FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOICES OF ASCENSION CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA PRESENTS
VOICES OF THE NEW: CALL FOR PROPOSALS

New York NY - Voices of Ascension is soliciting proposals for its new commissioning program called Voices of the New. It is a new artistic initiative for vocal chamber ensembles dedicated to exploring new horizons, ideas, and/or diverse, culturally responsive connections. Professional singers and allied artists are challenged to expand their curatorial and artistic vision and capacity. The goal is to create compelling vocal performances, where audiences will be invited to experience professional singing in innovative contexts. Voices of Ascension requests proposals for Voices of The New projects for 2020-2022. Selected projects will be scheduled for performance during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 seasons. The first round deadline is January 6, 2020. Proposals may be submitted by submitting an online proposal and budget at: http://bit.ly/voicesofthenew2020

Projects will be nurtured through mutually agreed-upon administrative, creative, and marketing support and produced by Voices of Ascension. Project budgets will range from $5,000 to $30,000, with most in the $10,000-$20,000 range.

Who should apply?

Voices of Ascension ensemble and solo musicians, professional singers, composers, instrumentalists. Choreographers, visual artists, theater and film artists, writers or other professional creatives invited to apply in collaboration with professional musicians.

Requirements:

- Performing Forces: A maximum of 10 performers, including any combination of singers, instrumentalists, actors, and/or dancers. Inclusion of at least one singer is required; multiple singers preferred.
- Professional musicians (Voices of Ascension or comparable)
- Compelling curatorial vision
- Minimum 1 “new” element which might be: new music; old music / new context; new dimension / added art form (such as multimedia, dance, theater, spoken word); new venue / partnership

Evaluation criteria:
• Artistic excellence (performance quality)
• Curatorial / creative quality (artists + repertoire + context)
• Collaborative impact (musicians, artists and/or institutional partnerships with Voices of Ascension)
• “Newness” (commissions, contexts, partnerships)
• Audience impact (connection between artistic vision and audience experience)
• Feasibility (artistic forces / timeline / budget)

First round deadline January 6, 2020.

ABOUT VOICES OF ASCENSION CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA
Voices of Ascension, founded in 1990 and directed by conductor Dennis Keene, presents exceptional performances of great works of music for chorus and orchestra. It sustains a vibrant artistic community of professional vocal and instrumental musicians in New York City through a broad repertory, dynamic programming, and strategic collaborations across the tri-state area. Recent performances by the Grammy-nominated ensemble have been described as “richly colored, impressive, and beautifully balanced” (Wall Street Journal) and “inspired” (New York Times).

Voices of Ascension will launch Voices of the New, its new artistic initiative, in May 2020 with Astronautica - Voices of Women in Space at National Sawdust and The Flea Theater. This newly commissioned work of music, voice, and video has a score by nine women composers, and a libretto drawn from the words of the women who have traveled in outer space and seen the world from a dramatic new perspective. It is curated by Voices of Ascension ensemble member Hai-Ting Chinn. Astronautica is an artistic evocation of the transformation that happens when one sees our small planet set against the endless blackness of space.

VOICES OF ASCENSION 2019-2020 SEASON CALENDAR
• Baroque Celebration, January 29, 2020 at 7:30PM
• Brahms Ein Deutsches Requiem, March 26, 2020 at 7:30PM
• Bach Mass in B Minor, April 30, 2020 at 7:30PM
• Astronautica – Voices of Women in Space
  o Voices of Ascension’s Voice of the New premiere performances
  o May 14 & 15, 2020 at 7PM, The Flea Theater, 20 Thomas Street, NYC 10007
  o May 16 at 7PM, and May 17 at 4PM, National Sawdust, 80 North 6th St, Brooklyn NY 11249

• For tickets & information, visit voicesofascension.org or call the box office at 212-358-7060
• All concerts at The Church of the Ascension, 36 Fifth Avenue at Tenth Street, NYC
  EXCEPT Astronautica – at The Flea Theater (20 Thomas St. NYC) and National Sawdust (80 N. 6th St. Brooklyn NY)
• Choral Concert Tickets: $85, $40, $10; half-price for students at the door
• Astronautica Tickets: $35, $25, $10; half-price for students at the door
• Special Group Pricing Available
• Wheelchair and Accessible Seating Available