



THE
CHAPPAQUA
ORCHESTRA

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

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Contact:

Marjorie Perlin

914-238-9220

info@chappaquaorchestra.org

Second Annual New Castle Community Sing and Tree Lighting.

November 16, 2009, Chappaqua, NY - December 5th will bring The Chappaqua Orchestra's second annual *New Castle Community Sing* back to downtown Chappaqua. All ages and voices are welcome to join musicians, choristers, friends, and neighbors to raise the roof with the sound of music. This combination "variety show" and "sing-a-long" will feature the talents of local performers. Everyone's favorite music will be included, with new selections added this year. Lyrics will be provided so that everyone can join in the fun, or simply listen to the sound of a full orchestra celebrating a season of holiday cheer.

Special appearances will include the ever cheerful Chappaqua Singers with their interpretation of *The Secret of Christmas*. Horace Greeley High School senior Julia Deutsch will lend her stunning soprano voice to what promises to be a very moving performance of Robert Blake's *Walking in the Air* from the animated film *The Snowman*. As is tradition, *Oh Holy Night* will be performed by a tenor soloist. This year's featured soloist will be Westchester's favorite "Opera Man" Dan Montez, Director of the Taconic Opera.

The concert will take place on Saturday, December 5th, 2009 at 3:30 pm at the Robert E. Bell Middle School Auditorium, 50 Senter Street in Chappaqua, NY. After the concert everyone will be invited to join the procession down the block to the old Greeley House for the New Castle Historical Society's Holiday Tree Lighting which will take place at 4:30 pm. Santa will be on hand to hear holiday wishes, and yummy treats will be available for all. Please visit www.chappaquaorchestra.org for more information.

About the Chappaqua Singers

A professional-caliber group of entertainers who bring a variety of musical talents to the stage, The Chappaqua Singers are a performing arts resource in northern Westchester County, New York. Sixteen women perform dynamic arrangements of popular music ranging from show tunes to seasonally-themed favorites. Stage attire, choreography and Broadway accompanist Sue Anderson make The Chappaqua Singers a much sought-after group.

Under the direction of Marie Terotta Roche, a critically-acclaimed singer, actor, dancer and radio personality, The Chappaqua Singers have performed in Romania under the auspices of the Romanian Government and the Friendship Ambassadors Organization. They have also sung in Washington, D.C. by special invitation during the 1976 Centennial Year celebration. Other engagements have included numerous venues in New York City and aboard the *QE II*. When they are not touring, the ensemble share their talents with local church and civic organizations, senior citizens and hospitals.

About Julia Deutsch

Julia Deutsch, a senior at Horace Greeley High School, has been singing in community and semi-professional venues since fourth grade. She has studied with Audra Moricca, Kelly Horsted, Phyllis Hoffman of Boston University and Kurt Hansen of Northwestern University. She has appeared at Westchester Broadway Theatre, *DON'T TELL MAMA* in New York City, Lutkin Hall at Northwestern, and, last summer, at Tanglewood.

About Dan Montez

Dan Montez is presently the General Director of Taconic Opera, in Westchester County, New York, a position he has held for over a decade. In addition, he has been an opera singer and stage director for over twenty-five years. He has performed the principal roles or directed more than one hundred productions and has appeared in numerous houses including Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and San Francisco Opera.

Montez received a BMu from Brigham Young University in Vocal Pedagogy and his M.A. in Vocal Performance from San Jose State University. Apart from singing, he recently made his debut as a concert pianist, performing Prokofiev's 3rd Piano Concerto in San Jose, California. He and his wife Melissa currently have over fifty private students. After completion of his degrees, he assisted in teaching and directing the Opera workshop program at San Jose State University for four years under the direction of Irene Dalis.

Apart from performing all of the principal tenor roles for the Opera San Jose, he participated in numerous opera outreach programs and appeared at many hundreds of schools in the southern San Francisco Bay peninsula. He directed a number of educational programs and taught at all levels in Elementary and Secondary Education.

For fifteen years he acted as Music Supervisor for churches in Utah, California and New York, directing the programs of over thirty church congregations, and directing the training of other liturgical music directors. As an accomplished conductor and composer, Montez has conducted three regular 100-voice oratorio choirs during this same period, and seen the recent premiere of his own oratorio, *The Condescension*.

Montez holds a Masters minor in Portuguese and also speaks Spanish, French, Italian, and German. He is a specialist in the art song and operatic literature of the Portuguese and received a grant from the Luso-American Education Foundation to conduct research in Portugal. He presently holds the largest collection of this music in the United States and has been a guest soloist and lecturer on the subject. He has been heard throughout the country in performance and interview on National Public Radio's *Performance Today* as an expert in this subject. He has performed widely as a recitalist and recently released his first art song CD, *The Lost Song: Portuguese songs of Love and Longing*.

Montez is also an author and has acted as editor of *Positive Life*, a monthly subscription periodical dedicated to positive attitudes and goal-oriented living. Recent books by him include *Don't Believe It: How to follow your dreams in spite of those who say you can't*; *Singing for your Supper: What They Don't Teach You in School about an Opera Career*; and *Opera Sutra*. He has also recently been featured as a cover story in Norman Vincent Peale foundation's international magazine, *Positive Living*, and *Classical Singer Magazine*.

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