



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 5, 2008

Odeon Orchestras to Perform Free Winter Concert
Featuring soloists Marc Johnson and Nikolai Renedo

Bay Chamber Concerts will present a free concert of the Odeon Orchestras in their ninth annual winter performance on Sunday, December 14 at 2:30 p.m. at the Rockport Opera House. In addition to the Odeon Junior and Youth Orchestras, there will be a performance by the newly formed Community Orchestra.

The Odeon Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Gilda Joffe and Mike Reynolds, will feature cello soloists Marc Johnson, of the renowned Vermeer String Quartet, and Nikolai Renedo, a tenth grader from Orono, performing Vivaldi's "Concerto in g minor for Two Cellos." The concert is co-sponsored by Steven Koltai.

The Odeon Youth Ensembles, under the direction of Marshunda Smith, will perform Saint-Saens' "Carnival of the Animals" among other works. In "Carnival of the Animals," Saint-Saens uses various instruments to portray different animals, such as the double bass (a large low sounding instrument) for the elephant, or the flute to picture small flying birds.

Although the music is full of fun and fantasy, Saint-Saëns was actually satirizing other composers and local folk tunes. For example, in the movement titled "Hens & Roosters" he parodies "Le Poule" from Jean Philippe Rameau's "Suite in G for harpsichord." He also pokes fun at the well known "Can-Can" theme, by slowing it down from its usual high pace to a tortoise's speed in "Tortues."

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Performing along with the Youth Orchestra will be the Jr. Orchestra, with the familiar “Bat” tune as their contribution to the animal theme. Also featured on the program is the debut of the newly formed Community Orchestra for amateur adult musicians, also under the baton of Smith.

Cellist Marc Johnson, heard by concertgoers for many years, is particularly excited about his upcoming Vivaldi performance with the orchestra. He said, “These are such wonderful young musicians, who bring tremendous enthusiasm and dedication to their music-making. Their discipline and hard work has resulted in a very high level of performance, exemplified by their difficult repertoire, and by the playing of my fellow soloists Nikolai Renedo, principal cellist of the orchestra and Nora Willauer, who is assistant principal cello.”

The Odeon Strings Program is open to youth and adult players of violin, viola, cello and bass. There are ensembles at the beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. The Odeon Community Orchestra is for adults at the intermediate level or above. String players are invited to join the Odeon String Programs for the upcoming session beginning with auditions on January 12, 13 and 26. No audition is necessary for the Odeon Community Orchestra. Scholarship assistance is available. For more information contact Gilda Joffe, music director of education.

The Odeon Winter Concert is free and open to the public. 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 to other events, contact Bay Chamber Concerts at (207) 236-2823, toll free at (888) 707-2770 or online at www.baychamberconcerts.org.

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

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

Title: Odeon Strings Program Winter 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.

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