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### **The Chappaqua Orchestra Announces 2012-2013 Season**

Chappaqua, New York, September 18, 2012 - 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 14, 2012: All-Prokofiev Chamber Recital

The season opener will be an all-Prokofiev chamber recital featuring members of the orchestra on Sunday, October 14 at 3 pm. The program includes Overture on Hebrew Themes, Second Sonata for violin and piano, and Quintet in G minor, Op.39. The recital takes place at the Chappaqua Library Auditorium. The performance and reception are free and open to the public.

#### December 1, 2012: 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 Michael Shapiro on Saturday, December 1, at 3:30 pm. Guest artist, soprano Amy Goldstein, will perform songs in Hebrew arranged by Jonathan Faiman. 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.

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.

This December, The Chappaqua Singers will present 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 Wednesday December 19, from 5-6 pm.

### **About Amy Goldstein**

Amy Goldstein has gained international renown for her remarkably versatile performances of opera, oratorio, Broadway, contemporary music, cantorial chanting, and for her critically acclaimed Naxos recordings for the Milken Archive of American Jewish Music.

Of Amy's recent off-Broadway debut in *Gimpl Tam* with the National Yiddish Theater Folksbiene, the New York Times glowed, "...it offers tunes that range from the hand-clapping to the heart tugging... and the lovely voice of Amy Goldstein in the songs 'Fort a Shlitt Oyfn Shney' ('A Sled Glides Through the Snow') and 'Shluf Mayn Kind' ('Sleep My Child'). Other theater credits include multi-accent monologues for exhibits in the National Museum of American Jewish History (Philadelphia), female lead in *A Sondheim Revue* with *Dances Patrelle* at the Danny and Sylvia Kaye Playhouse, *Dina* in *Bar Kochba* with the National Yiddish Theater Folksbiene, principal soprano in *The Music of Abraham Goldfaden* in a tour of CUNY theaters with the national Yiddish Theater Folksbiene, Merkin Concert Hall and in the world premiere recording for the Naxos record label, guest recording artist for The Actors Company Theatre (Cynthia Harris, Simon Jones, and Scott Alan Evans, artistic Directors), and principal recording artist in Volumes 1, 2 and 3 of *Great Songs of the Yiddish Stage* for the Milken Archive of American Jewish Music (Naxos Records).

Operatic and orchestral credits include Anchorage Opera, Central City Opera, Center for Contemporary Opera, Banff Opera theater, Britten-Pears Festival, Manhattan School of Music Opera Theater, Washington Square Opera, Danny and Sylvia Kaye Playhouse, the New York Philharmonic, Czech Radio Philharmonic, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra, Karlsbad Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Anchorage Festival orchestra, Brott Festival Orchestra, the Pro arte Chorale, and the Chicago Youth Symphony. Recital highlights include performances at Carnegie Hall, Carnegie Weill Recital hall, Baruch College, the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois, The Tilles Center, the Manhattan School of Music Outreach program, the Midreshet Ben-Gurion Salon Series, in a rarely-performed English version of Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* with the Circadia ensemble, and the role of Jane in the world premiere recording of Nils Vigeland's *Jane Eyre* for the Verge Music label. Ms. Goldstein's recordings can be purchased online through a number of different sites. She lives in Westchester with her husband, pianist Jonathan Faiman, and their sons Michael Simcha Faiman, and Isaac David Faiman.

### May 19, 2013: A Little Mozart

The Chappaqua Orchestra, under the leadership of Maestro Michael Shapiro, presents *A Little Mozart*, a program featuring the music of young Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Included in the program are *Symphony No. 29* and excerpts from *Bastien und Bastienne*, an opera composed by the teenaged Mozart, featuring the voices of Leigh Folta, soprano, Alan Briones, tenor, and John Dominick, bass. Also on the program will be the massive *Piano Concerto No. 9* in E Flat Major, with Cynthia Peterson as soloist. Ms. Peterson, well-known to Westchester audiences, is a frequent performer in the New York area. The concert takes place Sunday, May 19, 2013, at 3 pm at Horace Greeley High School. Admission is \$20 and free for students.

### **About Leigh Folta**

Leigh Folta, a soprano originally from Westchester County, New York, is a recent graduate from the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California. She received a Bachelor of Music degree and a law and society minor, along with honors recognition upon graduation. Leigh has appeared in various productions with USC Opera and the chamber Opera of USC. She began performing as a child with the Westchester Girls Choir, where she was a chorister and a featured soloist. Later, as a member of the Young People's Chorus of New York city, she performed for four years and travelled the world singing in numerous venues including Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York City and in Kyoto, Japan, Salzburg, Austria, and York, England. Leigh competed in the Choir Olympics in Graz, Austria in 2008 as the soprano section leader with the Young People's Chorus concert choir, which was awarded three gold medals. She was recently named a finalist in the Undergraduate Division of the classical singer competition. She is currently working as a music theory teacher in Pasadena, CA, and is looking forward to singing more in the LA area before going to graduate school to pursue a Masters degree.

### **About Alan Briones**

Tenor Alan Briones, raised in Shrub Oak and currently studying at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music (SFCM) with Cesar Ulloa, returns to Westchester to sing Bastien. Alan sang the role of Parpignol in *La Boheme* with Livermore Opera and the roles of Don Curzio in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Dr. Blind in *Die Fledermous* at SFCM. Alan started as a boy alto, making his role debut at New York City Opera as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Spirit in *The Magic Flute* in 2003. Other roles performed include Roderigo in *Otello*, Toby in *The Medium*, and Malcolm in *Macbeth*, all with Taconic Opera. In the summer of 2013, he will participate in the Castleton Artists Training Seminar (C.A.T.S.) in Virginia with Lorin Maazel.

#### **About John Dominick III**

John Dominick III, Bass-Baritone, was born in Pineville, Louisiana. His broad career includes work in Opera: Wotan in Wagner's *Die Walkure*, Osmin in Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, King Philip in Verdi's *Don Carlo*, Colline in Puccini's *La bohème*, Ferrando in Verdi's *Il trovatore*, Frank Murrant in Weil's *Street Scene*, the title role in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Mikado*, Publius in Mozart's *La clamenza di Tito*, King Balthazar in Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Don Alfonso in Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*, Bide-the-Bent in Donizetti's *Lucia de Lammermoor*, Pistola in Verdi's *Falstaff*, the Bonze in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Sparafucile in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Jacopo Loredano in Verdi's *I Due Foscari*, and the Four Villains in Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffman* with such companies as the New York City Opera, Sarasota Opera, Opera Orchestra of New York, New York Lyric Opera, Opera Brooklyn, the Martina Arroyo Foundation, and Natchez Opera. Oratorio: Bass soloist in Mozart's "Great" Mass in C Minor, Handel's *Messiah*, the Verdi Requiem, the C.P.E. Bach Magnificat and the Mozart Requiem, Schubert's Mass in E Flat Major, at Carnegie Hall. Awards: The Wagner Society of New York, The Schuyler Foundation for Career Bridges, The Licia Albanese Foundation, and the Sergio Franchi Memorial Foundation. Upcoming Performances: Title Role in Wagner's *Der fliegende Holländer*.

#### **About Cynthia Peterson**

Pianist Cynthia Peterson performs works from a broad solo, chamber, and contemporary repertoire. Her performances include the American Academy in Rome, radio broadcasts in Washington D.C. and Virginia, Anderson House Museum in Washington, D.C., Minnesota, and chamber music touring in Canada. She has appeared at many venues in the New York area including the Brooklyn Museum, the Museum of the City of New York, Bruno Walter Auditorium at Lincoln Center, and the Garden State Center for the Arts. As prize winner of concerto competitions, she performed the Beethoven First Piano Concerto with the Philharmonic Symphony of Westchester, and the Gershwin Concerto with the Virginia Beach Pops Orchestra, and was soloist with several local orchestras including the Yonkers Civic Orchestra and the Westchester Youth Symphony. She appeared at Yale University and the Metropolitan Museum with violinist Kyung-Jun Kim, and as the featured pianist in works by John Corigliano at the CUNY Graduate Center Auditorium, her performance hailed by the composer as "extraordinary." She received a Masters degree in performance from Juilliard, where she was awarded the prestigious Irwin Freundlich Memorial Scholarship Award, and holds a doctorate from the University of Connecticut. She also received fellowships at Tanglewood, the Banff Centre, the Festival at Sandpoint, and the Ravinia Festival. Ms. Peterson has taught at the City University of New York/Lehman as head of the piano faculty, SUNY/New Paltz, Dutchess Community College, and at the Barry Tuckwell Institute at Gettysburg College, performing with renowned horn player/conductor Barry Tuckwell and other faculty. Cynthia has also composed music to "Sabbath Service" in collaboration with choreographer Nina Stein White, which was performed at the Scarsdale Congregational Temple. She co-directed "PlayWeekend," an adult amateur chamber music workshop held in Cold Spring, New York. She is currently the Executive Director of the Chappaqua Orchestra.

#### **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 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 Cattrall, 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 75<sup>th</sup> 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 Theatre, 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 U DelChamber 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 Time 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 Liebowitz, conductor, followed by performances in Interlochen, Michigan, with the Traverse Symkphony, 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 solfege 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.