



## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

# FAR IN THE HEAVENS

*Choral Music of Stephen Paulus*

TRUE CONCORD VOICES & ORCHESTRA  
ERIC HOLTAN, CONDUCTOR

Street Date: September 11, 2015



### WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS! CHORAL MUSIC BY BELOVED COMPOSER STEPHEN PAULUS

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Stephen Paulus (1949-2014) was hailed as “a bright, fluent inventor with a ready lyric gift” by *The New Yorker*. A prolific composer of over 500 works, he wrote for orchestra, chorus, chamber ensembles, solo voice, keyboard and opera. He was a recipient of both NEA and Guggenheim Fellowships. Described as uniquely American, his musical language was characterized as “irresistible in kinetic energy and haunting in lyrical design” by the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, while *The New York Times* praised him for “melodic patterns that are fresh and familiar at the same time” and scoring that is “invariably expert and exceptionally imaginative in textures and use of instruments.” His music is represented on over fifty recordings.

*Far In The Heavens* comprises recently composed and previously unrecorded works by Stephen Paulus, including two works that were commissioned and premiered by True Concord Voices & Orchestra: *The Incomprehensible* for their fifth anniversary season in 2009, and in 2011 *Prayers and Remembrances* for the tenth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 tragedy. GRAMMY®-award winner Peter Rutenberg of Los Angeles produced the album, and Mr. Paulus supervised the recording in Tucson, Arizona. Tragically, Stephen Paulus suffered a major stroke just six weeks after recording the album. He never recovered, and passed away in October 2014 after being in a coma for more than a year.

**True Concord Voices & Orchestra**, founded in 2004 by music director Eric Holtan as Tucson Chamber Artists, draws on the first rank of choral and instrumental musicians from Arizona and the United States. True Concord’s artistic mission is to enrich lives through the transformational power of classical music. It accomplishes this primarily through the performance of masterworks and the diverse music of the United States, making its New York City debut at Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall with Paulus’s *Prayers and Remembrances* in September 11, 2015, and its international debut with this recording. With this album, True Concord seeks to bring together hearts from Tucson with those from around the world, through the power of music by one of America’s greatest and most beloved composers. “This CD is the culmination of everything Stephen ever wrote in his entire career...he must have had a premonition that this CD needed his final touch.” —Patty Paulus, wife of the late Stephen Paulus.

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"In a nutshell, INCREDIBLE!  
Everything on the recording is absolutely first-rate.  
From top to bottom, the performances are stunning!"  
—Dale Warland, conductor of the Dale Warland Singers

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FR-716CD compact disc - US suggested retail price \$16.98

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## *Choral Music of Stephen Paulus*

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**Prayers and Remembrances (1-7)**

- 1 **They Are All Gone** 4:32
- 2 **Lord, Make Me an Instrument** 5:11
- 3 **Music, When Soft Voices Die** 5:58  
Kathryn Mueller, soprano
- 4 **Great Spirit** 4:06
- 5 **In Beauty It Walks** 5:50
- 6 **Eternity** 3:11
- 7 **Grant That We May Love** 7:29  
Kathryn Mueller, soprano; Thea Lobo, mezzo soprano;  
Owen McIntosh, tenor; Matthew Goinz, baritone
- 8 **Nunc dimittis** 4:05
- 9 **The Incomprehensible** 5:34  
Sara Fraker, oboe; Christine Vivona, harp
- 10 **I Have Called You By Name** 7:04
- 11 **Little Elegy** 3:37
- 12 **When Music Sounds** 4:37  
Matthew Goinz, baritone

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For more information:

Janice Mancuso - Media Relations

ReferenceRecordings@Gmail.com • 1-800-336-8866

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