



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:
Andrea Copley
Board Vice President
716-830-5897

BPChorus to Search for New Music Director ***Board vote ended Doreen Rao's contract Saturday***

BUFFALO, NY Jan. 17, 2012 – The Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus' board of directors today announced it will embark on a national search for a new music director after not renewing Dr. Doreen Rao's contract.

In a weekend meeting, the board's majority decided not to grant Rao the five-year extension she requested, starting June 30, 2012, and ended her BPChorus leadership after nearly four years.

"We want to thank Doreen for sharing her artistry," said Board Chairman Steven Bench.

"The decision to end our relationship was not easy," he added, "but we are ready to move forward, in this our 75th anniversary year, with finding a new Chorus leader and continuing to maintain an ambitious schedule of concerts."

An independent, non-profit organization dedicated to the performance of choral music, the BPChorus is often heard in concert as the guest artist of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

The all-membership organization features about 120 member singers, most of whom are volunteers. The BPChorus is self-sustaining, relying on ticket sales, fund-raising, minimal public funding and foundation support.

Rao, who recently retired from the University of Toronto, directed the BPChorus since 2008 on a three-year contract and then a one-year extension that would have ended in June 2012.

MORE ABOUT THE BPCHORUS

The Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus, an independent arts organization and principal choral partner of the BPO, enriches the Western New York community by providing the highest quality performances of choral music and by developing singers in the choral art. This is accomplished through self-sponsored concerts and regular collaboration with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and other cultural organizations. Going into its 75th season, the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus is an independent arts organization whose mission is to provide the highest quality performances of choral music to the Western New York community and to develop singers in the choral art, through self-sponsored concerts and as the independent choral partner of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. The BPChorus appears at various locations throughout Western New York including Kleinhans's, Artpark, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo Museum of Science, Our Lady of Victory Basilica, and the Chautauqua Institution.