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The Chappaqua Orchestra Plays Beethoven... *Cubed*

Chappaqua, New York, May 8, 2008 – The Chappaqua Orchestra will wrap up its 49th season with *Beethoven Cubed*, an all-Beethoven concert featuring 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**. The concert will take place 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 and \$20 at the door. For tickets and information please call 914-921-4642, or visit www.chappaquaorchestra.org.

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 Sergei 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.

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 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 .

**For tickets and information contact The Chappaqua Orchestra at
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