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University of Minnesota School of Music to 12th Annual Collage Concert to Celebrate Legendary Minnesota Composer Dominick Argento on Saturday, October 20, 2012

“I think that music ... began as an emotional language. For me, all music begins where speech stops.”
— Dominick Argento

Minneapolis, MN (9/19/2012)— The University of Minnesota School of Music presents its 12th Anniversary Collage Concert, an annual ensemble concert with more than 300 students and faculty performing on Saturday, October 20 at 7:30 pm at Ted Mann Concert Hall (2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis).

This year’s School of Music Collage Concert will honor Dominick Argento, America’s pre-eminent composer of lyric opera and U of M Regents professor emeritus. The Collage Concert will feature a selection of Argento’s music from throughout his distinguished career, including selections from his vast song repertoire, several early chamber works, and the popular Valentino Dances in a rarely-performed version for orchestra and chorus.

Music critic Heidi Waleson has described Argento’s work as "richly melodic... [his] pieces are built with wit and passion, and always with the dramatic shape and color that make them theater. They speak to the heart."

Collage Concert co-artistic director and School of Music director of choral activities Kathy Saltzman Romey says, “We are tremendously excited to showcase the life and work of Dominick Argento in celebration of his 85th birthday. His significant contributions, especially in regards to vocal repertoire, have impacted generations of performers, composers, and educators, who have been inspired by the power and drama of his music.”

Luminaries from the Twin Cities music community, including former School of Music director Vern Sutton, School of Music alumni and composers Libby Larsen and Stephen Paulus, and Dale Warland will pay tribute to Argento throughout the evening.

Collage Concert co-artistic director and School of Music director of bands/professor of conducting Craig Kirchhoff shares, “This year’s Collage Concert will showcase the artistry of one of the School of Music’s most distinguished emeritus faculty, Pulitzer Prize winning composer Dominick Argento. The concert will include his joyous and exciting ‘Gloria’ from The Masque of Angels for large choral forces and other powerful works. Dominick Argento has been a major force in the world of music for nearly sixty years. Please join us to help celebrate his life-long contributions to the art of music.”

Dominick Argento was born in York, Pennsylvania in 1927. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Peabody Conservatory and his Ph.D. from the Eastman School of Music. Fulbright and Guggenheim Fellowships allowed him to study in Italy and following his Fulbright, Argento became music director of Hilltop Opera in Baltimore, and taught theory and composition at the Eastman School. In 1958, he joined the faculty of the School of Music at the University of Minnesota, where he taught until 1997. Dominick Argento received the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 1975 for his song cycle From the Diary of Virginia Woolf. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1979, and in 1997 was honored with the title of Composer Laureate to the Minnesota Orchestra, a
lifetime appointment. His song cycle *Casa Guidi* won a Grammy Award in 2004 for Best Classical Contemporary Composition.

The School of Music presents more than 400 free concerts and recitals per year. For a complete schedule of events, visit music.umn.edu or call the School of Music events hotline at 612/626-8742.

Photographs available upon request. Email requests for photographs to marsh396@umn.edu.

Established in 1902, the University of Minnesota School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 550 music students in undergraduate and graduate programs, led by a world-class faculty of more than 50 artists, scholars and teachers. The School of Music presents more than 400 free concerts per year. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.music.umn.edu or call (612) 626-1094 for a brochure.

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