

## **Noted Composer David Fanshawe to Appear at The University of Scranton**

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A special performance of David Fanshawe's "African Sanctus" will take place at The University of Scranton on Saturday, March 22. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. in the university's Houlihan-McLean Center, Jefferson Avenue and Mulberry Street. Admission is free and open to the public.

The performance will feature The University of Scranton Singers, conducted by Cheryl Y. Boga, The University of Scranton Percussion Ensemble, conducted by Frank Torquato, and The Pocono Choral Society, conducted by Jerrold Fisher, soloists and musicians from New York City-based Lyric Theater International, and composer David Fanshawe. The program will open with an introduction to the work and its evolution presented by the composer, followed by the performance.

African Sanctus is an unusual setting of the Latin Mass integrated with authentic traditional African music recorded by the composer on his legendary journey up the Nile and through Egypt, Sudan, Uganda and Kenya. It is a universal work whose impact is immediate and whose message is simple, and the driving force is one of praise and a firm belief in one music and one God.

Mr. Fanshawe, a Churchill Fellow and the recipient of many international awards, including a Gold Disc, is a composer and explorer, ethnomusicologist, guest speaker, photographer, author and media personality. He is acclaimed as "one of the world's most original composers" and one of his life's missions is "to record for posterity some of the endangered species of folk music, threatened with extinction."

Born in 1942, Fanshawe was educated at St. George's Choir School and Stowe and began his career editing films. In 1965, he won a Foundation Scholarship to the Royal College of Music, studying composition with John Lambert. He gained national recognition in 1970, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, with "Salaams", a work based on the rhythms of Bahrain pearl divers.

Spanning 30 years, David Fanshawe has traveled widely recording traditional music in Arabia, Africa, SE Asia and the Pacific. His ambitions and serendipitous blend of music and travel is the subject of unique albums, concerts, multi-media events and educational presentations worldwide, and has also been the subject of a number of award-winning BBC documentaries: "African Sanctus", "Arabian Fantasy", "Musical Mariner" (National Geographic) and "Tropical Beat".

Major compositions include his acclaimed "African Sanctus", "Salaams" and "Arabian Fantasy". Other concert works for orchestra, chamber ensemble and choir include: "Fantasy on Dover Castle", "Requiem for the Children of Aberfan", "The Awakening", "Dona Nobis Pacem", carols "Sing Christians Sing", "Holy Jesus", "Only a Star", "Celtic Lullaby" and his new work for bands and orchestras throughout the world - "Fanfare to Planet Earth" and "Millennium March". In addition, Fanshawe has composed commissioned works for more than 50 films and television productions.

His most recent 10-year odyssey recording native music across the Pacific Ocean has resulted in a monumental archive; thousands of stereo tapes, slides and journals, preserving and documenting the music and oral traditions of Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia. He is currently publishing, digitally copying and cataloguing his Africa and Pacific Collections, whilst composing Pacific Odyssey for a world premiere at the Sydney Opera House.

For additional information, contact Cheryl Y. Boga, Director of Performance Music, at 941-7624, e-mail [music@scranton.edu](mailto:music@scranton.edu), or at [www.scranton.edu/music](http://www.scranton.edu/music).