

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release through September 2, 2003

HARMONIUM SEEKS EXPERIENCED SINGERS

Anne Matlack, Artistic Director of Harmonium Choral Society, will be holding auditions for experienced choral singers in all voice parts, particularly first tenors, at the Grace Episcopal Church, Madison Avenue at Kings Road in Madison, New Jersey, August 23 through September 2, 2003. Call 973/765-9028 for an appointment. Rehearsals are held Sunday evenings, from the first Sunday after Labor Day through the following May at Grace Lutheran Church, 65 East Main in Mendham. Visit the Harmonium Choral Society website www.harmonium.org for further information about the chorus and for driving directions.

The chorus presents 3 concerts per season in the Morristown area, and also participates in other events such as First Night Morris and the biennial Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Poetry Festival. "Ave!", the December 13 and 14, 2003 program, will be an historical review of the many different responses to the Nativity from Mary's point of view by composers from Pergolesi to Durufle. Composer-in-Residence Mark Miller will be leading the "Mostly Miller" concerts on March 6 and 7, 2004, which will highlight his own compositions as well as include those of other composers. The May 22 and 23, 2004 concerts, entitled "Spring Fever," will feature love songs, including the winning compositions of the seventh annual New Jersey High School Student Choral Composition Contest sponsored by the chorus.

Dr. Matlack's programming provides ample opportunities for the professional, as well as the serious amateur. For music educators seeking continuing education credits, Harmonium Choral Society is a Registered New Jersey Professional Development Provider. Member singers looking for individual or small group experience may audition for solos within the programmed works or audition to join the select 16-voice Harmonium Chamber Singers. Other members who are available during the schoolday, evenings or weekends, may volunteer to sing in the Harmonium Outreach Chorus, which performs assemblies in elementary and middle schools, libraries, retirement homes, etc.

Willa Conrad, classical music critic of *The Star-Ledger*, commented that "Harmonium is among the most creative and technically advanced amateur choirs in the state; certainly its programming is imaginative and daring. Behind that programming lies the mind of music director Anne Matlack, and what a fascinating musical mind it is..." The Arts Council of the Morris Area concurred, naming her 2003 Outstanding Arts Professional. Under her direction, Harmonium performs a diverse repertoire at a high artistic level,

increasing community appreciation of choral music through concerts, education and outreach. Funding is made possible in part by the Arts Council of Morris Area, through the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State Block Grant Program, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. The annual Student Choral Composition Contest is generously funded by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.