

PAUL SALAMUNOVICH

Paul Salamunovich's career as a conductor began in 1949 and has been marked by the highest achievements in professional, educational and liturgical music. He is as busy as ever having recently conducted the Angeles Chorale, the Ventura Master Chorale, numerous clinics and workshops around the country and at Carnegie Hall. In November of 2003 he led the St. Petersburg Philharmonic of Russia along with the Master Chorale of the United States in the Mozart Requiem at the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome in the concluding concert of the International Festival of Sacred Music and Art. In 2007, Hal Leonard Publishing released the documentary, "Choral Perspectives: Paul Salamunovich, Chant and Beyond".

He began his choral life as a boy soprano at the age of ten and continued, from the age of fourteen, under the baton of Roger Wagner. In 1949 he became Director of Music at St. Charles Borromeo in North Hollywood and is there to this day. Under his direction, the St. Charles Choir has risen to preeminence among American church choirs. In 1988 they became the only American choir ever invited to sing at the Mass for the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul with Pope John Paul II presiding in St. Peter's Square in Rome. They also performed for the Pope in a private audience in Clementine Hall of the Vatican Palace in 1985 and in 1987 at St. Vibiana's Cathedral for the official welcome of the Pontiff to the City of Los Angeles. For his contributions to sacred music, Pope Paul VI honored Salamunovich with a Papal Knighthood in the Order of St. Gregory. Under Paul's direction the choir appeared with Henry Mancini and Doc Severinson in the *NBC Christmas Eve Special* and also recorded for numerous motion picture and television soundtracks including *True Confessions*, *Flatliners*, *Cirque de Soleil's Journey of Man* and *ER*.

As an educator, Salamunovich was a member of the music faculty at Mount St. Mary's College for eighteen years and for twenty-seven years at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles where he was awarded Professor Emeritus status in 1993. He also holds two honorary doctorates from Loyola Marymount University and the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. He has conducted clinics and festivals throughout the United States, Canada, the Bahamas, South America, Europe, Australia and the Far East. He also conducted at an unprecedented four consecutive American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Biennial National Conventions: with the LMU Men's Chorus in 1987, their Women's Chorus in 1989, the St. Charles Borromeo Choir in 1991 and the LA Master Chorale in 1993. In 2005, the ACDA awarded Paul the prestigious Robert Shaw Award and the Western Division has recognized him with its Lifetime Achievement Award. In February of 2003 Paul again brought the St. Charles Choir to the National Convention in New York where they gave back to back performances of Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna* to a combined audience of more than 5,000 choral directors in St. Patrick's Cathedral. Salamunovich has been responsible for choral music in more than a hundred feature films and television productions for such studios as Columbia, Paramount, 20th Century Fox, Warner Bros. and Disney including *First Knight*, *Air Force One*, Steven Spielberg's *A.I.*, *Sum of All Fears* and Sony's *XXX*.

In April of 2001, Paul Salamunovich was named Music Director Emeritus of the Los Angeles Master Chorale, capping his ten-year term as its Director and marking the culmination of a

lifetime association with both the Chorale and its founder, Roger Wagner. Salamunovich was a charter member of the organization and was, for twenty-four years, Assistant Conductor of both the Roger Wagner and LA Master Chorales. During his tenure as Music Director, the LA Master Chorale recorded three CDs: *Christmas*, *Lauridsen-Lux Aeterna* and *Argento-Durufle*. The *Lux Aeterna*, composed for and dedicated to Paul remains a top-seller. It received a Grammy nomination for Best Choral Performance and has greatly impacted the field of choral music around the world. In 2005 Salamunovich made his debut at the Disney Hall guest conducting the Chorale in a sold-out performance. Having been booked well into the next year he shows no sign of slowing down.