

New Classic Singers celebrate Jewish music

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New Classic Singers will open its 27th concert season as a professional choral ensemble with L'Chaim, Encore A Celebration of Jewish Music on Saturday, November 1 at 8 p.m. at the McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. Under the baton of Music Director Lee Kesselman, the Singers sing music which represents the Jewish people in prayer, in celebration, in mourning and in creative diversity.



New Classic Singers is a 38 voice professional choral ensemble in residence at the McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. The ensemble is known for its imaginative programs of the very finest choral literature. Members are professional singers, choral directors, music teachers from Chicago's western suburbs and beyond. Lee Kesselman is Founder and Music Director of New Classic Singers. He has been Director of Choral Activities at College of DuPage since 1981.

L'CHAIM ENCORE will be a concert of Jewish music, both new and traditional. Featuring harpist Marguerite Lynn Williams and the NCS Klezmer Band, L'CHAIM ENCORE celebrate the rich tradition of Jewish music in concert, worship and of the people. Songs of Srul Irving Glick, Debbie Friedman, Kurt Weill, and director Kesselman will be sung alongside Yiddish, Klezmer and Sephardic music.

The centerpiece of the concert will be Sheeru Ladonye Sheer Chadash (Sing Unto the Lord a New Song) by Canadian composer Srul Irving Glick, for chorus and harp. Guest artist Marguerite Lynn Williams will accompany the singers in this work.

Psalms and liturgical settings by Elaine Broad Ginsberg, Andrew Bleckner, Robert Applebaum will show the sacred side of the Jewish choral tradition. Composer Kurt Weill, whose father was a cantor, will be represented by his setting of Kiddush. The Singers will also perform popular contemporary songwriter, Debbie Friedman's Mi Shebeirach.

A portion of the program will provide a special remembrance of the Holocaust, with director Lee Kesselman's setting of the Yiddish song Tsvey Taybelekh and Mi y'maleil by Stanley Hoffman.

The program will close with a pot-pourri of Yiddish, Klezmer, and Sephardic music, accompanied by the NCS Klezmer Band.

For ticket information, contact the Arts Center Ticket Office at 630-942-4000.

NCS will be joined by various instrumentalists to provide the accompaniment and traditional flavor of the selections. Shelley Yoelin (clarinet) and Richard Armandi (bass) will perform. Yoelin plays the saxophone and clarinet and performs constantly with Jazz and Commercial music groups in the Chicago area. He has recorded four albums with the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, and two albums with his own group-The Modern Klezmer Quartet.

Harpist Marguerite Lynn Williams has concertized throughout the United States, Europe and Asia as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestra member in such venues as Carnegie Hall (New York), Shostakovich Hall (St. Petersburg, Russia) and Symphony Center (Chicago).

Ms. Williams has won prizes in numerous competitions including First Prize of the Anne Adams National Competition sponsored by the American Harp Society in both 1998 and 1999; the National Endowment of the Arts Artist Recognition Talent Search (1997), the National Federation of Music Clubs (1997), the American Opera Society (2003) and Sigma Alpha Iota (2001).

During the 2007-2008 season she was named runner-up for both the San Diego and Toronto Symphony's Principal Harp positions as well as a finalist for the Cleveland Orchestra's Principal Harp audition. Ms. Williams has been appointed substitute Principal Harp with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for the 2008-2009 season.

Submitted by the New Classic Singers

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