has written nine choral-orchestral works on a larger scale. His most recent work, *Requiem*, was recorded by Tenebrae Choir (Nigel Short, conductor).

His select concert and sacred music is distributed by Excelcia Music. For more information, a complete list of compositions, or to get in touch, visit his official website www.mjtrotta.com.

With a zeal for removing barriers to new music and artistic excellence, Trotta has created and funded a new initiative that distributes grants to choir directors and scholarships to future choral directors.

Dr. Trotta resides in the New York City metro area and spends his time at the beach in New Jersey with his wife Rachel and his daughter Gabriella.



April 22-25, 2025

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Tour Itinerary

DAY 1 - Tuesday, April 22, 2025 - Travel to Washington, D.C.

Depart from your destination on a flight or by coach to Washington, D.C. (flight/coach costs for transfer from your destination to Washington, D.C. are not included in this proposal but can be priced on request). Arrive and make your own way to the hotel for check in. Dinner will be on your own. You'll have evening rehearsals at the hotel with either Michael or Heather depending on which *Requiem* you are singing (rehearsals will be done simultaneously at the hotel). Overnight at the Holiday Inn Capitol.

DAY 2 - Wednesday, April 23, 2025 - Washington, D.C.

Breakfast is included at the hotel. This morning you'll have a rehearsal with either Michael or Heather depending on which *Requiem* you are singing (rehearsals will be done simultaneously at the hotel). Afternoon and evening will be free at leisure to explore D.C. on own. Dinner on your own. Overnight at the Holiday Inn Capitol.

DAY 3 - Thursday, April 24, 2025 - Washington, D.C. / Gala Concert

Breakfast is included at the hotel. This morning you'll have free time to explore and visit some of the many amazing museums in Washington, D.C. You'll have an afternoon dress rehearsal at the National Cathedral (transfers included). You'll break for dinner on your own before this evening's Gala Concert at the National Cathedral. Enjoy a post concert buffet reception. Overnight at the Holiday Inn Capitol.

DAY 4 - Friday, April 25, 2025 - Depart Washington, D.C.

Breakfast is included at the hotel. Check out following breakfast. Depart Washington, D.C. taking with you lifelong memories of exploring our nation's capital and performing at the National Cathedral (flight/coach costs for transfer from D.C. to your home destination are not included in this proposal but can be priced on request).

Pre/Post Festival Tour Programs

Optional pre- and post-tours for groups of 20 and more passengers are available including additional individual performance opportunities for balanced ensembles. All of Perform America's pre/post tours are fully customized to each choir's specific needs.

