



P.O. Box 461 • Chappaqua, New York • 10514

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

**CONTACT:**

Joan Kuhn  
The Chappaqua Library  
(914) 238-4779 Ext. 119  
[jkuhn@wls.org](mailto:jkuhn@wls.org)

Eric Drucker  
Chappaqua Chamber Series  
(914) 921-4642  
[Info@chappaquaorchestra.org](mailto:Info@chappaquaorchestra.org)

Chappaqua Chamber Series Presents

***SONGS FOR MY MOTHER***

***The Music of Marion “Doc” Davies and the Music He Loves***

December 1, 2009, Chappaqua, NY - The Chappaqua Chamber Series is proud to present soprano Deborah Horne and pianist Michael Shapiro in *Songs for My Mother: The Music of Marion “Doc” Davies and the Music He Loves*. The concert will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2010 at 3:00 PM at the Chappaqua Library, North Greeley Avenue, Chappaqua, New York. The concert is FREE. A suggested donation at the door of \$15 goes directly to the artists. For more information, go to [www.chappaquaorchestra.org](http://www.chappaquaorchestra.org) or call (914) 941 2642.

Actor, songwriter, singer, dentist, and resident of Chappaqua, Doc Davies is an American original. Born in rural Savannah, Georgia during the early years of the Depression, Doc and his younger brother Howard were brought up in White Plains by their mother Hassie-Mae. The concert is dedicated to Doc’s memories of his mother and will explore the formative influences on Doc’s musical and cultural background.

Doc’s favorite composers Mozart, Puccini, Gershwin, Ellington, James Wheldon Johnson, and others will be sung by Ms. Horne as well as Doc’s original compositions. Hassie-Mae’s religious family will be remembered by the singing of familiar spirituals, and the songs will be interspersed with readings by Doc of his poems and remembrances.

**About Soprano Deborah Horn:**

Soprano Deborah Horne is a highly versatile performer with a wide-ranging repertoire featuring opera, oratorio, chamber music, art song, and contemporary works. A frequent guest soloist in the Hudson Valley and the New York metropolitan area, she has performed with the Hudson Valley Bach Fest, Putnam Chorale, Westchester Oratorio Society, Doansburg Chamber Ensemble, Choral Arts Society, Downtown Music at Grace series (White Plains), West Point Military Academy chamber music programs and Messiah concerts, Cortland Chamber Orchestra, Union Church of Pocantico Hills, Festival of the Arts in Nyack, Einstein Symphony, the contemporary music groups The Poné Ensemble (New Paltz) and North South Consonance (New York City), as

well as at historic St. Peter's Church in Chelsea (Manhattan), Buitenwieser Hall at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y, and at Lincoln Center's Bruno Walter Auditorium where she presented previously unpublished Samuel Barber songs in celebration of the Music Publishers Association Centennial.

This past November, Ms. Horne returned to Tampa, FL (where she is also a frequent guest soloist) and participated in "Music Reborn," a program which was conceived as a memorial to the gifted Jewish composers and librettists who lost their lives in the Holocaust, and which also serves as a tribute to the innocent victims of Kristallnacht.

Ms. Horne works in the studio of Fred Carama, and today's concert is her first chamber performance with the Chappaqua Chamber Orchestra.

### **About Pianist Michael Shapiro**

Michael Shapiro, piano, is in his eighth season as Music Director and Conductor of The Chappaqua Orchestra.

As a performer, Mr. Shapiro has concertized internationally including appearances in Berlin, Siena, Victoria, New York, Boston, Minneapolis, and Washington, D.C. His repertoire includes most of the standard symphonic, operatic, and ballet works, to which he brings an insider's understanding and appreciation for new music. He also worked as an assistant conductor at the Zürich Opera Studio and has appeared internationally as the conductor of his own music, including recording the film score for the Israel Broadcasting Authority documentary *Distant Relatives*.

Mr. Shapiro has worked in many musical and business pursuits, including as a composer, an accompanist to opera and Broadway singers, an administrator of his own artistic productions, and a lecturer and writer on musical and cultural history (his first book *The Jewish 100* is an international bestseller available in eight European and Asian language editions).

Mr. Shapiro's compositions include works for solo voice, piano, chamber groups, and orchestra, as well as for television, film, and opera. The New York Times characterized his music as "possessing a rare melodic gift."

Mr. Shapiro's works have been widely performed in the United States, Canada, and Europe, and he has received numerous honors and commissions. First performances of his works have been broadcast over National Public Radio, the Canadian Broadcasting System, the Israel Broadcasting Authority, Sender Freies Berlin, and major New York stations, including WQXR, WNYC, and WCBS-TV.

Michael Shapiro's current projects include the composition of a harp concerto, the second violin and piano sonata for Timothy Fain (which will be premiered in Soho this April at the Meisel Gallery along with Mr. Shapiro's *Peace Variations* for solo violin and then recorded), and scoring of a new prime-time television dramatic series premiering later this season nationally on the NBC Universal network. Mr. Shapiro will be a composer-in-residence at the Cabrillo Music Festival 2010 where his orchestral work *Roller Coaster* will receive its California premiere under the direction of Marin Alsop. During 2010, NAXOS Records will release his *Eliahu Hanavi Variations* for solo violoncello by Boston Symphony Orchestra cellist Sato Knudsen for the Milken American Jewish Archive series.

He regularly performs his own music and conducted The Chappaqua Orchestra in the world premiere of his score for the classic film *Frankenstein* at the Jacob Burns Film Center and later at

the Paramount Theater in Peekskill. The work received its Massachusetts premiere at the Coolidge Corner Theater in Boston and was profiled on the front page of the Boston *Globe*, and it was also performed at the Berkshire Museum and at historic Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts. It received its Midwest premiere in Wisconsin this Halloween by the Beloit Janesville Symphony, Robert Tomaro conducting.

Mr. Shapiro served for two years as Music Consultant to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., where he produced and performed the music of composers who perished in or fled Europe during the Second World War. He also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Conductor's Guild.

Born into a musical family, Michael Shapiro began expressing himself with music at an early age. He won various piano competitions during his youth and, today, continues performing as an accompanist to singers and as a chamber music pianist.

Mr. Shapiro's composition teachers included Elie Siegmeister, Vincent Persichetti, and Sir Malcolm Arnold. Mr. Shapiro was trained in conducting by Carl Bamberger at The Mannes School, and by Harold Farberman at Bard College. He also studied solfège and score reading at The Juilliard School with Renee Longy.

Mr. Shapiro's prizes and grants include those from Martha Baird Rockefeller Composer's Assistance, Meet the Composer, Henry Evans Traveling Fellowship of Columbia University, the Columbian Award, Sigma Alpha Iota Composer's Competition Prize, and the Chappaqua Orchestra's Boris Koutzen Memorial Fund.

###