

LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY CLASSICAL CONCERT

(Longview, Texas)—LeTourneau University's Fine Arts Department will present a performance of the Mozart Requiem on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Belcher Center on the LeTourneau University campus in Longview. The LeTourneau Singers and Longview Civic Chorus will be accompanied by full orchestra, with singers and orchestra socially distanced on the Belcher stage. Soloists include Alyssa Marshall Altobell, soprano; Kimberly LaGraff, alto; Jon Starling, tenor; and Scott LaGraff, bass. Admission is open to the public and is free of charge.

"It is great to be able to have a live performance," says Director of Fine Arts Dr. Jim Taylor, who will be directing the concert. "My perception is that singers, instrumentalists and audience members are eager to get back to great music in-person rather than staring at a screen. The Belcher auditorium can accommodate 500 in the audience with proper spacing, which makes it possible."

Heard along with the Requiem will be two selections from Prokofiev's ballet, *Romeo and Juliet*, played on piano by Russian-American LETU flight student, Elijah Dmitrievsky, and the premier of a short orchestral piece, "Capriccio," composed by Taylor during the COVID time. A pre-concert lecture by the director on the works to be performed will be held in the main auditorium at 6:15 p.m.

The Mozart Requiem is to many the most beloved choral/orchestral work in the repertoire. It is also wrapped in over two centuries of mystery, as Mozart died before completing it. How much of it is Mozart's and how much is the work of his pupil, Süßmeyer—whom Mozart's wife hired to finish it in order to collect the commission money—is debatable.

"I could perform this work every year," says Taylor. "Mozart adapts the techniques of Bach and Handel into his style in a work of depth and winsomeness that is hard to describe. It is always fresh and always delights!"

For more information contact Dr. Taylor at (903) 233-3379 or jimtaylor@letu.edu.

LeTourneau University is *the* Christian polytechnic university in the nation where educators engage students to nurture Christian virtue, develop competency and ingenuity in their professional fields, integrate faith and work, and serve the local and global community. LETU offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs across a range of disciplines and delivery models at LETU's residential campus in Longview, Texas, hybrid options at centers in the Dallas and Houston areas and fully online programs. For additional information, visit www.letu.edu.