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– Press Release –

Statement regarding Code of Conduct

July 15, 2020, Chicago, Illinois–
For immediate release

We have profound empathy for all of the victims and survivors of David Haas’s alleged predatory behavior. The conduct by Mr. Haas is reprehensible, and while Mr. Haas was never an employee of GIA, we have since severed ties with him.

GIA recognizes that it must be a leader in the sacred music community. As such, we have recently established a Code of Conduct for all composers and authors we publish, and we are actively exploring with others the creation of a survivor-centered structure to report incidents of alleged harassment or abuse. We also will not tolerate threats of retaliation against any GIA employee or GIA contractor who reports alleged wrongful behavior, and will take prompt and decisive action if such threats are brought to our attention. These changes will facilitate the community’s ability to take prompt action in response to reports of behavioral misconduct.

GIA is also initiating an independent third-party assessment to help put in place an appropriate procedure for any other claims of misconduct moving forward. The outcome will be shared in full with the community. We are hopeful that this will be another step to improving our community’s ability to protect potential victims.

We are working on several other initiatives as well. We are working closely with members of the Association of Catholic Publishers to develop a Code of Conduct for the broader publishing community. We also are in regular conversation with Into Account to better support past survivors and to establish preventative measures moving forward.

We will continue to provide more information as these initiatives proceed. We want to be sure the resources are in place to promptly address and remedy incidents of inappropriate behavior and misconduct. We pray for survivors and encourage those with any further information of abusive behavior by David Haas, or by anyone within our music and liturgy world, to please contact www.intoaccount.org.

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