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### **The Chappaqua Orchestra Announces 2013-2014 Season**

Chappaqua, New York, September 7, 2013 - The Chappaqua Orchestra is proud to announce its new season with a mix of exciting chamber and orchestral performances. Michael Shapiro, conductor and artistic director, brings together local musicians and renowned soloists to present this season's offering of fine classical music in intimate venues in Northern Westchester.

#### October 6, 2013: Rive Gauche – Stein and Her Salon

Find yourself in Gertrude Stein's salon as the great composers Satie and Stravinsky, Honegger and Milhaud come to visit, exhibiting their musical wares to the great painters of the period. From Stravinsky's tribute to Pablo Picasso, Satie's strange piano work (featured in the movie *Chocolat*) in Michael Shapiro's new orchestration, Honegger's pastoral setting of a French summer afternoon, and Milhaud's wacky Chaplinesque romp of a Bull on the Roof, Stein's salon resounds! Sunday afternoon at 3:00 pm at the Chappaqua Library Auditorium. Admission free.

#### December 7, 2013: New Castle Community Sing and Holiday Tree Lighting

A delight for all ages, the New Castle Community Sing features holiday tunes and sing-along under the baton of guest conductor, Benjamin Niemczyk on Saturday, December 7, at 3:30 pm. This FREE performance takes place at the Robert E. Bell Middle School Auditorium. Also featured are the Chappaqua Singers and the Greeley Madrigal Singers. After the performance, the audience is invited to walk over to the Horace Greeley House for the New Castle Historical Society's annual holiday tree-lighting with Santa and yummy treats for all.

Please visit [www.chappaquaorchestra.org](http://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 Benjamin Niemczyk**

An artist of uncommon range, Benjamin Niemczyk conducts Westchester Oratorio Society, the Chrysalis Consort and is the co-founder, president and conductor of New Westchester Symphony Orchestra, an audition-free ensemble in White Plains that plays original editions of classical masterworks. He also is a staff conductor at Music Conservatory Westchester, leading its Senior Singers program.

A regular guest conductor of summer sings in Westchester, Mr. Niemczyk has led pieces ranging from Medieval works to world premieres. He gave his Town Hall debut in 2004 and his European debut in the south of France that same year.

A protégé of Harold Rosenbaum, Mr. Niemczyk has conferred on repertoire for New York Virtuoso Singers and has served as a judge for its annual composition competition. Recent performances include Beethoven *Choral Fantasy* with pianist Hélène Grimaud, Beethoven *Christus am Ölberge*, Beethoven *Symphony 5*, Brahms *Requiem*, Schoenberg *A Survivor from Warsaw*, Händel *Messiah* with REBEL Baroque Orchestra as well as New Westchester Symphony, Mendelssohn *Elijah*, Mozart *Requiem* (Levin), Anthony Newman's *Requiem*, Fauré *Requiem*, Duruflé *Requiem*, Brahms *Liebeslieder Waltzes*, Ravel *Ma mère l'oye*, Satie *Gymnopédies*, Brahms motets, Messiaen *O Sacrum con Vivium*, Beethoven *Symphony 7*, Mozart *Zauberflöte Overture*, as well as opera excerpts by Bizet, Puccini and Mascagni.

Also a photographer, videographer, web coder and editor, Mr. Niemczyk has served as a media designer for numerous music ensembles. Mr. Niemczyk holds degrees in composition from Wheaton College Conservatory and DePaul University School of Music. He lives in Brooklyn, NY.

### May 18, 2014: Broadway Lights

The incomparably virtuosic West Point Jazz Knights merge for one night with The Chappaqua Orchestra to create the greatest Broadway ensemble north of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street! Surprise Broadway stars and famed jazz singer Alexis Cole will guide you through a tour of the Great white Way's greatest hits in original and newly updated orchestrations. Come enjoy the music of Porter, Gershwin, Rodgers and Hart, Lerner and Loewe, Sondheim, Larson, Wildhorn, and Schwartz. This performance will take place on Sunday, May 18 at 3 pm at Horace Greeley High School Auditorium. Admission is \$20 and free for students.

### **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 our 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 continued to emphasize both community ties and high musical standards. Many notable artists have been associated with the orchestra, including Eugenia Zuckerman, Ruth Laredo, Joseph Fuchs, Andrew Litton, Kikuei Ikeda, and Vanessa Williams. Our list of distinguished conductors includes Norman Leyden, Wolfgang Schanzer, Andrew Litton, Jesse Levine, James Sadewhite, and Michael Shapiro.

The orchestra is composed of both professional and professional-level volunteer musicians, mostly Westchester residents. The orchestra has performed at various venues including the Jacob Burns Film Center, the Horace Greeley High School Auditorium, the Chappaqua Library, the First Congregational Church, Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester, Reader's Digest Auditorium, and more recently, the Paramount Center for the Arts in Peekskill, N.Y. 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, 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 or by sponsoring smaller venues.

In 1967, the establishment of the Boris Koutzen Memorial Fund provided income to commission original works to be performed by the orchestra. The first Koutzen Fund commissioned work, *Thanatopsis*, by Paul Creston, was performed in 1971. In 2002, a generous gift from two anonymous donors made it possible for the Fund to once again commission an original work. Michael Shapiro's original score to the 1931 movie *Frankenstein* received its World Premiere in October 2002 at the Jacob Burns Film Center.

Today, The Chappaqua Orchestra continues to present challenging repertoire in the context of thematic programming, while building an ensemble of top musicians.

### **About Alexis Cole**

Called "one of the great voices of today," **Alexis Cole** has been compared to classic jazz singers such as [Sarah Vaughan](#) and [Anita O'Day](#). Her luxurious voice and innovative interpretations make her an instant favorite with audiences of all ages. Cole is the recipient of a Swing Journal Gold Disk award, and has won the NY Jazzmobile and Montreux Jazz Festival vocal competitions. She records for Motéma Music, NY, and [Venus Records](#), Japan. Her recordings, which feature musical luminaries such as Fred Hersch, Eric Alexander, Matt Wilson, Harry Pickens, Don Braden and Pat LaBarbara, have received high praise in the jazz press and are spun on radio world-wide. In addition to her many performances at top jazz venues like Dizzy's Club at ([Jazz at Lincoln Center](#)), The Oak Room, Blues Alley, and Billboard Live, she's also performed at the Kennedy Center and been a featured soloist at Avery Fisher Hall with the NY Philharmonic Brass. Alexis studied voice and piano at the University of Miami and William Paterson University, and holds a Masters of Music from Queens College. She also trained in Indian Classical singing at the Jazz India Vocal Institute in Mumbai.

### **About the West Point Jazz Knights**

Bringing over three decades of musical excellence to their audiences, the West Point Band's Jazz Knights present the best in big band favorites, popular music, and original compositions and arrangements for jazz ensemble. Members of the group are graduates of some of America's most prestigious music schools such as the University of North Texas, Eastman School of Music, Indiana University, Berklee School of Music and the Manhattan School of Music.



They are recruited and selected through a competitive audition process specifically for service in the United States Military Academy Band at West Point.

Past and present members of the band have played with such icons as Count Basie, Buddy Rich, Woody Herman, Maynard Ferguson, Ahmad Jamal, Chaka Kahn, Prince, Billy Cobham, and the Tommy Dorsey and Glenn Miller Orchestras.

The Jazz Knights' highlights over the years include playing with Benny Goodman at Lincoln Center in 1982, performing with the Duke Ellington Orchestra for the 200th Anniversary of the New York State Legislature, and twice appearing at the Hatch Shell for Boston's Independence Day celebration. The Jazz Knights have also performed for festivals and music educators' conventions, including the International Association for Jazz Education conventions, the Western International Band Clinic,

the University of Northern Colorado Jazz Festival, the International Society of Bassists' convention and the New York State Band Director's Association Conference in 2008.

Notable guests who have performed with the Jazz Knights include David Liebman, Rufus Reid, John Clayton, Eddie Daniels, Steve Turre, James Carter, Randy Brecker, Michael Abene, Steve Weist, Jon Faddis, Jim Snidero, Gary Smulyan, Scott Wendholt and Benny Golson.

At West Point, the Jazz Knights provide music for numerous functions throughout the year. In combination with the Concert Band and field music unit, the Hellcats, they help fulfill official musical requirements of the Military Academy and the Army, including military and patriotic ceremonies both at West Point and throughout the country. The Jazz Knights also perform for the summer concert series at the Trophy Point Amphitheatre and for the winter concert series at Eisenhower Hall. Their performances recreate the sounds of the greatest jazz ensembles and the innovative styles of today through their original compositions and arrangements.

#### **About Music Director/conductor Michael Shapiro**

Michael 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 as well as an insider's understanding and appreciation for new music. Michael Shapiro's background as an opera coach and concert pianist illuminates his work with soloists in vocal, operatic, and concerto performances.

Michael Shapiro has also collaborated with such artists as Teresa Stratas, Jose Ferrer, Janos Starker, Marin Alsop, Sergiu Comissiona, Eugene Drucker, Kim Catrall, Timothy Fain, Edward Arron, Jerome Rose, Gottfried Wagner, Mariko Anraku, Clamma Dale, Anita Darian, Florence Levitt, Ayako Yoshida, Harris Poor, Kathryn Amyotte, Emily Wong, the Hawthorne String Quartet, Locrian Chamber Ensemble, Artemis, and Dateline NBC. In a celebration of the 75th birthday of WQXR radio personality, Robert Sherman, Michael Shapiro conducted the first performance of a new version of John Corigliano's The Red Violin Suite with narration with the composer in attendance. Michael Shapiro served for two years as Music Consultant to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. where he produced and performed the music of composers who perished in or fled Europe during the Second World War. He also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Conductor's Guild.

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). He regularly performs his own music and conducted The Chappaqua Orchestra in the world premiere of his score for the classic film Frankenstein directed by James Whale and starring Boris Karloff at the Film Society of Lincoln Center's Jacob Burns Film Center and later at the Paramount Theater, the Coolidge Corner Theater in Boston (and featured on the cover of the Boston Globe), the Berkshire Museum, and historic Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts. Frankenstein recently received its Delaware premiere with the UDel Chamber Orchestra, James Allen Anderson, conductor, and next Halloween season will garner five performances in Traverse, Michigan and Marist College, and Mr. Shapiro will conduct performances of the film score live with the classic talkie with the Springfield Symphony in Massachusetts at Symphony Hall. During The Chappaqua Orchestra's 50th Season, he conducted the world premiere of his new work for orchestra Roller Coaster (which received its West Coast premiere at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music conducted by Marin Alsop).

In addition to the upcoming performances of Frankenstein, next season will see the recordings on Paumanok Records of Michael Shapiro's Yiddish Quartet by the Amernet String Quartet after multiple performances in Florida and Israel, the Piano Quintet by Inna Faliks, piano, and the Amernet in Tel Aviv, and the Second Sonata for Violin and Piano played by Tim Fain, violin, and Ms. Faliks as the pianist following performances in Los Angeles and New York. Mr. Shapiro's Archangel Concerto for Piano and Orchestra will be premiered by Jose Ramos Santana, piano, in New York with the New York Repertory Orchestra, David Leibowitz, conductor, followed by performances in Interlochen, Michigan, with the

Traverse Symphony, Kevin Rhodes, conductor, and the Orquesta Sinfonica de Puerto Rico, Maximiano Valdes, conductor, in San Juan at the Festival Interamericano de las Artes.

Trained in conducting by Carl Bamberger at The Mannes School and Harold Farberman at Bard College, Michael Shapiro also studied solfège and score reading at The Juilliard School with Renee Longy. He was the winner of various piano competitions during his youth and continues performing as an accompanist to singers and as a chamber music pianist. Michael Shapiro studied composition with Elie Siegmeister, Vincent Persichetti, and Sir Malcolm Arnold.