



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MONMOUTH CIVIC CHORUS IN LINCOLN TRIBUTE

Lincoln's life, legacy and love of music will be celebrated by the Monmouth Civic Chorus in honor of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday. Led by Artistic Director Dr. Mark Shapiro, the Chorus will perform selections from operas Lincoln loved, spirituals and ballads of the time, a choral setting of Walt Whitman poems, and the stirring *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. Performance artist Lorraine Stone will portray Sojourner Truth, the slave-born abolitionist that Lincoln met and admired. The Monmouth Civic Chorus program is endorsed by the national Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and the Borough of Red Bank.

The performance is on Sunday, February 8, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. at the newly renovated Count Basie Theatre, 99 Monmouth Street, Red Bank, New Jersey. All tickets are free of charge for this unique event; advance reservations are recommended. Donations to support production costs are welcome. Call (732) 933-9333 or visit www.monmouthcivicchorus.org.

The Monmouth Civic Chorus received the 2008 ASCAP/Chorus America Alice Parker Award, which recognizes a chorus for programming significant recently composed music that expands the mission of the chorus and challenges the chorus's audience in a new way. Critics have acclaimed the Chorus as "close to perfect" (*Asbury Park Press*), "sonorously impressive" (*The Star-Ledger*) and "exceptional" (*Red Bank Green*).

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Event summary

Event title: *Lincoln Bicentennial Tribute*

Event sponsor: The Monmouth Civic Chorus

Date and time: Sunday, February 8, 2009, 3:00 p.m.

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

Tickets free of charge, reservations recommended

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