

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**FebFest 2024: “I Hear Music in the Air”
A Celebration of African American Music
With Conductor Dr. Anton Armstrong**

Choral Workshop & Rehearsal– Saturday, Feb. 24, 9:00 – 5:00

at United Church of Santa Fe

Concert – Sunday, Feb. 25, 2:00 pm

at Santa Maria de la Paz Catholic Community

World famous choral conductor Dr. Anton Armstrong is the guest conductor for the 6th Annual FebFest of African American music, sponsored by the United Church of Santa Fe and the Albuquerque-based *Coro Lux* the weekend of February 24-25. All interested singers are invited to participate in the all-day Saturday Feb. 24 choral workshop and rehearsal with Dr. Armstrong (held at the United Church). The festival culminates with a concert conducted by Dr. Armstrong on Sunday afternoon (Feb. 25) at 2:00 pm at Santa Maria de la Paz Catholic church, that is free and open to the public. The concert will include the ad hoc Festival Chorus, and will also include an appearance by *Coro Lux*, as well as the El Faro Youth Chorus.

Dr. Armstrong is in his 34th year as Conductor of the St. Olaf Choir, marking him as the longest tenured conductor in the ensemble’s storied 112-year history. He is editor of a multicultural choral series for *Earthsongs* Publications and also the founding conductor of the Oregon Bach Festival Stangeland Family Youth Choral Academy. Dr. Armstrong currently serves as Chair of the national board of Chorus America. During the 2023-24 season, he has led choral festivals at Carnegie Hall and Nashville’s Schermerhorn Symphony Center and was President of the Jury of the Busan International Choral Festival in Busan, South Korea. In June 2024 he will lead the St. Olaf Choir on their first tour to South Africa.

Dr. Armstrong is also artistic director of the annual Christmas Festival at St. Olaf College, seen annually on PBS stations across the country. He has also collaborated in concert with Bobby McFerrin and Garrison Keillor.

Now in its 6th year, FebFest is a collaboration between Albuquerque's *Coro Lux* (Chorus of Light) and the United Church of Santa Fe with a focus on the rich and deep traditions of African-American sacred music. The FebFest chorus consists of interested, non-auditioned singers from central and northern New Mexico who participate in the Saturday workshop and rehearsal and then offer the Sunday concert.

Nationally-known conductor and composer Bradley Ellingboe is the Artistic Director of *Coro Lux* and also the Director of Music of the United Church, where Rev. Talitha Arnold is Pastor. Both *Coro Lux* and the United Church are committed to offering high-quality choral music from a variety of traditions and also supporting the wider community. To that end, the Sunday concert includes a freewill offering to benefit both Santa Fe BookKids and the Albuquerque Grief Center.

In addition to the rehearsals, the Saturday workshop includes presentations on African American sacred music by Talitha Arnold and Bradley Ellingboe.

Information about participating and registering for the FebFest choral workshop is available at abqcorolux.org/tickets. For the Saturday rehearsals and seminars, both in-person and online options are offered.

For more information, please contact Bradley Ellingboe (ellingboe@abqcorolux.org) or Talitha Arnold (unitedchurch.talitha@gmail.com). To register for the Saturday workshop, please go to abqcorolux.org.