

## **Collaborative Multi-media work premieres for Gainesville community**

*Voyage to Tomorrow: A Multi-media suite in Three Movements*, specially commissioned for the kickoff of the University of Florida's Capital Campaign, will receive its Gainesville community world premiere with the School of Music Concert Choir, featuring six vocal soloists and an original digital media presentation. The innovative collaboration will provide the grand finale for an exciting evening of live music beginning at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 18 in the University Memorial Auditorium.

*Voyage to Tomorrow*, created by UF College of Fine Arts' composer James Oliverio, features a three-movement symphonic suite with live chorus and vocal soloists under the baton of conductor Will Kesling, plus an original digital movie created by the UF Digital Worlds Institute from dramatic time-lapse cinematography, 3D computer animation and historic paintings and sculptures from the Renaissance.

"The entire piece is a 21st century symphonic-scale composition, composed not only of the musical notes but also of the imagery, which was also designed to tell the story of mankind's long fascination with light as a metaphor for wisdom," said James Oliverio, director of the Digital Worlds Institute.

Images shown on a large rear-projection screen accompany the chorus and soloists, who perform live and in sync with the multi-media imagery.

"In some ways this references the early 20th century days of silent film with live musical accompaniment. But in this case at the beginning of the 21st century we are featuring live musicians singing to a digital movie," Oliverio said.

Conductor Will Kesling is the director of Choral Activities at the College of Fine Arts School of Music at UF. He has led hundreds of choral ensembles and some 50 professional symphony orchestras throughout the world. His talents for weaving together text and music, chorus and orchestra have garnered him international respect. Kesling has conducted a number of engagements in Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, as well as in major concert halls internationally. He served as the associate conductor of the Manhattan Philharmonic Orchestra, New York City, as the principal guest conductor of the St. Petersburg State Symphony Orchestra, Russia, and was the music director and conductor of the Mountain West Symphony Orchestra, Utah, for 18 years. A *Washington Post* concert review sums his abilities in two words, "clear professionalism." A *New York Daily News* reviewer calls "Will Kesling's conducting truly inspired and impeccably paced."

His collaborator, James Oliverio, holds five Emmy Awards from the Atlanta chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, along with numerous national grants and commissions. In addition to performances of his orchestral scores by ensembles including the Cleveland Orchestra and the symphonies of Atlanta, Pittsburgh, Columbus, Oliverio has produced for and collaborated with Jazz @ Lincoln Center, the New York Philharmonic, the New York City Ballet and the Film Society of Lincoln Center. He served

as Artistic Consultant on a number of projects with Wynton Marsalis, including the millennial commission of "All Rise", which premiered with the New York Philharmonic under the baton of Kurt Masur and enjoyed subsequent performances at the Concertgebouw and with major international ensembles including the London and Los Angeles Philharmonics and the Boston and Chicago Symphonies. Oliverio is professor of music and digital media and serves as the director of the UF Digital Worlds Institute.

A special pre-concert dialogue with the composer and conductor is scheduled for 7 p.m. in the Auditorium. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.