



THE
CHAPPAQUA
ORCHESTRA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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New Castle Community Sing and Holiday Tree Lighting

November 14, 2011, Chappaqua, NY – On December 3, 2011, Music Director and Conductor Michael Shapiro will lead The Chappaqua Orchestra (and all attending audience members) in the fourth annual *New Castle Community Sing*. All ages and voices are welcome to join musicians, choristers, friends, and neighbors in this combination “variety show” and “sing-a-long” featuring the talents of local performers. 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 Chappaqua Singers with their interpretation of *Sleigh Ride*. Soprano Elizabeth Farnum will perform *Oh Holy Night*, Eric Drucker’s Klezmer clarinet will keep those feet tapping, and the Antioch Baptist Church Cancel Choir will rock the house with their version of *Silent Night* and *Jesus, What a Wonderful Child*.

This FREE concert will take place on Saturday, December 3rd, 2011 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 provided for all by the New Castle Teen Alliance. 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. Fifteen women perform dynamic arrangements of popular music, from show tunes to seasonally-themed favorites. The Chappaqua Singers entertain with upbeat repertoires to enhance any occasion, complete with choreography and costumes. Featured is Broadway accompanist Sue Anderson, making 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 national celebrations and during the September 11 observances in NYC. When they are not touring, the singers share their talents with local civic and private organizations.

This December, The Chappaqua Singers will perform their holiday show at numerous venues culminating in an encore performance at the Met Life Building, adjacent to Grand Central Terminal in New York City, on Friday, December 16, from 5 to 6 p.m.

About Elizabeth Farnum

Praised by the *New York Times* for her “honeyed tone”, Elizabeth Farnum is one of today’s most highly sought-after vocalists in the field of modern music. Widely known for her high level of musicianship, versatility and range, she has presented modern works in venues such as Lincoln Center, Alice Tully Hall, London's Institute for Contemporary Art, the American Academy at Rome, and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, collaborating with such composers as Samuel Adler, Anthony Braxton, Lucas Foss, Ricky Ian Gordon, John Harbison, Peter Schickele, Charles Wuorinen, and John Zorn. She has appeared as a guest soloist with many prominent modern music ensembles throughout the US and Europe, and appeared in a featured role in the U.S. premiere of Pascal Dusapin's *To Be Sung*, presented by L'opera Francais. Elizabeth maintains an interest in many diverse musical styles, and her various interests have led her to performances on Broadway, at the Metropolitan Opera, and throughout the world on tour with acclaimed early music groups Pomerium and the Waverly Consort. In the oratorio and concert fields, Elizabeth has appeared as soloist with, among others, the Brooklyn Philharmonic, the American Symphony Orchestra, the Riverside Symphony, the La Jolla Symphony, and Musica Sacra. A prolific studio artist, Elizabeth has been featured on over 30 recordings, four of which were nominated for Grammy awards. Elizabeth has a keen interest in nature, animals, and the environment, and is a NY State licensed wildlife rehabilitator. She lives on City Island, NY with her husband Ken, a keyboardist and piano technician.

About Clarinetist Eric Drucker

Eric Drucker is a graduate of the Crane School of Music/SUNY Potsdam and holds a Masters degree from Ithaca College, where he studied with Robert Schmidt. He also studied clarinet with Stanley Hasty at the Eastman School of Music. Mr. Drucker has served as principal and solo clarinetist with the Israel Sinfonietta, with which he participated in concert tours of Italy, France, Spain, and Germany, and he has performed in live radio broadcasts in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Paris.

Mr. Drucker is currently principal clarinetist with The Chappaqua Orchestra, Taconic Opera, and the Hawthorne Symphony of New Jersey, as well as performing regularly in chamber music recitals in the area. He serves as the Artistic Director of the Chappaqua Chamber Series.

About the Antioch Baptist Church Chancel Choir

The Antioch Missionary Baptist Church dates back to 1887 when several African-American families living in or near Bedford Center began meeting in their homes for praise and worship service. Currently under the leadership of the Reverend Dr. Paul S. Briggs, The Antioch Baptist Church is continuing the progress of its 115-year fellowship, embarking upon “Upward and Onward,” a vision emphasizing spiritual growth, expansion of the youth ministry, additional study programs and space as well as technological advancements. Antioch’s ministries touch upon the lives of many, working with other churches in the community to provide overnight shelter and meals for area homeless during the Winter months. Under the direction of Earlena Thevenin-Green, the dynamic Music Ministry supports the broad missionary and evangelical vision of the church by focusing on developing that vision through the gift of music. The ministry of music enriches the church’s various worship services by ministering to the congregation in songs and hymns that support praise and worship. There is a Chancel Choir, a Men’s Chorus, and a Youth and Children’s choir. Proceeds from the 38th Annual Chancel Choir Concert benefited the building campaign for a chapel on the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility grounds as well as the “Upward and Onward” renovation phase. Each year Christmas boxes filled with wish list items are delivered to an area nursing home and toys and games go to the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for children visiting their mothers during the holiday season.

About The Chappaqua Orchestra

Hailed as “The Jewel of New Castle,” The Chappaqua Orchestra has served Northern Westchester since 1958. Under the baton of Michael Shapiro, the orchestra is a sophisticated ensemble of

artists with a strong commitment to reaching the community in new and exciting ways. Since its founding, inspired by its first chairman, Jacob A. Evans, and Music Director Boris Koutzen, The Chappaqua Orchestra has always emphasized high musical standards. Notable artists who have appeared with the orchestra include Edward Arron, Timothy Fain, Joseph Fuchs, Kikuei Ikeda, Ruth Laredo, Andrew Litton, Vanessa Williams, and Eugenia Zuckerman. Distinguished conductors of the orchestra have included Jesse Levine, Norman Leyden, Andrew Litton, James Sadewhite, and Wolfgang Schanzer.

The orchestra includes both professional and professional-level volunteer musicians, most of whom are Westchester residents. The orchestra has performed at venues such as the Jacob Burns Film Center, the Seven Bridges Middle School and Horace Greeley High School Auditoriums, the Chappaqua Library, the First Congregational Church of Chappaqua, Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester, The Presbyterian Church of Mt. Kisco, Reader's Digest Auditorium, and the Paramount Center for the Arts. The Chappaqua Orchestra enhances the arts education program in the Chappaqua Public Schools through small ensemble performances in the elementary schools, joint concerts with the Horace Greeley High School Orchestra and Chorus, a mentoring program for selected music students, and annual family concerts geared toward young audiences. The orchestra also fosters the development of new artists and smaller chamber groups by showcasing their performances in smaller venues. To learn more about The Chappaqua Orchestra, please visit www.chappaquaorchestra.org.

About Music Director/Conductor Michael Shapiro

Michael Shapiro, Music Director and Conductor of The Chappaqua Orchestra since 2002, is dedicated to presenting challenging repertoire in the context of thematic programming, while building an ensemble of top musicians. Under Maestro Shapiro, The Chappaqua Orchestra has reached new artistic heights. In recent years, The Chappaqua Orchestra's performances have been likened to those of major orchestras, and the 2006 production of the Verdi Requiem, performed in collaboration with the Taconic Opera, was termed Westchester's "musical event of the decade."

Mr. Shapiro has performed internationally, including appearances in Berlin, Siena, Victoria, New York, Boston, Minneapolis, and Washington, D.C. His repertoire as a conductor includes most of the standard symphonic, operatic, and ballet works. He is known for his keen understanding of and appreciation for new music. He served for two years as Music Consultant to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, where he produced and performed the music of composers who perished in or fled Europe during the Second World War. Michael Shapiro worked as an assistant conductor at the Zurich Opera Studio and has appeared internationally as the conductor of his own music, including recording his film score for the Israel Broadcasting Authority documentary, *Distant Relatives*. With The Chappaqua Orchestra, he premiered his score for the classic film, *Frankenstein*, at the Jacob Burns Film Center and later at the Paramount Theater. Other performances of the work include its Boston premiere at Coolidge Corner Theater in Brookline and the Midwest premiere by the Beloit Janesville Symphony, Robert Tomaro, conductor. Mr. Shapiro served as one of the composers-in-residence at the 2010 Cabrillo Music Festival in Santa Cruz where the Festival Orchestra conducted by Marin Alsop performed the California premiere of his *Roller Coaster* (which received its first performance during The Chappaqua Orchestra's 50th Season). This season's highlights include the recording of Mr. Shapiro's Peace Variations by violinist Timothy Fain on Paumanok Records, the issuance on the Milken Archive of his *Eliahu Hanavi* Variations for solo cello played by Boston Symphony cellist Sato Knudsen, and the prime time broadcast of his film scores for a new NBC television crime show. Mr. Shapiro is currently working on *Archangel* Concerto for piano and orchestra to be premiered next season by Jeffrey Biegel, piano, Traverse Symphony Orchestra, Kevin Rhodes, conductor, in Interlachen, Michigan, and his Second Symphony. To learn more about Michael Shapiro, please visit www.michaelshapiro.com

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