



THE
CHAPPAQUA
ORCHESTRA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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The Chappaqua Orchestra Announces 2011-2012 Season

Chappaqua, New York, September 7, 2011 – The Chappaqua Orchestra, under the baton of **Michael Shapiro**, brings world renowned musicians, unique programs, and exciting performances to intimate venues in Northern Westchester. Don't miss this season's offerings of fine music, from intimate chamber performances to large orchestral works, with some family fun in between.

November 5, 2011: *Music and the River – a Musical Tribute to Mark Twain*

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 5th, 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

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), Bittenwieser Hall at the 92nd 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.

December 3, 2011: New Castle Community Sing and Holiday Tree Lighting

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 3th, 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.

May 20, 2012: Nature and Beauty

Spring is in the air, and nothing expresses the wonder of nature better than the soaring landscapes and intricate complexities of beautiful orchestral music. On Sunday, May 20, 2012, Music Director and Conductor Michael Shapiro will lead The Chappaqua Orchestra in a concert of music inspired by nature. Debussy's *L'après-midi d'un faune*, Beethoven's Symphony No 6 (*Pastoral*) and the world premiere of Mr. Shapiro's own Harp Concerto with soloist Anna Reinersman will paint a picture of the natural world both serene and majestic. The concert will take place at 3:00 pm at the Horace Greeley High School Auditorium, 70 Roaring Brook Road in Chappaqua, New York. Tickets are \$20 and students are free. For tickets and information call 914-238-9220, or visit www.chappaquaorchestra.com.

About Anna Reinersman

Anna Reinersman began her harp studies at the age of seven, holding her first position as Principal Harp for the Rocky Mountain Symphony in Utah at the age of fourteen. Praised by The New York Times as "an elegant harpist", she performs extensively throughout New York and Boston. Ms. Reinersman recently returned from a tour of Japan with the Metropolitan Opera, playing "La Boheme" and is currently in the pit for the revival of "On A Clear Day You Can See Forever" starring Harry Connick, Jr. She was the harpist for the entire run of the Broadway smash hit "The Producers" and has performed with the Orchestra of St. Luke's, the Mostly Mozart Music Festival, and has toured the country with the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra. She maintains an active career as a chamber musician with the Locrian

Chamber Players, a contemporary ensemble, the Chameleon Arts Ensemble, a Boston based chamber group, and the Larkspur Trio. Comfortable in a variety of musical settings, she has performed with such contemporary pop artists as Joni Mitchell, Diana Krall, Alicia Keyes, and the indie band Hem. Ms. Reinersman is also cofounder and codirector of the Carolina Chamber Music Festival. She can be heard on the soundtrack of the most recent “The Producers” movie, the cast album for the Broadway revival of “Finian’s Rainbow,” and various other commercial recordings.

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 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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