

# THE FORCES OF VIRTUE

ensemble and choir



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MUSIC OF THE RENAISSANCE RESONATES IN TODAY'S TROUBLED WORLD

CHICAGO- Can the music of centuries past speak to the concerns of today's world? A group of Chicago musicians believes that it can, and they are working together to bring that message to a world in need of hope. Through the power of their music, these professionals are voicing their hope for peaceful resolution to world conflict in the most meaningful way they know how.

*A Concert for Peace* is a non-sectarian performance and all are welcome. Two performances will be held: January 17 at the Unity Temple in Oak Park and January 19 at St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church in Chicago. The concert features the great musical works of the Renaissance that deal with the subjects of war and peace. Battle tunes, songs of war, and hymns of peace are woven throughout this thematic concert to express the hope of peaceful resolution in today's world. A one-minute moment of silence will be observed. Exquisitely conceived Mass selections by Josquin des Pres (c.1450 - 1521), considered the Michelangelo of music, are the centerpieces of the program. Vocal and instrumental contributions by Najib Bahri, specialist in Middle Eastern percussion, serve to complement the sounds of the European Renaissance.

### A Concert for Peace

*Music of War and Peace from the Renaissance*

The Forces of Virtue Ensemble and Choir

Friday, January 17, 8PM  
Unity Temple  
875 Lake Street, Oak Park 60301

Sunday, January 19, 2:30 PM  
St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church  
1424 North Dearborn, Chicago, 60610

Admission is free and no tickets are required. All free-will donations (Jan. 19) will benefit charities devoted to disaster relief. For more information, the public should call 773-454-4584.

The musicians involved with *A Concert for Peace*, collectively known as The Forces of Virtue Ensemble and Choir, have gathered to create a period-performance group that will make its debut at this concert. They are waiving their customary fees to make a statement in support of peaceful resolution to world conflict, while giving the community a gift of glorious music and reflection.

The Unity Temple of Oak Park and St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church in Chicago support this concert.

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The newly created period-instrument ensemble and choir The Forces of Virtue seeks to display the wealth of important music from the Renaissance and the Baroque, with an emphasis on neglected sacred and dramatic compositions of the 15th through 18th Centuries. The Forces of Virtue structures its programs to reflect contemporary issues and culture, proving that the great art of the past can have profound relevance to modern society. The name of the ensemble, taken from an opera by Baroque composer Reinhard Keiser (1674-1739), embodies the tenets of The Forces of Virtue; that art can be a force for good and a catalyst for positive change; educating audiences, enriching lives, creating stronger communities, while stimulating thought and action.