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San Francisco's Volti Becomes the First Chorus to Receive ASCAP's Adventurous Programming Award Six Times

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(SAN FRANCISCO, CA – June 19, 2009) The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), in conjunction with Chorus America, has given the prestigious "ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music" to the San Francisco-based chorus *Volti*, for an unprecedented sixth time.

The award, which recognizes choruses that demonstrate a sustained commitment to adventurous programming through performances of choral music written in the last 25 years, was presented to Volti's founder and Artistic Director Robert Geary on June 13, 2009 at the Chorus America conference in Philadelphia. Geary received a second Adventurous Programming award for his work with the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir, a choral program serving over 350 children, ages 6-18, providing dynamic education in choral music that emphasizes ensemble performance, vocal technique, and music theory, in conjunction with the creative exploration of new music.

The awards were presented by composer David Lang, winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize in Music. "The exemplary leadership demonstrated by these deserving individuals and organizations serves as a model for all choruses as they strive for success in their communities," said Ann Meier Baker, president and CEO of Chorus America.

Volti is a 20-voice professional ensemble that performs only contemporary music, specializing in works by living American composers. In addition to a regular annual concert series featuring premieres of commissioned works on every concert, Volti sponsors the Choral Arts Laboratory, a residency program which creates a collaborative environment in which a young composer can gain skills in writing for a chorus. Volti also trains and develops high school singers through its Choral Institute program.

Volti's Artistic Director Robert Geary is a celebrated choral conductor who also leads the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choirs and the San Francisco Choral Society. He has led Volti since founding it (as the San Francisco Chamber Singers) in 1979.

Volti's 2008/09 season featured premieres of commissioned pieces by composers Elliott Gyger, Eric Moe, Ruby Fulton, Robert Paterson, Donald Crockett, and Volti's Resident Composer Mark Winges. The 2009/10 season will feature new works by Kui Dong, Jean Ahn, Yu-Hui Chan, Joshua Fishbein, Ted Hearne, Robin Estrada, and Winges, as well as a collaboration with renowned composer Morten Lauridsen, who will work with the Choral Institute and the Volti singers on his latest choral cycle, *Nocturnes*, and will perform with the group at their May 2010 concerts.

More about Volti can be found at their website: www.voltisf.org

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