



HOUSTON
CHAMBER
CHOIR



Media Contact:
Susan Schmaeling
Susan Schmaeling Public Relations
susan@saspr.com
713-349-0780



Actor Ruddy Cravens

HOUSTON CHAMBER CHOIR AND RIVER OAKS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
PREMIERE *MESSIAH FOR KIDS!*

Interactive fun for the entire family – \$15 for adults, \$10 for kids!

(Houston, Texas) October 27, 2011 – The Houston Chamber Choir and [River Oaks Chamber Orchestra](#) (ROCO) have teamed up to create and present the world premiere of a new version of Handel's beloved classic, *The Messiah*. ***Messiah for Kids!*** was created especially for young audiences, and brings a fresh perspective to this holiday favorite. *Messiah for Kids!* takes place on Saturday, December 3, 2011 at 11:00 am at [The Church of St. John the Divine](#), 2450 River Oaks Boulevard, Houston, 77019.

Composer [Karim Al-Zand](#), a member of the faculty at The Shepherd School of Music, Rice University created this new work to take kids inside the piece and show them how the words and music are connected. Actor Rutherford “Ruddy” Cravens portrays composer George Frideric Handel in a post-game format that breaks down the *Messiah*. Kids will learn how the

piece was created and how the “team players” – the conductor, orchestra and choir - bring the *Hallelujah* chorus to life. Children will be encouraged to sing a tone with the Choir and hold up signs to identify the music. This new classic will both engage and delight children (recommended for ages 5 and up) and adults.

Tickets are just \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids for this interactive 45-minute performance that will engage the entire family. For tickets visit the Choir web site at <http://www.houstonchamberchoir.org> or call (713) 224-5566. Visit the Choir’s [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) sites for additional program information. This performance is funded in part by a grant from the Mayor’s City Initiative Program through the Houston Arts Alliance.

[Houston Chamber Choir](#)

[Robert Simpson](#), Founder and Artistic Director of the internationally renowned Houston Chamber Choir, was honored by Chorus America with the [Michael Korn Founders Award for Development of the Professional Choral Art](#) in June 2010. Throughout his illustrious career, Simpson has worked tirelessly to cultivate America’s passion for choral music. As noted by [Gramophone](#) magazine, an internationally recognized authority on classical recordings, the Houston Chamber Choir’s 2009 release, *Ravishingly Russian*, is highlighted by “exquisite harmonic illustration and enriched by an outpouring of graceful melody and restrained sentiment.” In 2011, [Musica Russica](#), the world-wide source for Russian music named this recording as one of the finest Russian choral CDs and noted that this “fine anthology explores the little-known area of Russian secular choral part-songs.”

[River Oaks Chamber Orchestra \(ROCO\)](#)

ROCO is a professional chamber orchestra of 40 all-star musicians, distinguished guest conductors and composers who come together from all over the world to present engaging performances of classical and original compositions. Founded in 2005 by oboist, Alecia Lawyer, ROCO is *the most fun you can have with serious music*.

###