

DOREEN RAO

CONDUCTOR MASTER TEACHER AUTHOR EDITOR



Doreen Rao holds the University of Toronto's *Elmer Iseler Chair in Conducting*. As the Director of Choral Programs, Rao founded the Faculty of Music's *Centre for Advanced Studies in Choral Music* that supports and enriches the Faculty's ensemble and conducting programs, hosts the artists-in-residence program, and sponsors the *Toronto Bach Festival with Helmuth Rilling*. Rao conducts the award-winning *UT MacMillan Singers* and the *Bach Festival Singers*. Her young ensembles collaborate regularly with the *Toronto Symphony Orchestra* and a roster of internationally celebrated artists and educators. She leads the University's graduate program in conducting performance and teaches graduate research and philosophy courses related to music performance in education.

PROGRAMS

The University of Toronto **MACMILLAN SINGERS** was founded in 1994 by Professor Doreen Rao. The student ensemble represents the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music in festivals, concerts and recordings, performing a wide range of culturally diverse repertoire with a commitment to contemporary choral music. In 2004, the choir won 1st Prize in the CBC National Choral Competition. In October of 2006, the MacMillan Singers performed under Maestro Helmuth Rilling's baton as part of the **2006 International Bach Festival** at the University of Toronto, subsequently singing Robert Levin's reconstruction of Mozart's *C Minor Mass* with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. The choir joined the TSO in for performances of Mozart's *Requiem* and Holst's *The Planets*, conducted by Peter Oundjian.

Inspired by Doreen Rao's association with Helmuth Rilling and their mutual commitment to the education of young artists, the **TORONTO BACH FESTIVAL** is an interdisciplinary performance education festival at the U of T Faculty of Music. The Festival was created to celebrate Bach's universal message of peace and compassion, offering an interactive series of lectures, master classes, and performances. Since its inaugural year in 2004, the festival continues to examine the life and works of J.S. Bach in the world today. TBF is devoted to the discovery and transformative potential of musical experience, and is designed to capture the strength and breadth of Canada's diversity through the unique talents of the University's students, artists, educators, and scholars studying and performing together.

VISIONS OF PEACE is an innovative concert performance initiative for children and youth choirs working with orchestras and world music ensembles around the world. Developed as a *peace through performance* initiative, VOP concerts were established to empower young artists and inspire participating audiences to recognize their shared humanity with the world today. As an ongoing commitment to the next generation of artists, educators and peacemakers, VOP is inspired by 21st century revolutionaries, heroes, icons and artists whose talents and moral examples are transforming the world. VOP seeks to demonstrate how the power of choral music can serve public consciousness and social awareness at many important levels. VOP is an outreach initiative of Doreen Rao's **Choral Music Experience** program.