



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bay Chamber Concerts Announces 2008-2009 Performing Arts Series

Reduces ticket prices to just \$20 on most seats

Bay Chamber Concerts has announced an exciting line-up of events for its 2008-2009 Performing Arts Series. At the same time it has announced a program making tickets less expensive for all events, in order to make them more affordable for more people. It is lowering its ticket price with every seat available for just \$20, with the purchase of a season subscription. With the support of Brewster Point, there will also be a new, larger, section of Value seating, where all tickets will be available for \$20 to any show.

"We're lowering prices with one goal in mind – to make the performing arts available to everyone in our community," said Bay Chamber artistic director Thomas Wolf.

By lowering ticket prices, the organization is following a model developed by the National Theatre in London and adapted to the U.S. by the Signature Theatre in New York City and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. The risks of lowering ticket prices are managed by working with a generous sponsor. In Bay Chamber's case, the \$20 Ticket Underwriter is Brewster Point. The developer of Rockport's newest waterfront neighborhood learned of the reduced price ticket program and enthusiastically joined the cause.

Emily Jane Jones, Brewster Point's director of marketing, expressed the sentiments of all her colleagues in saying, "We're excited about joining with Bay Chamber Concerts to help make their music programs a little more accessible to more people in the community." She continued to say, "Adding to the vitality of Rockport – culturally and otherwise – is something we're committed to at Brewster Point."

As part of the price reduction, Bay Chamber has created two tiers of seating: Prime and Value. The majority of seats will be in the Value section, and all seats in this section will be \$20. Select seats will be reserved in the Prime section, with a regular single ticket price of \$40, with discounts of up to 50% with the purchase of a subscription. A limited number of \$8 tickets will be available for youth ages 18 and under.

- more -

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“We hope that more people will subscribe to the season,” said Chance Farago, Bay Chamber’s director of marketing. He added, “With the prices set so low, we will not be offering any additional discounts or coupons throughout the season, so subscribing will be the only way to get Prime seats at a reduced rate.”

Events of the 2008-2009 Performing Arts Series

The Performing Arts Series includes an eclectic mix of classical, jazz, world music and dance. It gets started on Sunday, October 12, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. with “Chamber Music All Stars,” an annual classical chamber music concert with the instructors in Bay Chamber’s Fall Foliage Adult Chamber Music Program. After that, pianist Max Levinson returns on Sunday, November 2, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. for an all-Russian program titled “Russian Visions.”

To celebrate the seasons, a 14-musician ensemble, the Boston Brass Big Band, will perform brass arrangements of holiday classics on Saturday, December 6, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. The first of two dance programs will feature Diavolo, created by the choreographer of Cirque du Soleil’s “Ka” on Monday, January 19, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day).

New Black Eagle Jazz Band will return to the Midcoast on Saturday, January 31, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The Curtis Institute will bring their popular Curtis on Tour program, featuring “L’Histoire du Soldat” on Saturday, February 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The all-male a capella ensemble Cantus will sing through the centuries on Sunday, March 8, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.

Sea chanties will be featured with the Ancient Mariners on Saturday, March 28, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The world-famous American Ballet Theatre will present their young troupe, ABT II, on Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Concluding the season will be a fun and nostalgic concert with the New Brooklyn Reunion, the “Doo-Wop & Oldies Spectacular” on Saturday, May 16, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Education & Outreach

The Odeon Strings Program will showcase the fruit of their hard labors in two free concerts. The first will be on Sunday, December 14, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. and the second will be on Sunday, May 31, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.

In conjunction with their on-stage appearances, a number of the performers from the Performing Arts Series will participate in education events. Diavolo will travel to three different area schools for residency activities, while New Black Eagle Jazz Band and Cantus will give student matinee performances. These events are provided to area schools for free by Bay Chamber Concerts.

There will be three Education Extras, open to participation by the public. Boston Brass will have a Jazz Workshop on Saturday, December 6, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. There will be a free Pub Sing, led by the Ancient Mariners on Sunday, March 29, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Continuing in a string of highly popular dance workshops, ABT II will lead a ballet technique class Saturday, April 18, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

Subscription Options

The best deal on tickets to the season are available by purchasing a subscription to the whole season of ten events. When buying the entire series, any seat in the house is available for \$20 per event. Youth subscriptions are available for ages 18 and under for \$80 for the entire season.

Two mini-packages are available: the Classical Package and the Rhythms Package, each with five events. The Classical Package includes Chamber Music All Stars, Russian Visions, Cantus, L’Histoire du Soldat and ABT II. The Rhythms Package includes Boston Brass, Diavolo, New Black Eagle, Ancient Mariners and Doo-Wop. The mini-packages are \$125 per person for Prime seating, or \$25 per event.

The most flexible subscription option is the Explore Pass, where patrons can choose 5 or more events from the season to create their own package. Explore Passes start at \$150 per person, with tickets in the Prime section priced at \$30 each.

Subscription benefits include advance seating, the privilege of exchanging seats from one concert to another, advance notice of coming events and the ability to purchase additional single tickets at the subscription rate. Subscriptions to the season are available now, and may be purchased by calling the box office. Tickets to individual events are available by phone now, but will not be seated until after August 25. Single tickets will be available by both phone and online after August 25.

Bay Chamber Concerts is a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization. The media sponsor is VillageSoup.com. For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact Bay Chamber Concerts at (207) 236-2823, toll free at (888) 707-2770 or online at www.baychamberconcerts.org.

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Calendar Listings:

Date: Sunday, October 12, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: Chamber Music All Stars

Sponsors: \$20 Ticket Underwriter: Brewster Point. In Memory of Betty & Ted Evans. Co-sponsor: Quarry Hill.

Performers: Peter Zazofsky and Bayla Keyes, violins; Steven Ansell and Maria Lambros, violas; Michael Reynolds and Marc Johnson, cellos; Cary Lewis, piano.

Program: Mozart's Piano Quartet No. 2 in E-flat major, K. 493, Barber's String Quartet, Op. 11 and Brahms' String Sextet in B-flat major No. 1, Op. 18.

Description: A Columbus Day weekend tradition – an all star chamber music group with members of the Muir Quartet and friends.

Price: Most tickets \$20. Prime seating \$40, discounted up to 50% with subscription. \$8 for Youth ages 18 and under, limited availability.

Date: Sunday, November 2, 2008 at 2:30 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: Russian Visions with Max Levinson

Sponsors: \$20 Ticket Underwriter: Brewster Point. The Bixler Family Concert.

Performers: Pianist Max Levinson.

Program: Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite," Rachmaninoff's "Études Tableau," Prokofiev's "Vision Fugitives" and Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition."

Description: 2005 Andrew Wolf Award Winner Max Levinson, presents a spectacular all-Russian program including a remarkable piano transcription of the Nutcracker Suite and Mussorgsky's monumental Pictures at an Exhibition.

Price: Most tickets \$20. Prime seating \$40, discounted up to 50% with subscription. \$8 for Youth ages 18 and under, limited availability.

Date: Saturday, December 6, 2008, 4:00 p.m.

Location: Camden Hills Regional High School, 25 Keelson Drive (Rt. 90), Rockport, ME 04856

Title: Boston Brass Jazz Workshop

Description: Trumpet, French horn, tuba and euphonium players will host an open rehearsal where they will share their stories and broad range of music. Bring your instrument along and we will make music together! All ages and abilities welcome.

Price: \$15.

Date: Saturday, December 6, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Strom Auditorium, Camden Hills Regional High School, 25 Keelson Drive (Rt. 90), Rockport, ME 04856

Title: Boston Brass Big Band

Sponsors: \$20 Ticket Underwriter: Brewster Point. Sponsor: Viking, Inc.

Program: Selections will include "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," "Greensleeves," "O Holy Night," "Adeste Fideles," "Motown Jingle Bells" and many more.

Description: Celebrate the holidays with big band brass versions of your favorite seasonal classics! Boston Brass, one of America's most accomplished quintets, teams with an all star ensemble for a 14-musician concert of holiday tunes.

Price: Most tickets \$20. Prime seating \$40, discounted up to 50% with subscription. \$8 for Youth ages 18 and under, limited availability.

Date: Sunday, Dec. 14, 2008 at 2:30 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: Odeon Strings Program Fall Concert

Sponsors: Co-sponsor: Stephen Koltai

Description: The culmination of the hard work and dedication of the Odeon Strings Program over the course of the semester – a favorite for young audiences.

Price: Free and open to the public, no ticket necessary.

Date: Monday, January 19, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Location: Strom Auditorium, Camden Hills Regional High School, 25 Keelson Drive (Rt. 90), Rockport, ME 04856

Title: Diavolo

Sponsors: \$20 Ticket Underwriter: Brewster Point. Sponsor: Camden National Bank.

Description: From artistic director Jacques Heim, choreographer of Cirque du Soleil's "Ka." Dancers, gymnasts and actors leap, fly and twirl among oversize structures and surrealistic sets.

Price: Most tickets \$20. Prime seating \$40, discounted up to 50% with subscription. \$8 for Youth ages 18 and under, limited availability.

Date: Saturday, January 31, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: The Strand Theatre, 345 Main Street, Rockland, ME 04841

Title: New Black Eagle Jazz Band

Sponsors: \$20 Ticket Underwriter: Brewster Point.

Program: Early New Orleans and Chicago style jazz, ragtime, spirituals, gospel and pop tunes from the early 20th century.

Description: An favorite of Midcoast audiences, New Black Eagle Jazz Band brings its spin on traditional jazz, sure to please all ages and musical tastes.

Price: Most tickets \$20. Prime seating \$40, discounted up to 50% with subscription. \$8 for Youth ages 18 and under, limited availability.

Date: Saturday, February 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: L'Histoire du Soldat

Sponsors: \$20 Ticket Underwriter: Brewster Point.

Performers: Curtis On Tour

Program: Igor Stravinsky's "L'Histoire du Soldat" (The Soldier's Tale)

Description: Curtis On Tour brings the extraordinary artistry of the world-renowned Curtis Institute of Music to audiences nationwide, with tomorrow's leading musicians performing alongside celebrated alumni and faculty.

Price: Most tickets \$20. Prime seating \$40, discounted up to 50% with subscription. \$8 for Youth ages 18 and under, limited availability.

Date: Sunday, March 8, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.

Location: Camden Opera House, 29 Elm Street, Camden, ME 04843

Title: Cantus

Sponsors: \$20 Ticket Underwriter: Brewster Point.

Program: Gregorian chant, Renaissance works, art songs, world music, spirituals and pop.

Description: One of America's finest professional male vocal ensembles, Cantus perform a capella music which is met with praise for its blend of youthful vitality and polished nuance.

Price: Most tickets \$20. Prime seating \$40, discounted up to 50% with subscription. \$8 for Youth ages 18 and under, limited availability.

Date: Saturday, March 28, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: Ancient Mariners

Sponsors: \$20 Ticket Underwriter: Brewster Point. Co-sponsor: The Edge Oceanfront Dining.

Program: Haunting sea chanties will be performed along with up-tempo popular jigs and work songs used aboard ship.

Description: Built around the wood fife and the rope tension drum, the Mariners' traditional music brings to life a vivid display of the colonial seaman.

Price: Most tickets \$20. Prime seating \$40, discounted up to 50% with subscription. \$8 for Youth ages 18 and under, limited availability.

Date: Sunday, March 29, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Location: Gilbert's Publick House, Camden

Title: Ancient Mariners Pub Sing

Description: Raise your voice, and your glass, with the Ancient Mariners chanteymen. From "Haul Away Joe" to "The Lakes of Sligo," these work and fo'c'sle songs will bring out the sea dog in everyone!

Price: Free and open to the public, no ticket necessary.

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

Location: Camden Hills Regional High School, 25 Keelson Drive (Rt. 90), Rockport, ME 04856

Title: ABT II Dance Workshop

Description: The accomplished young dancers of ABT II, ages 16-19, will lead a ballet workshop in technique and style.

Price: \$15.

Date: Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Location: Strom Auditorium, Camden Hills Regional High School, 25 Keelson Drive (Rt. 90), Rockport, ME 04856

Title: ABT II

Sponsors: \$20 Ticket Underwriter: Brewster Point. Sponsor: Camden National Bank.

Program: A mixed repertoire of classical and contemporary ballet

Description: Experience the passion, power and movement of one of the nation's foremost ballet company.

Price: Most tickets \$20. Prime seating \$40, discounted up to 50% with subscription. \$8 for Youth ages 18 and under, limited availability.

Date: Saturday, May 16, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Camden Opera House, 29 Elm Street, Camden, ME 04843

Title: Doo Wop & Oldies Spectacular

Sponsors: \$20 Ticket Underwriter: Brewster Point. Sponsor: Chatfield Design.

Performers: The New Brooklyn Reunion, made up of The Emotions, The Classics and The Excellents.

Description: Welcome back the days of saddle shoes and poodle skirts with a doo-wop supergroup. The look, the sound, the feel will bring you back to the 50s & 60s when music was fun!

Price: Most tickets \$20. Prime seating \$40, discounted up to 50% with subscription. \$8 for Youth ages 18 and under, limited availability.

Date: Sunday, May 31, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.

Location: Rockport Opera House, 6 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856

Title: Odeon Strings Program Spring Concert

Performers:

Description: The culmination of the hard work and dedication of the Odeon Strings Program over the course of the semester – a favorite for young audiences.

Price: Free and open to the public, no ticket necessary.

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