FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 20, 2011
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MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

KENT TRITLE conducts the MSM CHAMBER SINFONIA and SYMPHONIC CHORUS

FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN’S “THE CREATION”

Wednesday, November 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the School’s Borden Auditorium

Kent Tritle leads the Manhattan School of Music Symphonic Chorus and Chamber Sinfonia in a performance of Franz Joseph Haydn’s oratorio, “The Creation,” on Wednesday, November 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the School’s Borden Auditorium.

Five Manhattan School singers have been chosen to sing the solo roles. They are:

Sydnee Waggoner (Gabriel) – Master of Music degree candidate studying with Neil Rosenshein
Mingjie Lei (Uriel) – Master of Music degree candidate studying with Joan Patenaude-Yarnell
Tyler Schoen (Raphael) – Bachelor of Music degree candidate studying with Ashley Putman
Nicole Haslett (Eve) – Master of Music degree candidate studying with Ashley Putman
Justin Austin (Adam) – Bachelor of Music degree candidate studying with Catherine Malfitano

Considered by many to be Haydn's greatest work, “The Creation” (“Die Schöpfung”) was composed between 1796 and 1798 when the composer was sixty-five. The oratorio depicts and celebrates the creation of the world as described in the biblical book of Genesis and the Psalms as well as John Milton’s Paradise Lost. Haydn scored “The Creation” for soprano, tenor and bass soloists (who represent the angels Gabriel, Uriel and Raphael), with symphonic chorus given monumental choruses, several of them celebrating the end of a day’s creation, and a symphonic orchestra.

Haydn’s inspiration for this masterpiece took place during his visits to England during the years 1791-1792 and two years later in 1794-1795, at which times he was influenced by the oratorios of Handel. A very devout man, Haydn appended the words “Praise to God” at the end of every completed composition. He composed most of “The Creation” at his home in Vienna, spending an extraordinary amount of time with its composition. In his own words he said about his writing, “I spent much time over it because I expect it to last for a long time.”
Haydn led the first public performance of “The Creation” that took place in Vienna on March 19, 1799 at the Burgtheater. This first public performance was a sold out event and the work received some forty additional performances staged in Vienna during Haydn's lifetime. It received its London premiere, also in 1799, in an English translation at the Covent Garden Theatre. The work had numerous performances outside of Vienna during his lifetime: heard in Austria, Germany, throughout England, Switzerland, Italy, Sweden, Spain, Russia and the United States. Haydn would attend his last performance of “The Creation” on March 27, 1809, one year before his death.

“The Creation” is structured into three parts with a running time of approximately one hour and 45 minutes. The MSM performance will be sung in German.

**Ticket and Concert Office Information:**
Tickets, priced at $10, with a discounted $5 ticket is required. For information, please contact the MSM Concert Office at 917 493 4428 or visit www.msmnyc.edu. Manhattan School of Music is located on the northwest corner of Broadway and 122nd Street, and is easily accessible by public transportation. Several MTA bus lines stop within two blocks at Broadway and 122nd Street; the M5 arrives at Riverside Drive; the M4 and M104 arrive at Broadway; and the M60 and M11 at Amsterdam Avenue. By subway taking the No. 1 train, MSM is located between the 116th Street and 125th Street stations.

The Manhattan School of Music Symphonic Chorus and Chamber Chorus provide students from all majors the opportunity to delve into the rich world of choral literature. The Choruses perform in concerts which sometimes feature a single great work and other times a collection of shorter works around a particular theme. Their repertoire ranges from a cappella pieces to large works for chorus and orchestra. The Choruses provide ensemble experience for all interested students and as well as solo opportunities by audition. Manhattan School of Music students have presented choral performances on campus, at Weill Recital Hall, at Avery Fisher Hall with the New York Philharmonic, and at The Cathedral of Saint John the Devine.

Kent Tritle, one of America's leading choral conductors and organists, was appointed Director of Choral Activities at Manhattan School of Music in August 2008. Most recently, he was appointed Director of Cathedral Music and Organist at The Cathedral of Saint John the Divine. Mr. Tritle has been Director of Music Ministries at St. Ignatius Loyola Church in New York City since 1989, where he oversaw a program of more than 400 services annually, led the church’s professional choir, and developed a 45-voice volunteer parish choir. He also directs the Oratorio Society of New York and Musica Sacra; and is a member of the graduate faculty at Juilliard. Mr. Tritle has prepared choruses for conductors Philippe Entremont, Christoph von Dohnányi, Leonard Slatkin, Michael Tilson Thomas, Leon Botstein and Dennis Russell Davies, among others. An acclaimed organ virtuoso, he is also the organist of the New York Philharmonic and the American Symphony Orchestra. As an organist, he has appeared often as a guest artist with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and performs regularly as a recitalist. He has recorded the Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, Britten's *War Requiem* and Henze’s Symphony No. 9, with the New York Philharmonic conducted by Kurt Masur. He has led master classes in oratorio performance for the Metropolitan Opera Guild. Kent Tritle holds graduate and undergraduate degrees from The Juilliard School in organ performance and choral conducting.

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