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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 19, 2019

**Covers: A Pop Concert**

May 31-June 8 (5 performances)

The Cowles Center for Dance and The Performing Arts

528 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis

Tickets: \$27-\$37

Box office/information: 612-435-0055 or [www.cantussings.org](http://www.cantussings.org)

**JONI MITCHELL'S "BLUE" IS THE SHOWPIECE OF COVERS: A POP CONCERT  
BY CANTUS**

*Five performances to be held at the Cowles Center May 31-June 8*

(MINNEAPOLIS; April 19, 2019) – **Covers**, the [Cantus](http://www.cantus.org) annual pop concert, will feature Joni Mitchell's iconic album, *Blue*, in its entirety and performed in song order. Designed to showcase the eight-voice ensemble's versatility and multiple talents, **Covers** will be performed May 31-June 8 at the Cowles Center for Dance and The Performing Arts at 528 Hennepin Ave. in downtown Minneapolis. The concert also features a mix of other popular tunes, both classic and contemporary.

With a narrative arc that explores the various phases of relationships — from infatuation to insecurity, from mad love to rejection — *Blue* has always resonated with listeners and critics, who generally regard Mitchell's 1971 release as one of the greatest albums of all time. Even within the last 20 years, the album has continued to garner praise: *The New York Times* chose *Blue* as one of the 25 albums that represented "turning points and pinnacles in 20th-century popular music" (2000). In 2012, *Blue* was rated the 30th best album in *Rolling Stone's* list of the "500 Greatest Albums of All Time," the highest entry by a female artist. And in 2017, *Blue* was chosen by NPR as the greatest album of all time made by a woman.

Paul Scholtz, Cantus tenor, said, "We are thrilled to have Joni Mitchell's *Blue* as the centerpiece for **Covers** this year. *Blue* is her most recognized and celebrated work, and as an ensemble, we are in love with her strong storytelling and lyrical compositions. We aim to honor her creative voice, while at the same time offering a contrast with our own interpretations. Taking her music in different and exciting stylistic directions will be a lot of fun and should play right to our strengths as an ensemble."

Highlights of other great covers to be featured are Katie Perry's hit song, "Teenage Dream," "Love on Top" by Beyoncé, ABBA's classic, "Lay All Your Love On Me," and songs by artists like the Beatles, Queen and Michael Jackson.

In addition to many *a cappella* arrangements, **Covers** features a live band – with Cantus members singing and playing alongside talented Twin Cities' musicians: **Lee Blaske** (keyboards/woodwinds), **Jeremy Boettcher** (bass) and **David Schmalenberger** (drums).

Tickets to **Covers** are \$27-\$37 and are available online at [www.cantussings.org](http://www.cantussings.org) or by calling 612-435-0055.

#### COVERS Performance schedule

Friday, May 31 @ 7:30pm

Saturday, June 1 @ 7:30pm

Sunday, June 2 @ 3pm (Matinee)

Friday, June 7 @ 7:30pm

Saturday, June 8 @ 7:30pm

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#### **About Cantus**

Recognized for their artistic excellence and musical versatility, the eight members of Cantus rehearse and perform as chamber musicians, working without a conductor or music director, allowing audiences to experience a direct connection to the singers. Committed to *a cappella* presentation of significant music, Cantus is renowned for adventurous programming spanning many periods and genres, including newly commissioned work. The ensemble enjoys a vigorous schedule of international touring, concerts in its home of Minneapolis/St. Paul, educational outreach programs and recording.