



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MONMOUTH CIVIC CHORUS ANNOUNCES DIRECTOR'S FINAL SEASON
Handel's *Messiah* and Verdi's *Requiem* at Count Basie Theatre

Dr. Mark Shapiro will conclude his 20-year tenure as Artistic Director and Conductor of the award-winning Monmouth Civic Chorus with the 2011-12 season, featuring Handel's beloved *Messiah* and Verdi's powerful *Requiem* at the historic Count Basie Theatre. Subscribers are guaranteed premium seating for all concerts.

This year's traditional holiday performance of *Messiah* is on Sunday, December 18, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. at the Count Basie Theatre, 99 Monmouth Street, Red Bank, New Jersey. The Christmas portion of Handel's beloved oratorio will be paired with holiday favorites. For many music lovers, it won't be Christmas without it. Single tickets are \$45 for premium seating (\$40 seniors, \$35 groups, \$10 students), and \$25 regular seating (\$22 seniors, \$20 groups, \$5 students).

The Chorus returns to the Count Basie Theatre with the Verdi *Requiem* on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at 8:00 pm. This potent classic is a spiritual and emotional thrill ride for chorus, orchestra and soloists. Reviewing the group's sold-out 1996 performance of this masterpiece, the *Asbury Park Press* commented, "The work of this fine chorus and Shapiro's magnificent conception brought the heavenly beauty of Verdi's music to life."

The passion and power of Brahms will be heard on Sunday, May 20, 2012 at 4:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church, 255 Harding Road (Tower Hill), Red Bank. Brahms is known as the supreme Romantic composer, whose music overflows with soaring emotions and lovely melodies. Single tickets are \$25 (\$22 seniors, \$20 groups, \$5 students).

In addition to the subscription season, the Chorus joins Cabaret for Life this fall in the Tony-winning musical *Titanic* at the Axelrod Performing Arts Center, in the Jewish Community Center, 100 Grant Avenue, Deal, on Saturday, October 29 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 30 at 2:00 p.m. All seats are \$25 at axelrodartscenter.com or 877-CFL-TKTS (235-8587).

The Monmouth Civic Chorus is the proud recipient of the 2008 ASCAP/Chorus America Alice Parker Award, and the 2010 Spinnaker Award for Arts and Culture from the Eastern Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce. Under Artistic Director Dr. Mark Shapiro, the Chorus has been called "close to perfect" (*Asbury Park Press*), "alive and evocative" (*The Star-Ledger*)

and "exceptional" (*Red Bank Green*). The Chorus congratulates Dr. Shapiro on his appointment as Music Director of the St. Cecilia Chorus and Orchestra in New York City.

Subscriptions for the Monmouth Civic Chorus are \$75 for the December, March and May concerts. Subscribers get premium seating and a 25% savings on single ticket prices. Student subscriptions are only \$20. Subscriptions, tickets and information are at www.monmouthcivicchorus.org or (732) 933-9333.

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Monmouth Civic Chorus 2011-2012 Season Summary

Event title: *Messiah and More*

Event sponsor: The Monmouth Civic Chorus

Date and time: Sunday, December 18, 2011, 4:00 p.m.

Location: Count Basie Theatre, 99 Monmouth Street, Red Bank NJ 07701

Tickets:

Premium Seating

\$45 regular

\$40 seniors

\$10 students

\$35 groups (10 or more)

Economy Seating

\$25 regular

\$22 seniors

\$5 students

\$20 groups (10 or more)

Event title: *Verdi Requiem*

Event sponsor: The Monmouth Civic Chorus

Date and time: Saturday, March 10, 2012, 8:00 p.m.

Location: Count Basie Theatre, 99 Monmouth Street, Red Bank NJ 07701

Tickets:

Premium Seating

\$30 regular

\$27 seniors

\$10 students

\$25 groups (10 or more)

Economy Seating

\$25 regular

\$22 seniors

\$5 students

\$20 groups (10 or more)

Event title: *Brahms*

Event sponsor: The Monmouth Civic Chorus

Date and time: Sunday, May 20, 2012, 4:00 pm

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 255 Harding Road (Tower Hill), Red Bank NJ 07701

Tickets:

Unreserved Seating

\$25 regular

\$22 seniors

\$5 students

\$20 groups (10 or more)

Subscriptions (December, March and May concerts): \$75 regular, \$20 students

Tickets and subscriptions: 732-933-9333 or www.monmouthcivicchorus.org

Non-subscription event:

Event title: *Titanic*

Event sponsors: The Monmouth Civic Chorus and Cabaret for Life

Dates and times: Saturday, October 29, 2011 at 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 30, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

Location: Axelrod Performing Arts Center, Jewish Community Center
100 Grant Avenue, Deal, NJ 07723

Tickets: \$25

axelrodartscenter.com or 877-CFL-TKTS (235-8587)