**NEWBURYPORT CHORAL SOCIETY – PRESS RELEASE**

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**NEWBURYPORT CHORAL SOCIETY PERFORMS RESOUNDING HOLIDAY SEASON CONCERT**

NEWBURYPORT, MA – The Newburyport Choral Society will perform its annual Winter Concert at the Belleville Congregational Church in Newburyport on Saturday evening, December 8th and Sunday afternoon, December 9th under the baton of Music Director, Dr. Gerald Weale. The Choral Society is known for offering its audiences a wonderfully diverse program and this concert is no exception. The program features the dramatic Magnificat by 20th century composer Jonothan Willcocks. This joyful work in five contrasting movements with overlapping parts and rapidly changing rhythmic patterns will be accompanied by a brass orchestra and soprano soloist Meredith Kelly. The program also includes an intensely beautiful set of a cappella liturgical hymns by Russian composers Rachmaninoff and Chesnekov. As described by Dr. Weale, “the luxuriant harmonies and great range of dynamics contribute to the beauty and fascination of these remarkable pieces, and lend an incandescent quality to the timeless words of the liturgy.” Uplifting in a very different sense will be the rollicking and powerful beat of the *Rhythm of Life* from *Sweet Charity* as well as music of the holiday season. **A special feature of the NCS Winter Concerts are “Guest Conductors” who lead the chorus in a familiar carol.** Stepping to the podium at the Sunday concert will be Betty Gillette, the last living founding member of the Choral Society who will be celebrating her upcoming 100th birthday by conducting the chorus and audience in *Silent Night.* Guest conductors also include Ann Ormond, Executive Director of the Newburyport Chamber of Commerce, and Janet Kalashian who will be honoring her mother Roxie Kalashian, a longtime civic leader*.*

CONCERT INFORMATION

Saturday, December 8 at 8:00 p.m. & Sunday, December 9 at 2:30 p.m.

Belleville Congregational Church, 300 High St., Newburyport, MA

Tickets are available online and at ticket outlets - Adult tickets $22, Students & Seniors $20

 & Parties of 10 or more $15. Tickets purchased at the door are $25.

***For more information go to the NCS Web site*** [***www.newburyportchoralsociety.org***](http://www.newburyportchoralsociety.com) ***phone 978-462-0650***

The Newburyport Choral Society is an educational, non-profit organization that has brought outstanding choral music to North Shore audiences for nearly 80 years. In two concert series each year, NCS presents choral music programs accompanied by professional soloists and orchestras.