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For immediate release

## **Composer Matthew Emery wins 4<sup>th</sup> annual Choral Works Composition Competition**

KITCHENER – Matthew Emery is the winner of the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Choral Works composition competition, hosted by the Grand Philharmonic Choir.

His work for youth choir, *We Two*, will be premiered in spring 2022 and is a setting of a poem by Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

“The poem speaks about the joining of two, and that when joined, home is found anywhere; safety is found together,” said Emery, who lives in Toronto. “The poem reminds me of the searching for connectedness, and how appropriate to bring that image forward during Covid-19.”

He said the work “alternates passages of contrapuntal phrases with homophonic gestures, a metaphor for moving through life during the pandemic by reducing things to those that are graspable.”

Emery’s composition was one of a record 24 submissions in the competition, which is for composers across Canada who are 30 or under.

Emery receives a \$1,500 prize and will be invited to the rehearsals and premiere of the work.

He is already an accomplished composer whose work has been performed in 26 countries, and across Canada

Jury members praised his use of “beautiful colour changes between two-part melodic lines,” his “sensitive text setting,” and his understanding of adolescent voices.

“The job of the jury was very difficult this year due to the high quality of the submissions,” said Mark Vuorinen, artistic director of the choir and the lead member of the jury.

“There were many beautiful new works reflecting on this difficult time in the world’s history. I hope that there will be opportunity for all of these works to be heard!”

The jury also singled out another composer for honourable mention, Evan Hammell, for his piece, *Daffodils*.

Other jury members were: Tracy Wong, conductor of the Grand Philharmonic Youth Choir; Zimfira Poloz, artistic director of the Hamilton Children's Choir; and Patrick Murray, composer, conductor and lecturer at the Don Wright Faculty of Music, Western University.

The Kitchener-based Grand Philharmonic Choir is a family of choirs including adult symphonic choir, a smaller adult chamber choir, a youth choir and a children's choir. It hosts the composition competition on a four-year cycle, with the winning work performed by each choir in turn.

For more information, please contact:

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#### **More about Matthew Emery:**

Dr. Matthew Emery is a Canadian composer who “writes with an honesty which enchants” (Vancouver Sun). His music has been performed in twenty-six countries, and recent performance venues include the Great Wall of China, the White House and the Musikverein. Matthew has received over forty commissions and his music has been performed by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Vancouver Chamber Choir, Elmer Iseler Singers, Canadian Chamber Choir, National Youth Orchestra of Canada, National Youth Choir of Canada, European Union Youth Orchestra, Orchestra London, the Art of Time Ensemble, Rolston String Quartet, Dennis Wick Canadian Wind Orchestra, Erin Wall, Susan Platts, Rena Sharon, Simone Osborne, Leslie Fagan, Tracy Dahl, and the Bach Music Festival of Canada Orchestra to name a few.

Dr. Emery studied at the University of British Columbia (B.Mus) and the University of Toronto (M.Mus, DMA). Matthew has received over thirty awards and prizes for his compositions and his work has been included on nineteen albums, including a Juno nominated disc. His over sixty publications are published by G. Schirmer, Boosey & Hawkes, Hal Leonard and many others.