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***The Flying Dutchman* Lands in Chappaqua on Sunday, May 17, 2015!**

Chappaqua, New York, February 17, 2015 - The Chappaqua Orchestra and Chorus is proud to announce its May 17, 2015 concert of works by Richard Wagner, Felix Mendelssohn, and Robert Schumann.

Please visit www.chappaquaorchestra.org for more information.

The Chappaqua Orchestra and the newly formed Chappaqua Orchestra Chorus, under the leadership of Music Director and Conductor Michael Shapiro, presents *The Flying Dutchman*, a program featuring the music of Richard Wagner, Felix Mendelssohn, and Robert Schumann. Included in the program are excerpts from Wagner's opera *The Flying Dutchman* featuring the voices of Jennifer Grimaldi, soprano, Alan Briones, tenor, and John Dominick, bass. Also on the program will be *Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage* by Mendelssohn and the Schumann Piano Concerto 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 17, 2015, at 3 pm at Horace Greeley High School. Admission is \$25.

About Jennifer Grimaldi

Praised as "a compelling and commanding singing actress with a silvery timbre that sparkles and shines", Miss Grimaldi has emerged as a promising, young talent in opera, concert and recital repertoire.

Highlights for Miss Grimaldi in recent seasons include the soprano soloist in Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder* with the New York Repertory Orchestra under the direction of David Leibowitz and the soprano soloist in Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem* with the Flint Symphony under the direction of Enrique Diemecke, Strauss' *Vier letzte Lieder* in New York City with the New York Repertory Orchestra followed by her performances as the soprano soloist in Mahler's *Symphony No. 8* both with the Nashua Symphony and Lexington Symphony. Ms. Grimaldi was also the soprano soloist in Mahler's *Symphony No. 2* with the Minería Symphony Orchestra in Mexico City under the direction of

Maestro Carlos Miguel Prieto as well as the Second Soprano/Una poenitentium in Mahler's Symphony No. 8 also with the Minería Symphony Orchestra and as soprano soloist in Handel's Messiah with the New York Repertory Orchestra in NYC in conjunction with the New York a Festival Singers.

Miss Grimaldi made her European debut in Mendelssohn's Elijah with the Charlemagne Orchestra in Brussels, Belgium under the direction of Maestro Bartholomeus-Henri Van de Velde. Miss Grimaldi was also heard not only as the Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro*, but also as Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* both with Amsterdam Concert Opera in NYC and Raylynmor Opera in New Hampshire. She created the role of Dolly in the New York City Premiere of *Orpheus Descending* by American Composer Bruce Saylor. Miss Grimaldi has performed with opera companies and festivals including Sarasota Opera, Brevard Music Festival, Intermezzo Opera Festival, Utah Festival Opera, and Raylynmor Opera, where she has performed as Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Rosalinda in *Die Fledermaus*, Ciesca in *Gianni Schicchi*, Clorinda in *La Cenerentola*, Suzel in *L'amico Fritz*, Mimi and Musetta in *La Bohème* and the title role in Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah*, among others.

Other recent orchestral engagements for Miss Grimaldi include Mahler's Symphony No.4 with the Queens Symphonic Orchestra, Bach's Magnificat, Handel's Messiah and Vivaldi's Gloria with the New Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra, Barber's Knoxville Summer of 1915 and Mozart's Exsultate Jubilate with the Third Street Music Settlement Orchestra.

Miss Grimaldi presented numerous Richard Strauss recitals in New York at such venues as the Greenwich Music House, Player's Club and the Bechstein Gallery, and was featured on the 30th Annual Bach Festival Concert with the Third Street Settlement Orchestra in NYC singing selections from Handel's Samson and Rodelinda, and Pergolesi's Stabat Mater.

Jennifer Grimaldi has been the recipient of awards and competitions such as the Friday-Woodmere Young Artist Competition, Claire Bennet Moringiello Award, Violet Zatkan Award for Opera, and the Paul Robeson Vocal Competition.

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 Bohème* 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 Third 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 participated 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 Maurant 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 and Conductor Michael Shapiro

Michael Shapiro is a noted [American composer](#) and [conductor](#).

Michael Shapiro conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in England, Charleston Symphony (Gaillard Performance Hall), Virginia Symphony (Sandler Performing Arts Center in Virginia Beach), Dallas Winds (Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas), Southeastern Wind Symphony (at the Columbia Theater near New Orleans), and The Chappaqua Orchestra, in concerts devoted to the music of Wagner, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Mussorgsky, Gounod, and Dukas as well as the Shapiro *Second Symphony* and *Frankenstein-The Movie Score*. *Frankenstein-The Movie Score* recent performances include those at University of Texas Austin (Jerry Junkin, conducting),

Texas Tech University (Sarah McKoin, conductor), Purdue University (Jay Gephardt, conductor), Piedmont Wind Ensemble (Matthew Troy, conductor), University of Memphis (Albert Nguyen conducting), Bowling Green State University (Bruce Moss conducting), Kentucky Wesleyan (Steven Pederson conducting), Marist College (Michael Shapiro conducting), and the Garden State Philharmonic (Anthony LaGruth, conducting).

Michael Shapiro's *Second Sonata* for violin and piano received its California premiere at LACMA by Tim Fain, violin, and Inna Faliks, piano and will be recorded on Paumanok Records.

His new piano concerto *Archangel* commissioned by the celebrated virtuoso Jose Ramos Santana and premiered by the New York Repertory Orchestra, David Liebowitz, conductor, will be performed by the the Orquesta Sinfonica de Puerto Rico, Maximiano Valdes, conductor, at the Festival Interamericano de las Artes, in San Juan, and later recorded in England.

Michael Shapiro recently completed his Second Symphony (which he will record with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra this summer) and *Sections*, a compendium of piano pieces based on portions from the Torah.

His new work for concert band, *Bamboula!*, commissioned by ten universities will receive performances next season in Texas, Louisiana, Ohio, Minnesota, Indiana, Carolinas, and Tennessee.

The son of a Klezmer band clarinetist, Michael Shapiro was born in Brooklyn, New York, and spent most of his high school years in Baldwin, a Long Island suburb. The winner of several piano competitions during his youth, he earned his B.A. at [Columbia College, Columbia University](#), where he majored in English literature and concentrated in music, benefiting most—according to his own assessment—from some of the department's stellar musicology faculty, which, at that time, included such international luminaries as Paul Henry Lang, Denis Stevens, Joel Newman, and others. He studied conducting independently with Carl Bamberger at the Mannes College of Music in New York. At The Juilliard School, where he earned his master's degree, he studied solfège and score reading with the renowned Mme. Renée Longy—known to generations of Juilliard students as “the infamous madame of dictation” for her rigorous demands and classic pedagogic methods—and composition with [Vincent Persichetti](#). His most influential composition teacher, however, was [Elie Siegmeister](#), with whom he studied privately. Since 2002 Shapiro has been the music director and conductor of the [Chappaqua Orchestra](#) in [New York's Westchester County](#), which he conducted for the world premiere of his score for the classic 1931 film [Frankenstein](#) (directed by [James Whale](#) and starring [Boris Karloff](#)) (which has since its premiere received over a dozen productions nationally) as well as for the world premiere of his own orchestral work, *Roller Coaster*, which received its West Coast premiere under the baton of [Marin Alsop](#) in 2010 at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music while Shapiro was a composer in residence. He served for two years as the music consultant to the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#) in Washington, D.C., where he produced and performed music by a number of composers who were either murdered by the Germans and their collaborators or had survived as refugees from the [Third Reich](#). He has also been the

assistant conductor at the [Zurich Opera Studio](#).

Shapiro's works, which in the aggregate address nearly every medium, have been performed widely throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe—with broadcasts of premieres on [National Public Radio](#), the [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation](#), the [Israel Broadcasting Authority](#), Sender Freies Berlin, WQXR, and WCBS-TV. His music has been characterized in a New York Times review as “possessing a rare melodic gift.” His oeuvre includes more than one hundred works for solo voice, piano, chamber ensembles, chorus, orchestra, as well as for opera, film, and television.

Shapiro has received awards and grants from Martha Baird Rockefeller Composer's Assistance, Meet the Composer, the Henry Evans Traveling Fellowship of Columbia University, and the Boris Koutzen Memorial Fund. He has also received the Columbian Award and the [Sigma Alpha Iota](#) Composers Competition prize. He is the author of Jewish Pride and of The Jewish 100, which has been published in British, Japanese, Chinese, Russian, Portuguese, Bulgarian, Polish, and Romanian editions—in addition to its original American release.

Shapiro has collaborated with such artists as [Teresa Stratas](#), [Jose Ferrer](#), [Janos Starker](#), [Sir Malcolm Arnold](#), [Marin Alsop](#), [Sergiu Comissiona](#), Eugene Drucker, [Kim Cattrall](#), [Tim Fain](#), [Gottfried Wagner](#), [Alexis Cole](#), Edward Arron, [Jerome Rose](#), Mariko Anraku, John Fullam, Jose Ramos Santana, [Clamma Dale](#), [Anita Darian](#), Florence Levitt, Kikuei Ikeda, Ayako Yoshida, Harris Poor, John Edward Niles, David Leibowitz, Robert Tomaro, Kathryn Amyotte, James Allen Anderson, Glen Hemberger, Anthony LaGruth, and Emily Wong, and organizations such as the [Houston Symphony Orchestra](#), [Virginia Symphony Orchestra](#), [West Point Band's The Jazz Knights](#), [Dallas Wind Symphony](#), [Springfield Symphony Orchestra](#), [Traverse Symphony Orchestra](#), New York Repertory Orchestra, Rock River Symphony, Garden State Philharmonic, Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia, International Opera Center at the [Zurich Opera](#), [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#), [American Jewish Committee](#), [Hawthorne String Quartet](#), Locrian Chamber Ensemble, Amernet String Quartet, Artemis, Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, and [Dateline NBC](#), and universities in New York, Louisiana, Ohio, Delaware, Florida, and Tennessee.

