



Master Singers of Milwaukee  
Eric Townell, Music Director  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Wednesday, March 23, 2005

The Master Singers of Milwaukee and Chamber Choir Cantinovum, of Jyväskylä, Finland, will perform a concert entitled "**Kalevala and Beyond**," with music by Nordic and other composers including Grieg, Sibelius, Verdi and Bruckner, on May 7, 2005 at 7:00 P.M., St. John's Lutheran Church, 81 Christopher Street, New York 10014. Eric Townell and Rita Varonen will conduct. The concert is sponsored by the Consulate General of Finland. Proceeds benefit the New York Finnish Lutheran Congregation.

2005 marks the 170th anniversary of Finland's national epic poem, "The Kalevala," which contributed greatly to the structure of the modern, written Finnish language and which became the model for American epic poetry, such as Longfellow's "Song of Hiawatha." The Consulate General of Finland has organized a series of musical and cultural events in New York during 2005 celebrating the Kalevala legacy. Several works on this program are based on the Kalevala text.

"Cantinovum is among the very best choirs in Finland, and the Master Singers of Milwaukee is among the best ensembles of its kind in this country, so it is very fitting that we should perform together in New York. It is a great musical pleasure to collaborate with Cantinovum and St. John's is a lovely, natural acoustical space. We are looking forward to an excellent evening," Townell says.

"This event is likely to draw audiences from the Northeast and as far south as Philadelphia. Works by other Nordic composers and familiar choral compositions from other countries are on the program as well, so there will be much for everyone to enjoy."

Tickets (\$15 general admission, \$10 seniors/students at the door) are available at the door, or in advance (\$3 discount) by calling (646) 638-4195.

### **Contact information**

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