

# CINCINNATI 30 YRS CAMERATA

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 31, 2022

Contact: Ben Owen, Director of Music and Choirmaster  
benowenmusic@gmail.com  
Penny Schenk, Cincinnati Camerata Spokesperson  
513-941-5088

## **Cincinnati Camerata to Sing New Piece as Part of May Festival's Exciting Commissions Project, *25 for 25: A New Time for Choral Music***

**CINCINNATI-** The Cincinnati Camerata, a mixed-voice choral ensemble of 26 accomplished volunteer singers, will join other local choral ensembles as part of May Festival's exciting commissions project in partnership with Luna Composition Lab, *25 for 25: A New Time for Choral Music* this spring.

"It's an honor to be part of the rich choral community here in Cincinnati, and to direct the Cincinnati Camerata," says Director of Music and Choirmaster, Ben Owen. "Since joining the Cincinnati Camerata in 2021, my goal has been to play to the strengths of this volunteer choir and fully immerse this talented group in a variety of music styles ranging from medieval chant to living composers. What better way to do this than to be a part of May Festival's *25 for 25*."

The Cincinnati Camerata is set to perform Madeline Clara Cheng's piece, "Conversations on the Plurality of Worlds" during May Festival's *25 for 25* Community Showcase on March 19<sup>th</sup> at Christ Church Cathedral in the Sanctuary at 3:20pm. Based on the text from Molly Bendall's 1994 poem by the same name, Cheng was selected as one of the Luna Composition Lab's fellows, which provides mentorship and performance opportunities to young composers who are female, non-binary or gender nonconforming, to commission twenty-five new choral works for and to be premiered by choral ensembles across Greater Cincinnati. Cheng is an award-winning composer, saxophonist, and pianist based in the San Francisco Bay Area and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Composition at the University of Southern California.

"The Cincinnati Camerata has a long history of supporting new works," says Board President LeeAnn Kordenbrock. "Each year we sponsor The Camerata Composition Prize that is open to all composers from the US and abroad. Being a part of the *25 for 25: A New Time for Choral*

*Music with May Festival and Luna Lab is a natural fit for our group, and we are looking forward to celebrating our 30th Anniversary season with new compositions and music!*

Along with Cheng's piece, the Cincinnati Camerata will perform Nathaniel Dett's "O Holy Lord" and F. Melus Christiansen's "O Day Full of Grace" at the Community Showcase in March. As part of the Cincinnati Camerata 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, the choir will then perform these three pieces along with a full program at 4:00 PM on May 7th at the Norman Chapel inside of Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum. The program will employ the aural, visual, and spacial senses to portray a progression from mourning to gladness, from grief to acceptance, from death to life.

**###**

*About the Cincinnati Camerata*

The Cincinnati Camerata was founded in 1992 by the director Christian Miller. The Camerata has established an enviable reputation in the musical life of Cincinnati. The ensemble consists of 26 outstanding local singers and performs works from a broad spectrum of styles, from Renaissance to the avant-garde. They are also sponsors of an annual composer's competition with entries from across the United States and abroad.

The Cincinnati Camerata is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation.

For more information, please contact Penny Schenk at 513-703-3309 or [www.cincinnati-camerata.com](http://www.cincinnati-camerata.com).

THE CINCINNATI CAMERATA  
7560 Silver Creek Road, Cleves, OH 45002  
513-703-3309  
[www.cincinnati-camerata.com](http://www.cincinnati-camerata.com)