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The Chappaqua Orchestra Announces 2007/2008 Season

Chappaqua, New York, July 28, 2007 – The Chappaqua Orchestra’s 49th season of three concerts will feature works ranging from those of living composers to classical music’s “meat and potatoes.” The season opens in November with *Strings Across Westchester*, an unusual collaboration between The Chappaqua Orchestra and Ossining’s Collegium Westchester. December brings the return of *The Chappaqua Nutcracker*, — the classic Tchaikovsky ballet with a local twist — in collaboration with Chappaqua's Dance Emotions. The season's May finale, *Beethoven Cubed*, features a trio of Beethoven’s thirds — the *Leonore Overture No. 3*, the *Symphony No.3*, and the *Piano Concerto No.3* with Bulgarian pianist Nadejda Vlaeva.

About The Chappaqua Orchestra’s 2007/2008 Concert Season

November 10 and 11, 2007 – *Strings Across Westchester*

The Chappaqua Orchestra and **Collegium Westchester** will join together for two performances. The combined forces will share venues, audiences, musicians, and conductors. Violinists **Sarah E Geller** and **Bryony Stroud-Watson** will share the spotlight in Bach’s *Concerto for two Violins*. The program also includes the *Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten* by Avro Part, Edvard Grieg’s *Holberg Suite*, and the Westchester premiere of *Make a Joyful Noise* by Ossining composer **David Macdonald**. In an unusual arrangement, conductors **Michael Shapiro** of The Chappaqua Orchestra and **Eric Kramer** of Collegium Westchester will each conduct all the pieces on the program, swapping pieces between concerts. The maestros will share the podium for the Macdonald piece, as it requires two conductors. The first performance is at 8 pm, Saturday, November 10, 2007 at the Presbyterian Church, 400 Bedford Road in Pleasantville. The second performance is at 4 pm, Sunday, November 11, 2007 at the First Presbyterian Church, 34 North Highland Avenue in Ossining. Tickets for the Saturday performance are \$15 in advance, or \$20 at the door. For tickets call 914-921-4642, or visit www.chappaquaorchestra.org. The Sunday performance is free, with a suggested donation of \$15 at the door.

December 1 and 2, 2007 – *The Chappaqua Nutcracker*

Once again **Dance Emotions** and The Chappaqua Orchestra will join forces to present the classic *Nutcracker* ballet. The *Chappaqua Nutcracker* is set in Chappaqua New York in the time of Horace Greeley and his family. It may be the only *Nutcracker* performed with live orchestra in Westchester County. The small venue makes the event especially exciting for young children, so bring the whole family to enjoy this fully staged holiday tradition with Tchaikovsky's famous music performed by The Chappaqua Orchestra. The performances will be on Saturday, December 1, 2007 at 8 pm and on Sunday, December 2, 2007 at 3 pm at the Horace Greeley High School Auditorium, 70 Roaring Brook Road in Chappaqua, NY. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. All seating is reserved; advance purchase is recommended. Seating preferences will be honored on a first come, first served basis. For tickets and information call 914-921-4642, or visit www.chappaquaorchestra.org.

Sunday, May 18, 2008 – *Beethoven Cubed*

Come hear how Beethoven did things the third time around! *Beethoven Cubed* will feature his *Leonore Overture No. 3*, *Symphony No. 3*, and *Piano Concerto No. 3* featuring the Bulgarian-born pianist, **Nadejda Vlaeva**. The concert will highlight Beethoven as a music revolutionary. The concert is on Sunday, May 18, 2008 at 3 pm at the Horace Greeley High School Auditorium, 70 Roaring Brook Road in Chappaqua, NY. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. For tickets and information call 914-921-4642, or visit www.chappaquaorchestra.org.

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, mostly Westchester residents. The orchestra has performed at venues including 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, visit www.chappaquaorchestra.org.

About Music Director/Conductor Michael Shapiro

Michael Shapiro, Music Director and Conductor of The Chappaqua Orchestra since 2001, is dedicated to presenting challenging repertoire in the context of thematic programming, while building an ensemble of top musicians. Under the baton of 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 as a conductor, 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 silent 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. Mr. Shapiro is currently working on his second opera, which is based on Nobel Prize-winning Author Isaac Bashevis Singer's *The Slave*. He also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Conductor's Guild. To learn more about Michael Shapiro, visit www.michaelshapiro.com.

About Collegium Westchester

Collegium Westchester, sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Ossining, is modeled on the 17th century Collegium Musicum in that it combines active professional and accomplished avocational musicians into one ensemble. Under the baton of Eric Kramer, it performs music from the 17th century to the present. Founded in 1996, its chorus and orchestra draw musicians from the Westchester County/New York City metropolitan area.

About Conductor Eric Kramer

Eric Kramer, who continues to oversee the growth of the Collegium Westchester's chorus and orchestra, has been its music director since its inception in 1996. He is also assistant conductor for the Bronx Opera.

In Europe Mr. Kramer has conducted the Kromeriz Chamber Orchestra, the Moravian Philharmonic, and the Solti Chamber Orchestra in performance and/or recording. He also worked with the Budapest Festival Orchestra and with the Opéra National de Lyon as assistant conductor to Iván Fischer.

Mr. Kramer came to New York in 1994 to pursue graduate study in conducting at the Mannes College of Music. While studying there, he conducted performances by the Mannes Orchestra and Mannes Opera. Subsequently he has served as chorus director for the New Jersey Association of Verismo Opera and the Connecticut Grand Opera, coach/pianist and education tour music director for the Virginia Opera, and guest conductor for the Westchester Chorale. He has been Music Director of the First Presbyterian Church of Ossining since 1995.

During high school, Mr. Kramer played his own *Piano Concerto* with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. As an undergraduate at Harvard University, he received accolades from Leonard Bernstein for a performance in which he conducted some of his own compositions. He has performed as a solo and collaborative pianist in various North American cities, often playing his own compositions.

About Violinists Sarah E. Geller and Bryony Stroud-Watson

Sarah E. Geller has been concertmaster of The Chappaqua Orchestra since 2003. Ms. Geller made her Carnegie Hall solo recital debut in June 2002 as an Artists' International Special Presentation Winner. In May 2004 she was invited to Merkin Concert Hall for another solo recital presented by Artists' International Alumni Winners' Series. Ms. Geller won her first competition at the age of ten, giving her the opportunity to perform with flutist Carol Wincenc and harpist Nancy Allen. She went on to perform as an orchestral and chamber musician in numerous Summer Festivals in the US and abroad, holding several concertmaster positions and receiving coaching with renowned artists such as members of the St. Petersburg Quartet.

Upon completion of her Bachelor of Music degree at the Manhattan School of Music, Ms. Geller received the Helen Airoff Dowling Award as "outstanding undergraduate violinist." She has appeared as a recitalist and chamber musician at Donnell Library Center, Steinway Hall, Christ and St. Stephen's Church, Manhattan School of Music, Ulrich Recital Hall at the University of Maryland, and the University of Maine at Farmington. She has performed as soloist with the Ocean City Pops Orchestra, the Manhattan School's Baroque Aria Ensemble, the University of Southern Maine's Chamber Orchestra, and the University of Maine at Farmington's Orchestra.

Bryony Stroud-Watson earned her Bachelor of Music at the Hartt School of Music. She earned her Master of Music and her Artist Diploma at the Conservatory of Music, Purchase College, SUNY. She won the Emerson Quartet Competition in 2000 and the Purchase Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition in 2002, resulting in a performance of Alban Berg's *Violinkonzert* at the Purchase Performing Arts Center. She helped organize the Young Musicians Program while attending Kneisel Hall in 2002. For five summers she performed extensively with the Anne Stern String Quartet. Since settling in Yonkers, Ms. Stroud-Watson has pursued her love of chamber music and teaching. As founding member of the Artemis Chamber Ensemble and a member of Ensemble Anura, she has organized and performed in concerts throughout the region. A lover of new music, Ms. Stroud-Watson performed in the world premiere of Dary John Mizelle's *Metacontrasts* for violin, clarinet, and piano and is currently working on his *Violin Concerto*, to be performed next season. Ms. Stroud-Watson teaches violin at the Rye Arts Center and is a chamber music coach for the Norwalk Youth Symphony chamber music program.

About Composer David Macdonald

David Macdonald is a faculty member in Theory and Music History at The Manhattan School of Music. He is a co-director of the Locrian Chamber Players contemporary music ensemble. Commissioners of his music include The Elements Quartet and The Manhattan School of Music. Works of his have recently been performed at The Hartford Commissions Concert in Merkin Hall and at recitals in Chicago, Israel and Taiwan. His *Genealogies* was performed in Rock Hall, Philadelphia. He regularly contributes music to productions of New York's The Actors' Company Theater, most recently for their critically acclaimed revival of *Home* by David Storey in 2006. He earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Manhattan School of Music, his Master of Fine Arts from SUNY Purchase, and his Bachelor of Arts from St. John's College. His teachers

included Nils Vigeland, David Noon, Charles Jones, and Joseph Webber. He has been a fellow at June in Buffalo and has participated in master classes with Lukas Foss, George Crumb, Roger Reynolds, and others.

About Dance Emotions

Dance Emotions, Chappaqua, was started by Artistic Director Carol Mamara, with the vision of bringing New York City dance professionals to Westchester. Today, Dance Emotions offers over fifty classes per week to students from beginner to advanced.

Classes are offered for all age levels, encouraging boys and girls from pre-school to college students, as well as adults. For the more advanced students, dance instruction can be rigorously performance oriented. The school features a performing troupe on scholarship that has performed at Madison Square Garden to raise money for charities such as the Westchester Medical Center, Children's Cancer Research, and DRA (Dancers Responding to AIDS). Students may also choose to work in intensive workshops with master teachers and choreographers from New York and Los Angeles, which leads to Off-Broadway performances.

Dance Emotions boasts a competition company, which has toured and won both a platinum and gold award at regional conventions in Westchester, New York City, New Jersey, and Connecticut. The competition company then went on to win awards at the national level, including National Overall Choreography Award, Director's Choice Award, Judges Award, and Very Visual and Costume Award in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The company has been invited to compete in the International Competition in Barcelona, Spain.

Ms. Mamara began her career as a dancer, studying with Russian ballerina Nina Tinova and performing as a principal dancer in her company. She has also appeared with the June Taylor School of Dance, in New York City at Carnegie Hall, at Broadway Dance Center, and at conventions and on television. Ms. Mamara has taught extensively throughout Westchester County and is past Vice-President and Secretary of the Westchester Dance Council, encouraging dance education throughout the county. At Dance Emotions, Ms. Mamara chooses only the highest caliber of dance educators, hiring only full-time dancers and New York City choreographers. To learn more about Dance Emotions, visit www.danceemotionsny.com

About pianist Nadejda Vlaeva

Nadejda Vlaeva has given solo recitals in Bulgaria, Russia, Slovakia, Hungary, The Netherlands, Germany, England, Spain, Barbados, Canada, and the United States. She has played as a soloist with the Budapest Symphony Orchestra, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, the Capella Istropolitana in Slovakia, the Edinburgh Symphony Orchestra, the Wroclaw Philharmonic, and with various other orchestras throughout the world. Ms. Vlaeva has also appeared with notable success on radio and television in several countries.

Nadejda Vlaeva's playing has been acclaimed wherever she has appeared. Lazar Berman called her talent "God-given"; maestro Hans Graf observed that "her musicality and the depth of her interpretation amazed me." Arnold Steinhardt, leader of the Guarneri String Quartet, praised her as "one of those people of extraordinary ability whom we hope for but rarely see."

Included among her major awards are the First Prize at the Liszt competition in Lucca, Italy, the Third Prize at the International Liszt Competition in Budapest, and the Yamaha Award for the best interpretation of Brahms in Weimar. She has worked under the close supervision of

Bulgarian composer Dimiter Christov, presenting his piano music on radio and CD. Her second CD, piano music of Liszt, was released on the MSR Classics label and won the International Grand Prix "Liszt" du Disque. She recorded soundtrack music for the documentary film, *In Search of Cezanne*. Her third CD, *Chopin Works for Piano and Orchestra*, released by Gega New, was praised for its extraordinary beauty in International Record Review. The American composer Lowell Liebermann composed his *Nocturne No. 9* for Ms. Vlaeva, which she premiered at the Rarities of Piano Music Festival in Husum, Germany. She also gave the North American premiere of *Sonata No. 2* by Sergey Bortkiewicz.

Nadejda Vlaeva was born in Sofia, Bulgaria and began playing the piano at age five. She studied piano at the Sofia Music School, the Sofia Music Academy, the Sweelinck Conservatorium in Amsterdam, and at the Manhattan School of Music with Antoanetta Arsova, Anton Dikov, Jan Wijn, and Ruth Laredo. She also worked closely with Lazar Berman. Ms. Vlaeva resides in New York City and has performed in the Carnegie Weill Recital Hall and the Rose Hall at Lincoln Center. To learn more about Nadejda Vlaeva, visit www.nadejdavlaeva.com.

**For tickets and information contact The Chappaqua Orchestra at
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