

Norman Scribner
Artistic Director & Founder

Considered an institution among his choral contemporaries, **Norman Scribner** is one of Washington's most versatile and respected musical figures. In 1965, Mr. Scribner founded The Choral Arts Society of Washington, an ensemble of over 160 singers who perform under his direction in regular season subscription concerts at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and other DC-area venues. As Artistic Director of one of the major symphonic choruses in the United States for 46 years, Norman Scribner has led and prepared the Choral Arts Chorus for numerous performances with the world's leading conductors and orchestras, television appearances, recordings and tours, performing the standard repertoire, world premieres, and new works commissioned by the Society.

At the request of Leonard Bernstein, Mr. Scribner assembled a professional choir to perform in the world premiere of *Mass* for the opening of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 1971 and the subsequent original cast recording of this piece. The chorus, named the Norman Scribner Choir, returned to the Kennedy Center numerous times, most memorably for the Center's Tenth Anniversary concert broadcast on PBS. The Choir performed on a Grammy-nominated recording of Haydn's *Mass in Time of War* in 1973 under the direction of Leonard Bernstein, and also recorded on the Columbia label.

An accomplished pianist, Norman Scribner was the staff keyboard artist for the National Symphony Orchestra from 1963-1967. He has also served as guest conductor of the Symphony on several occasions. He was a member of the Choral Panel of the National Endowment for the Arts from 1974-76, and produced the annual free Christmas and Spring Festivals at the Kennedy Center from 1972-76. For a season he served as chorus master of the Washington Opera, and for eleven years prepared the Handel Festival Chorus. In 1981, Mr. Scribner traveled to England to conduct a performance of Handel's *Alexander's Feast* as part of the European Symposium Choral Masterworks Tour.

Norman Scribner is also well known as a composer. His choral symphony, *Love Divine*, was commissioned by the United Methodist Church and received its premiere performance at the church's 1984 General Conference in Baltimore with Mr. Scribner conducting. In addition, The British Institute commissioned a choral work entitled *Song for St. Cecilia*, which was performed in concert at the U.S. Supreme Court in May 1988. Mr. Scribner has written numerous shorter instrumental, solo vocal, and choral works.

Norman Scribner's musical presence in Washington began immediately after graduating with honors from Baltimore's prestigious Peabody Conservatory, when he became conductor of the American University Chorale, assistant organist of Washington Cathedral, and organist-choirmaster of St. Alban's Episcopal Church, a position he held from 1960-2007. He has taught at American University, George Washington University, and the College of Church Musicians of Washington National Cathedral.

For his many outstanding achievements and contributions to the life of the city of Washington, Norman Scribner was named a 1984 *Washingtonian of the Year*. Other honors include the 1998 *Mayor's Arts Award* for "Excellence in an Artistic Discipline," the *Cultural Alliance Founder's Award* in 2001, an honorary degree of *Doctor of Humane Letters* from the Virginia Theological Seminary in 2002, and the Peabody Distinguished Alumni Award in 2006.