

Richard K. Pugsley and **GLORIAE DEI**

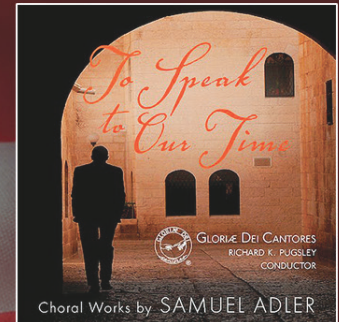
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The American Prize Ernst
Bacon Memorial Award

for *To Speak to Our Time:
Choral Works by Samuel Adler*

WINNER

celebrating American excellence in the arts



Director Richard K. Pugsley and Gloriae Dei Cantores have been awarded the 2023 American Prize Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for the Performance of American Music on the recorded album *To Speak to Our Time: The Choral Music of Samuel Adler*

Praise for *To Speak to Our Time*

"The singing is powerful, passionately sculpted...beautiful." — Gramophone

"The choir is agile and responsive, allowing Pugsley to craft intensely musical performances that are full of subtle shading and pliable phrasing." — Fanfare

"Under Director Richard K. Pugsley, the US-based choir Gloriae Dei Cantores has gained a reputation for its impeccable vocal blend as well as bold programming, including its recent championing of the music of Jewish composer Samuel Adler. ...music of mesmerizing beauty." — Apple Music

Samuel Adler, composer of 400 works, taught for sixty-three years at Juilliard and Eastman. He studied with Aaron Copland, Paul Hindemith, Randall Thompson, and more and has received numerous awards including ASCAP's "Aaron Copland Lifetime Achievement Award." He is without doubt one of the greatest living composers and conductors. Known for his optimism and life-affirming spirit, even at age 95 he is uniquely positioned to speak to our time.

At age ten Samuel Adler narrowly escaped Nazi Germany during Kristallnacht. As he and his father collected music in the loft of the synagogue on that terrifying night, soldiers heard them from down below. The sudden collapse of the organ allowed them to escape through an underground tunnel. His family took the last train out of Germany with their bags full of music, paving the way for Adler to study and nurture his musical gifts in America.

The American Prize is the nation's most comprehensive series of contests in the performing arts, designed to recognize and reward the best performing artists, directors, ensembles and composers in the United States.

Ernst Bacon (1898—1990) was one of that pioneering generation of composers who, along with Thomson, Copland, Harris, and others, found a voice for American music. Ernst Bacon set out to create compositions that expressed the vitality and affirmative spirit of our country. It is fitting, and with honor, that The American Prize creates an annual award in the memory of Ernst Bacon, recognizing the finest performances of American music worldwide.