



**THE ROSE ENSEMBLE
OPENS 2007-2008 SEASON
WITH FITZGERALD
THEATER DEBUT,
SEPTEMBER 23**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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St. Paul, Minn.—The Rose Ensemble is pleased to announce its 2007-08 performance season, opening at St. Paul's beloved Fitzgerald Theater with the CD-release concert "Hawai'i Revealed: Music from the Soul of the Hawaiian Saga" at 7 p.m. on Sunday, September 23. The Rose Ensemble will also tour this program statewide, presenting concerts and elementary school workshops in Duluth, Alexandria, Willmar, Fargo, Fergus Falls & St. Cloud.

Hawai'i Revealed is a rare opportunity to experience the untold stories of a once-sovereign kingdom. This evening of hula, storytelling and song begins with an ancient creation chant and ends with the imprisonment of the last Hawaiian queen—Lili'uokalani, who wrote the famous "Aloha 'Oe." Rose Ensemble musicians bring to the stage the epic poetry of Hawai'i, an oral tradition preserved in *oli* and *mele*, two genres of chant used to tell stories of everything from the creation of the earth to the naming of a royal child. A live band accompanies the singers as they explore over two hundred years of music most people don't associate with Hawai'i: Victorian parlor songs, Hawaiian-language hymns, *paniolo* (cowboy) tunes, and compositions by the last monarchs of the Hawaiian kingdom.

How did a Minnesotan early music ensemble find itself performing Hawaiian chant? Rose Ensemble soprano Kim Sueoka, who grew up on the island of Kauai and now lives in Minneapolis, casually mentioned the idea to Founder/Artistic Director Jordan Sramek over three years ago. But when the musicians began seriously exploring the possibility with the help of a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, they learned of a rich musical tradition of astonishing variety. After two years of planning, rehearsing, language coaching and research trips, the project saw its first form on The Rose Ensemble stage as a February 2006 concert series (on some of the coldest nights of that winter!). Years of dedication and discovery now culminate in the release of the group's seventh recording, "Nā Mele Hawai'i: A Rediscovery of Hawaiian Vocal Music."

Hawai'i Revealed is a journey through an unexpected musical heritage—steeped in tradition, transformed by worldwide influences and reborn through the struggle to carry the past into the present—showcasing an artistic legacy that looks and sounds nothing like a stereotype.

[more]

ABOUT THE ROSE ENSEMBLE

Called “the Twin Cities’ most daring and imaginative vocal ensemble” by the St. Paul *Pioneer Press*, The Rose Ensemble brings research from the world’s manuscript libraries to American audiences, illuminating rarely-performed vocal repertoire and recreating ancient melodies with period instruments. The group has reinvented early music for the modern concert hall with magical performances of Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque vocal music combined with storytelling and instrumental improvisations. Now entering its twelfth performance season, the Ensemble tours both nationally and internationally and is the recipient of the 2005 Chorus America Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence. The first North American choir in over ten years to receive an invitation to the prestigious Tolosa International Choral Competition, The Rose Ensemble will present multiple concerts in Spain this November.

HAWAI’I REVEALED: Music from the Soul of the Hawaiian Saga

Sunday, September 23, 2007, 7:00pm

The Fitzgerald Theater

10 East Exchange Street, St. Paul

TICKETS:

\$29.00, \$25.00, & \$20.00. Available only through the [Fitzgerald Theater](http://FitzgeraldTheater.com) box office (651.290.1221) or Ticketmaster.com

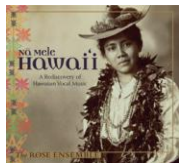
MORE INFORMATION:

The Rose Ensemble: (651.225.4340) / rosalyn@roseensemble.org



LISTEN ONLINE:

MP3 clips of “Hawai’i Revealed” at www.RoseEnsemble.org



PHOTOS:

High-resolution press photos and CD cover art available on request.

Contact rosalyn@roseensemble.org

2007-08 PERFORMANCE SEASON *[details at www.RoseEnsemble.org]*

HAWAI’I REVEALED *Music from the Soul of the Hawaiian Saga* | Sept. 21-23, 2007

SLAVIC WONDERS *Feasts & Saints in Ancient Moscow, Krakow & Prague* | Oct. 20-21, 2007

AND GLORY SHONE AROUND *An Early American Christmas* | December 20-23, 2007

CANDLELIGHT CONCERT *The Secret Society of Notre Dame de Paris* | February 22-23, 2008

PEACE AMONG THE NATIONS *Abraham in Judaism, Christianity & Islam* | April 12-13, 2008

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