

Virginia Children's Chorus

presents the



World Premier of Dr. Adolphus Hailstork's *Now Touch the Air Softly*

On Saturday, May 4, 2002, the Virginia Children's Chorus presented the world premier of Dr. Adolphus Hailstork's ***Now Touch the Air Softly*** Commissioned in 2001 by the **VCC**, "Now Touch the Air Softly" is Dr. Hailstork's first work composed entirely for children's voices.

Adolphus Hailstork received his doctorate in composition from Michigan State University, where he was a student of H. Owen Reed. He had previously studied at Manhattan School of Music under Vittorio Giannini and David Diamond, at the American Institute at Fontainebleau with Nadia Boulanger, and at Howard University with Mark Fax.

Dr. Hailstork has written numerous works for chorus, solo voice, various chamber ensembles, band, and orchestra. Among his compositions are *Celebration* which has been recorded by the Detroit Symphony; *Out Of The Depths* which won the 1977 Belwin-Mills Max Winkler Award presented by the Band Directors National Association; *American Guernica* which received first prize in the Virginia College Band Directors' 1983 national contest; and *Mourn Not The Dead* which received the 1971 Ernest Bloch Award for choral composition.

During the 1980s the Boys Choir of Harlem and the piano duo Delphin and Romaine added music by Hailstork to their repertoire.

The 1990s began auspiciously when a consortium of five orchestras commissioned a piano concerto to be premiered by Leon Bates. Less than a year later, Dr. Hailstork received an award from the Barlow Endowment for Music commissioning a work for the Baltimore Symphony; in 1991 *Celebration* was performed by the Chicago Symphony led by Maestro Daniel Barenboim. In 1995, the chamber work *Consort Piece* was awarded first prize by the University of Delaware Festival of Contemporary Music.

After 20 years as Professor of Music and Composer-in-Residence at Norfolk State University, Dr. Hailstork joined the music faculty at Old Dominion University last year.