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Ramapo College Vocal Ensemble Performs at Lincoln Center

MAHWAH, N.J. – Ramapo College of New Jersey's vocal ensemble CantaNOVA recently participated in a special event at David Geffen Hall (formerly Avery Fisher Hall) at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City. Led by Director Dr. Lisa Lutter, CantaNOVA was invited to join other area choristers to form the Distinguished Concerts Singers International, a choir of distinction. The concert and three-day immersion experience highlighted the music of renowned composer Eric Whitacre who led the experience.

Twenty-one voices – 15 current students and six alumni – participated in the event, which featured 11 works by Whitacre. Sophomore Jesse Hann performed a baritone solo in a piece titled "Cloudburst" which was Whitacre's first big success and remains one of his most celebrated works, according to Lutter.

CantaNOVA performs mostly a cappella and contemporary music but also enjoys other styles including classical, jazz and more. The mixed-voice ensemble performs throughout the region.

"CantaNOVA received this invitation because of the quality and high level of musicianship demonstrated by the singers as well as the exceptional quality of their audition recording," said Dr. Jonathan Griffith, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor for Distinguished Concerts International New York City (DCINY). "These wonderful musicians not only represent a high quality of music and education, but they also become ambassadors for the entire community."

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Ramapo College of New Jersey is the state's premier public liberal arts college. Ranked among the top colleges in the region by College Choice and recognized by, among others, U.S. News & World Report, Princeton Review, Colleges of Distinction and also designated by Victory Media as a "Military Friendly College," Ramapo College is committed to academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include business, education, nursing and social work. In addition, the College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels, and offers graduate programs leading to degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education.