



Family Folk Chorale

For Immediate Release

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The Family Folk Chorale is excited to announce the winners of the 2017 FFC Songwriting Competition:

First Place:	Linda McRae, "Be Your Own Light"
Second Place:	Terry Kitchen, "Seeds"
Third Place:	Ordinary Elephant, "Best of You"

The winning song, "Be Your Own Light" by Linda McRae, is truly a song for the ages. A rousing, blues-y and gospel-y tune, McRae sings from the heart that when the world is dark, you have to be your own light.

McRae's song has been arranged for chorus by Artistic Director Chris Eastburn and will be performed by the Family Folk Chorale on Sunday, March 19, 2016, 3:00 pm, at Arlington Town Hall in Arlington, MA. The concert, featuring the joy of the Beatles in the '70s, carves out a moment for the deep and energetic inspiration of "Be Your Own Light."

"Rehearsing Linda's song has been a stirring experience for our singers," Eastburn said. "It speaks to the light inside each of us, and implores us stand up for what is right and make a difference in the world. It couldn't be more appropriate for this time and place, and we are so fortunate to perform it for Boston audiences with the songwriter, our 60-member chorus (ages 3-80), and band."

Linda McRae is a Nashville-based Canadian recording artist, singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist whose musical career spans three decades. She is also a 2016 "Pioneer" Inductee in the British Columbia Entertainment Hall of Fame. Performing on guitar, banjo, accordion and Porchboard, Linda's warm and world-weary voice, unforgettable melodies, thought-provoking lyrics, and sophisticated musicianship make her one of Canada's most captivating and sought-after artists. Her stories are stand-alone gems, sketching out solitary men as convincingly as forthright female romantics. More information about Linda McRae is available at www.lindamcrae.com.

Now in its fifth year, the FFC Songwriting Competition has created a unique opportunity for collaboration between songwriter, arranger, conductor and chorus. Most songwriters rarely get to hear their songs performed by other singers. Yet in this competition, the winning song is professionally arranged and performed with a 60-voice, multi-generational ensemble. It is no wonder why the competition has attracted the attention of songwriters throughout the United States.

The Family Folk Chorale was founded in 1999 with the belief that everyone can sing and that people of all ages singing together is powerful music. The chorale is a multi-generational group of more than 60 singers of all ages and a band comprised of some of Boston's most versatile musicians. Skillful and sensitive arrangements by director Chris Eastburn provide opportunities to hear individual voices in solo

and small groups as well as harmonically rich, full group refrains. More information about the Family Folk Chorale is available at www.FamilyFolkChorale.org.