**NEWBURYPORT CHORAL SOCIETY 2013 WINTER CONCERT**

**PRESS RELEASE**

 Contact: Mary Ann Lachat

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (c) 603-475--0802

 malachat@comcast.net

**NEWBURYPORT CHORAL SOCIETY WINTER CONCERT –HANDEL’S *MESSIAH*** **AND THE MOLIN SCHOOL CHILDREN’S CHORUS**

NEWBURYPORT, MA – The Newburyport Choral Society will launch its 80th Anniversary Year at their annual Winter Concert on Saturday evening, December 14th at 8pm and Sunday afternoon, December 15th at 2:30 pm at the Belleville Congregational Church in Newburyport. In marking this historic passage, NCS will honor the tradition of great choral music through a performance of Handel’s *Messiah* under the baton of Dr. Gerald Weale, NCS Music Director for 27 years. The ever popular *Messiah* has become the foundation work of virtually every choral society in America and the cornerstone of the choral art repertoire . The program will also feature the voices of children who represent the future of choral singing. The Molin School Children’s Chorus, an after-school chorus of 4th and 5th graders who love to sing, will perform pieces on their own led by Music Director Gina McKeown and will join NCS in the popular *Patapan.* Founded in 2011 by Ms. McKeown and Assistant Director Allison Balentine, the chorus grew out of direct need to increase creative arts programs for Molin School students.

 NCS will also perform the beautifully melodic *Hymn to the* Virgin by Benjamin Britten and *O Magnum Mysterium* by M. Lauridsen. As always, the concert will include a professional orchestra and soloists, and audience members will be able to join the 120 voices of NCS in singing familiar carols. The *Messiah c*oncert soloists are: Australian-American soprano, Robyn Lampwho has beenpraised for her beautiful lyric soprano voice, and placed third in the Gulf Coast Region of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in 2102**;** Kaitlin Bertenshaw, mezzo-soprano who was recently the Alto soloist in the Verdi Requiem with the Masterworks Chorale of Boston; Jordan Weatherston Pitts, Tenor, and Erik Van Heyningen, Bass, who have appeared in several productions of the Boston University Opera Institute.

Advance tickets are available online and at outlets at $22 for adults and $20 for students and seniors. Tickets at the door are $25. For more information and tickets, visit newburyportchoralsociety.org

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 80 years. In two concert series each year, NCS presents choral music programs accompanied by professional soloists and orchestras.