

St. Cecilia press release for Christmas Concert 2015

- **Artist:** St. Cecilia Chamber Choir
- **Venues, dates, and times:** Friday, 12/11 at Second Congregational Church, Newcastle at 7:30pm, and Sat., 12/12 at the Bowdoin College Chapel at 4:00pm.
- **Cities:** Newcastle and Brunswick
- **Contact name:** Linda Blanchard
- **Contact phone:** [\(207\) 380-2768](tel:2073802768)

St. Cecilia Chamber Choir 20th Anniversary Christmas Concert

St. Cecilia Chamber Choir will present their 20th Anniversary Christmas Concert Friday, Dec. 11, 7:30 pm, at the Second Congregational Church, Newcastle, and again Saturday, Dec. 12, 4:00 pm, at the Bowdoin College Chapel, Brunswick. The Choir will be joined by a chamber orchestra and professional vocal soloists for Part I of Handel's *Messiah*, the world premiere performance of new music by Richard Francis, and *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Tickets are \$15 for adults and free to students, available in advance at Maine Coast Book Shop, Sherman's Books and Stationery, Treats, online at ceciliachoir.org, and at the door.

Known as "the Christmas portion" of the beloved work, Part I of *Messiah* sets the King James version of the Old Testament prophecies of Jesus' birth, the annunciation to Mary, the birth of Christ, the angels' visit to the shepherds, and the angels' rejoicing as they return to heaven. We conclude with the addition of the joyful "Hallelujah" Chorus. The Choir will be joined soprano Nina Tilander, alto Jazmin DeRice, tenor David Myers, Jr., and bass Joshua Miller.

Works by Maine composer Richard Francis have been heard across the United States, and we are excited to premiere two new works composed especially for our 20th Anniversary concert. "O Magnum Mysterium" includes the use of bells to evoke the mystery of the incarnation, while the exuberant "Hodie" celebrates the joys of Christmas.



David Myers, tenor



Jazmin DeRice, alto



Joshua Miller, bass



Nina Tilander, soprano