



June 17, 2010: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact: Craig Lemming

[Craig@RoseEnsemble.org](mailto:Craig@RoseEnsemble.org) / 651.225.4340 x 204

**THE ROSE ENSEMBLE AND ITS FOUNDER RECEIVE TWO DISTINGUISHED HONORS**

Founder & Artistic Director [Jordan Sramek](#) awarded Chorus America's [Louis Botto Award for Innovative Action and Entrepreneurial Zeal](#)

[The Rose Ensemble](#) is chosen to represent the United States at the 2011 [World Symposium on Choral Music](#) in Argentina

*The artistry and management of The Rose Ensemble continue to be widely recognized as they celebrate  
15 Years of Reawakening the Ancient*

**JORDAN SRAMEK WINS THE 2010 LOUIS BOTTO AWARD**

*The Louis Botto Award for Innovative Action and Entrepreneurial Zeal is given by Chorus America to an individual whose work “has demonstrated innovative action and entrepreneurial zeal in developing a professional or professional-core choral ensemble.” Like the namesake of the award, Louis Botto, founder of Chanticleer, Jordan Sramek has worked tirelessly since he founded The Rose Ensemble in 1996 to build it into a leading professional early-music vocal ensemble with a strong international reputation. Sramek said, “I am both humbled and gratified to be receiving the Botto Award at this point in my career.” Sramek added, “I believe this prize honors my work of re-conceptualizing early music for the modern audience, but not trying to reinvent it, and certainly not sacrificing musical integrity for the sake of accessibility or in the name of innovation.”*

The award not only recognizes the high artistic standards The Rose Ensemble has achieved through Sramek's leadership; but it also recognizes the entrepreneurship behind the ensemble's acclaimed artistry. Sramek is especially proud of this aspect of the award. “I also believe this award recognizes my vision and labors over the past 15 years to bring enlightening vocal music of exceptional quality to a world-wide audience, while at the same time advancing the mission of The Rose Ensemble and supporting the careers of its artists.”

The Louis Botto Award has only been awarded 7 times previously, to such legendary figures as Dale Warland, Gregg Smith, Dennis Keene (Voices of Ascension, NY), and Mary Deissler (Handel and Haydn Society, Boston).

Sramek will receive the award at ceremonies in Atlanta at the Chorus America Annual Conference on June 18. In the Chorus America Conference in 2005, The Rose Ensemble was awarded the distinguished [Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence](#).

**[MORE]**

#### **THE ROSE ENSEMBLE SELECTED TO ATTEND THE 9<sup>TH</sup> WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CHORAL MUSIC**

Every three years, the world's best choirs convene at the World Symposium on Choral Music and in August 2011 The Rose Ensemble will be there to perform with peers from around the globe. The Rose Ensemble has also been selected as one of two US choirs, and the only professional US ensemble, to be featured at the international gathering in Puerto Madryn, Patagonia, Argentina. From hundreds of applicants worldwide, The Rose Ensemble is one of only 25 groups chosen from 21 countries around the world for the global festival of singing, concerts and workshops.

The Rose Ensemble has previously performed at international choral festivals, as it did in Tolosa Spain in 2007 where it took first prize. This is another gratifying milestone for Founder and Artistic Director Jordan Sramek who says "our success should also be attributed to the high-quality work of our team of world-class musicians. And it's when we are invited to perform at various European and North American festivals – and now at this prestigious World Symposium on Choral Music in Argentina – that we can see our efforts reaping such wonderful benefits and opportunities." The World Symposium on Choral Music takes place from August 3-11, 2011 in Argentina. In 2003, it was held in Minneapolis/St Paul.

**The Rose Ensemble celebrates 15 years of Reawakening the Ancient as it begins its 15th Anniversary Season on September 11th, with a [Free Summer Sampler Concert](#) at Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church in Saint Paul.**

#### **ABOUT THE ROSE ENSEMBLE**

Founded in 1996 by Artistic Director Jordan Sramek, The Rose Ensemble is celebrating 15 years of reawakening the ancient with vocal music that stirs the emotions, challenges the mind and lifts the spirit. The St. Paul, Minn. group tours internationally with repertoire spanning 1,000 years and 25 languages, including new research in Middle Eastern, European and American vocal traditions. The Rose Ensemble is the recipient of the Chorus America Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence and was a first-prize winner at the 2007 Tolosa

International Choral Competition in Spain (part of the European Choral Grand Prix). In June, founder Jordan Sramek was awarded the 2010 Louis Botto Award from Chorus America “for entrepreneurial zeal.” The Rose Ensemble has toured Europe by invitation four times in 2008, and was invited returned to Germany, Italy and France in 2009-2010. The Ensemble has released 9 recordings.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** [www.RoseEnsemble.org](http://www.RoseEnsemble.org) | (651) 225-4340 | [Info@RoseEnsemble.org](mailto:Info@RoseEnsemble.org)

###