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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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***Music and the River – a Musical Tribute to Mark Twain***

October 16, 2011, Chappaqua, New York – On Saturday, November 5th, 2011, The Chappaqua Orchestra will present *Music and the River – a Musical Tribute to Mark Twain*. For this multi-media event, The Chappaqua Orchestra will perform Virgil Thomson's epic film score simultaneously with the Depression era film *The River*. The orchestra will also perform Charles Ives' gorgeous tone poem *The Housatonic at Stockbridge* and beloved vocal excerpts from Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein's *Show Boat*. Twain's witticisms about the young Ives will be recounted by William Gerrard, who will also provide the narration for *The River*. Audience favorite Deborah Horne, soprano, and bass baritone, John Dominick III, will join Maestro Michael Shapiro and the orchestra in this celebration of American music and American river ways. The concert is presented in collaboration with the Chappaqua Library as part of *Twain's Domain*, a month long celebration of the man and his work. The concert will begin at 8 pm on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Chappaqua Library Auditorium, 195 South Greeley Avenue in Chappaqua, NY. Admission is FREE and no reservations are required. Donations for the performers will be gratefully accepted. For information call 914-238-4779 or visit [www.chappaquaorchestra.org](http://www.chappaquaorchestra.org)

**About *The River***

The film *The River*, a 1938 short documentary, was sponsored by the U.S. government under the auspices of the Farm Security Administration to promote the New Deal. Written and directed by Pare Lorentz, the film won "best documentary" at the 1938 Venice International Film Festival. The film is still relevant today as Twain's inspiration, the Mississippi River, continues to flood and cause turmoil throughout the center of our country.

**About *The Housatonic at Stockbridge***

*The Housatonic at Stockbridge* is part of Charles Ives *Three Places in New England* composed over the period 1903 to 1929. Twain met Charles Ives through Ives' father-in-law the Reverend Joseph Twichell of Hartford, Connecticut. The piece exhibits many of Ives' signature traits such as overlapping melodies and recognizable hymn and marching tunes. This piece was

written to recall a walk Ives took along the Housatonic River with his newlywed Harmony Twichell.

### **About Show Boat**

Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein's *Show Boat* was produced in New York in 1928 and depicts life on a Mississippi River show boat from 1880 to 1927. Based on a novel by Edna Ferber with themes of racial prejudice and enduring love. The Chappaqua Orchestra, soprano Deborah Horne, and bass baritone John Dominick III will perform *Bill, Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man*, and of course, *Ol' Man River*.

### **About William Gerrard**

William Gerrard is known in Chappaqua as “the voice”. A 2001 Horace Greeley High School graduate and son of Town Supervisor Barbara Gerrard, Mr. Gerrard began his speaking career by reading the morning announcements over the loudspeaker in high school. He then went on to receive his BA in English from Columbia and is currently working toward his MFA in Film Directing at Columbia’s School of the Arts. He is often called upon to perform as an emcee, as a voiceover for films, and for public readings

### **About 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.

### **About John Dominick III**

Born and raised in Central Louisiana, bass John Dominick III studied voice at Northwestern State University of Louisiana and Southeastern Louisiana University. There he performed as the bass soloist in Mozart's Requiem, Fauré's Requiem, Mozart's Mass in C Minor, and Handel's Messiah. He also performed the Brahms Requiem with the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

In opera, Mr. Dominick has performed with the Jefferson Performing Arts Society, Delaware Valley Opera, New York Opera Forum, Family Opera, Sarasota Opera, New York City Opera in their debut of Heggie's Dead Man Walking, and the Natchez Opera Festival. His roles

include Simone in Puccini's Gianni Schicchi, the Sergeant in Gilbert and Sullivan's Pirates of Penzance, Colline in Puccini's La Boheme, Ferrando in Verdi's Il trovatore, Don Alfonso in Mozart's Cosi fan tutte, Pistola in Verdi's Falstaff, Bide the Bent in Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor, Frank Maurant in Weill's Street Scene, the Bonze in Puccini's Madama Butterfly, Sparafucile in Verdi's Rigoletto, and Balthazar in Menotti's Amahl and the Night Visitors with Nico Castel. Mr. Dominick's roles in musical theatre include Joe in Kern's Showboat.

In 2005, he won grants from both the Licia Albanese Foundation and the Schuyler Foundation for Career Bridges. Mr. Dominick has also completed the Young Artists Program held in Sarasota, Florida. He studies voice with Armen Boyajian.

### **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](http://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 the 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, 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 Interlaken, Michigan. Mr. Shapiro has also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Conductor's Guild. To learn more about Michael Shapiro, please visit [www.michaelshapiro.com](http://www.michaelshapiro.com)

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