

SONG WITHOUT BORDERS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FILM ON LIFE & MUSIC OF ICONIC AMERICAN COMPOSER

Embraced by choral singers, Morten Lauridsen's music moves audiences worldwide.



Shining Night: A Portrait of Composer Morten Lauridsen celebrates the life and music of the artist named an 'American Choral Master' by the National Endowment for the Arts, whom musicologist Nick Strimple describes as "the only American composer in history who can be called a mystic".

America's most frequently performed contemporary choral composer, Lauridsen is a National Medal of Arts recipient who spends summers on a remote island in the Pacific Northwest.

Exploring the relationship of art, nature, and spirituality, *Shining Night* reveals the composer through the lens of his love for the natural world together with his passion for music and literature, interwoven with commentaries from composers, conductors, and singers.

Premiered in Palm Springs on February 7, 2012 as the prelude event to the American Documentary Film Festival, *Shining Night* screened at film festivals and performing arts venues across America and Europe, often in combined programs of film and choral singing.

The first biopic made of this iconic composer, its release commemorates the 15th anniversary of the premiere of his masterwork *Lux Aeterna* and the 25th anniversary of the premiere of *Madrigali*.

Shining Night is the first episode of *In Search of The Great Song*, a Song Without Borders documentary series exploring and celebrating the transformative power of song.

www.songwithoutborders.net

For more information about this film, or to schedule an interview with filmmaker Michael Stillwater, please call 503 746 8687 or e-mail info@songwithoutborders.net

Awards (2012)

Best Documentary, DC Independent Film Festival
Best Documentary (Int'l Subject) Eugene Film Festival
Best Documentary (Nominated) Cincinnati Film Festival
Honorable Mention, LA Movie Awards
Bronze, Oregon Film Awards

On the Film:

"...a heartening rarity"
Terry Teachout, Wall Street Journal

"...touches upon eternity"
Robert Reilly, Author, 'Surprised By Beauty'

"Illuminates the person behind the music, giving us a rare glimpse into its creative source."
Tim Sharp, Executive Director
American Choral Directors Association

"(Lauridsen) brightens what is most ancient, sacred, and beautiful in the human soul."
Tamsin Smith, Social Entrepreneur and Writer

"Conveys the calm power...to place even hectic contemporary souls into a state of peace."
Thomas Austenfeld,
Prof. of American Literature, Fribourg, Switzerland

On Lauridsen's Music:

"Lush harmonies...millions of listeners...a joy to sing."
Brett Campbell, Wall Street Journal

"We are a singing and learning community who believe music is a passionate experience which transcends notes and text- to try to reach to the depths of the human soul. Morten Lauridsen provides us not only with the music, but also the inspiration."

Jo-Michael Scheibe,
The University of Southern California
Thornton School of Music