
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

Jack Benny Center for the Arts

To: Local Media
From: Claudia Freeman, Superintendent of Cultural Arts
Date: December 12, 2013

**SING THE "HALLELUJAH" CHORUS AT THE 7TH ANNUAL
JOSEPH A. FAVERO MEMORIAL "DO IT YOURSELF" MESSIAH**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WAUKEGAN, IL-December 12, 2013- The Waukegan Park District Division of Cultural Arts will be presenting the 7th Annual Joseph A. Favero Memorial "Do It Yourself" *Messiah* and Carol Sing-Along on December 21, 2013, 7 pm at the First United Methodist Church of Waukegan, 128 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. Tickets for this event that has become a family tradition to many, may be purchased by calling 847-360-4740 or at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, 39 Jack Benny Drive, Waukegan, IL for \$15 per seat with student tickets (18 and younger) are free. Scores are \$10 each and are available for purchase the evening of the event or may be purchased in advance at the Jack Benny Center. Anyone is interested in becoming a member of the Waukegan Concert Chorus please call 847-360-4744 or email cfreeman@waukeganparks.org

This year Maestro Blackwelder is pleased to announce that two of the soloists for the "Do It Yourself *Messiah*" have a Waukegan connection. Three of the soloists teach in Lake County. Staff are excited that one of the Jack Benny Center for the Arts music faculty, Jeff DeLay, will be performing as the bass soloist. Mr. DeLay is currently the Youth and Choir director at the First Presbyterian Church of Waukegan and Jeff also directs the Chicago Swedish Male Chorus, the Waukegan Swedish Glee Club and the Waukegan Swedish Women's Chorus. Besides playing keyboard on occasion for the Downhome Sophisticates, Jeff is on the music faculty at the College of Lake County teaching voice. Soprano soloist and Waukegan native, Heather Bordley-Harvell, received her Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Millikin University in December of 2000. She earned her Master's in Music Education from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia where she was a graduate assistant for Commonwealth Singers, beginning music theory and class voice. While in Virginia, Ms.

Bordley-Harvell was also a paid soprano and soloist at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond. Currently she teaches voice at Libertyville High School and Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart. She formed a group called COSI (Celebrating Opera Summer Institute) which performed opera scenes and arias for two summers. She performed as choir member and soloist with The First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest in their tour of Dublin and Belfast in July of 2011. Michael "Trey" Hickey is the tenor soloists and holds a Bachelors Degree in Music Education and Vocal Performance from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. During his tenure at UIUC, he was an active member of the opera department and was a member/director of the nationally renowned a capella group "The Other Guys." He is an active soloist in the Chicago area and has twice been the Tenor soloist for the Hinsdale Chorale's production of Handel's *Messiah*. He is currently the Director of Choirs for Antioch Community High School where he conducts five choirs and coaches basketball. A native San Franciscan, this year's mezzo-soprano soloist is Giovanna Manilla Jacques, spent her formative years in the South of France, studying vocal performance under Mme. Catherine Decaen, former Professor of Voice at the Conservatoire National de Paris. Upon completing her studies in Europe, Ms. Jacques received her B.M. in Vocal Performance from DePaul University, under the instruction of Julia Bentley. She has appeared in several DePaul Opera Theatre productions. Ms. Jacques is a member of the women's vocal group Caritas, serves as Language Coach for CUBE's production of *La tragédie de Carmen*, and will be returning to Schubertiade Chicago for her fourth, consecutive year of art song.

Joseph A. Favero served the community as a Waukegan Park District commissioner beginning in 1977 and was the sitting president at the time of his death in April of 2006. Mr. Favero, a music teacher with the Waukegan Public Schools, sang with the Waukegan Concert Chorus and played trombone with the Waukegan Municipal Band. The Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners and staff named this event in his honor as a way of remembering his years of service to the community and his love of music. *The Messiah* was composed in 1741 by George Frederic Handel, and was intended to be an Easter oratorio for orchestra, chorus and soloists. The music, however, has become more associated with the Christmas holiday season. The orchestra, chorus, four soloists and the conductor will fill the stage while the audience fills the house. Audience members may be seated according to voice range and will

have the opportunity to sing along with the chorus. The front half of the church will accommodate patrons wanting to sing along with the choruses.

The Cultural Arts Division of the Waukegan Park District continues to look for sponsors for this event. If your group or business is interested in sponsoring a portion of this event please call Jack Benny Center for the Arts, 847-360-4744. The Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus are proud to be sponsored by the Waukegan Park District and its Cultural Arts Division; a grant is provided by the Illinois Arts Council, a State of Illinois agency; and a promotional sponsorship by hibu.

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Additional Information: Contact Claudia Freeman, Superintendent of Cultural Arts
847-360-4740
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PHOTOS of last year's event are available on request.

About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 47 properties and 720 acres of land, including the 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the district include the Field House Sports and Fitness Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, an outdoor swimming pool, disc golf course, dog exercise area, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball and tennis. A full range of programs and services are offered year round for all ages, from infants to seniors as well as special needs populations. Healthy lifestyles, wellness initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated throughout programs, services, and special events. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, the Bowen Park Theatre Company, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 57 full-time and over 250 part-time, year round, seasonal, and temporary employees. The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The district maintains national accreditation from the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), the Illinois Association of Park Districts' (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and sustains a Level A Loss Control Program. The district was a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012 and 2013, and awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013.