

Spring, 2024

Dear Friends:

It is my honor to invite you to join us at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday May 19, 2024 at The First Congregational Church of Madison for the grand finale of our 2023-2024 concert season. Under the baton of Richard Wm. Donohue the concert will feature Bach cantata BWV 4 "*Christ lag in Todes Banden*" and Weber Mass No. 2 in G Major "*Jubelmesse*".

Carl Maria von Weber is best known for his operas especially the immensely popular *Der Freischütz*. Despite dying at age 39 he wrote a substantial amount of music including two masses which have unfortunately fallen into neglect. The mass in G was written in 1819 for the golden wedding anniversary of the King and Queen of Saxony, a festive event that explains the name "*Jubelmesse*" (Jubilation mass). It is a work of pious hope, with a wealth of Romantic expression, and well worth getting to know.

In contrast, Bach Cantata BWV 4 "*Christ lag in Todes Banden*" is surely one of the most popular and well known cantatas. Written for Easter Sunday the chorale is based on the Gregorian chant "*Victimae paschali laudes.*" and evokes not just the seriousness of sin and death, but also the glory, joy, love, and hope of salvation.

There are significant expenses associated with a concert of this caliber, and we hope that we may count on your support by using the enclosed envelope and slip to make a contribution in any amount that feels right for you. Whether it's a first time donation or a renewal of your commitment, the support of the community cannot be underestimated. Without you, we simply could not exist. It truly takes a village! The New England Chamber Choir is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization and your donation is tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

Donations are only one way to help support the choir. If you love what we do, then spread the word! Come to the concert, invite your friends to join you, sit back, relax, and enjoy the wonderful music. We look forward to seeing you.

With warm regards,

Anita Duffy
President