

# Holiday Music and Performances

## Northern Ballet Theatre Dance Centre Presents Holiday Premier of “Clara’s Christmas Dream”

Performance dates are this week only: December 18th at 7:30 pm & December 19th at 2:00 pm at the Keefe Auditorium, Nashua, NH



The Prince and Clara dance to “Clara’s Christmas Dream” during the Holiday Premiere, December 18 and 19 in Nashua, at the Keefe Auditorium.

NASHUA –Northern Ballet Theatre is showcasing their first full holiday performance featuring brand new costumes, sets, and choreography. This original holiday performance will include guest artists from Northern Ballet Theatre’s professional company.

Clara’s Christmas Dream puts a different spin on the classical ballet The Nutcracker, and adds creativity, flair, and fun to its all new choreography. The characters and plot remain similar to the story of The Nutcracker; Clara’s Dream begins with her family hosting a Christmas Party on Christmas Eve with plenty of guests and festive dancing. Clara’s favorite Uncle Drosselmeyer arrives with many magical gifts. Drosselmeyer’s special gift for Clara is a toy soldier doll, who is actually Drosselmeyer’s nephew. A spell has been placed on him by the wicked Mouse Queen. Drosselmeyer weaves his magic and brings the toy soldier to life. He must fight the Mouse Queen in order to be able to fall in love. Clara witnesses the battle between the quirky mice, tapping soldiers and the Mouse Queen. Clara helps defeat the Mouse Queen and the soldier doll now become’s Clara’s Prince. Clara’s wish to find her true love has now come true. The Prince and Clara begin a mystical journey through the Land of Snow and then to the Lovely Palace of the Sweets. Clara and her Prince are then greeted by the delicate angels and the beautiful Sugar Plum Fairy and are invited to be entertained by the delicious Sweets of the Palace.

“This is an exciting opportunity for the students of Northern Ballet Theatre Dance Centre, to be able to perform in their very own production” says Artistic Director, Doreen Cafarella.” Performances like this really help the students bring out their performance qualities onstage.” This premier performance is sure to bring joy, merriment, and smiles to the audience this holiday season. Taking place in the modern day, audiences will be captivated by the exciting music and eclectic dance styles.

Join Northern Ballet Theatre for their exciting premier performance at the Keefe Auditorium located on Elm Street in Nashua. Call 889-8408 for reserved ticket prices of \$15 for children age 12 and under and \$20 VIP Tickets. For information visit [www.nbtde.com](http://www.nbtde.com) or find us on facebook.

## Granite Statesmen’s 20th Annual Christmas Cabaret At Hampshire Hills Sports and Fitness Club



The Granite Statesmen a cappella chorus.

The Granite Statesmen -- Nashua’s 12 times District champion barbershop harmony chorus will hold their 20th Annual Christmas Cabaret shows at Hampshire Hills Sports and Fitness Club, 50 Emerson Road, Milford, NH, on Saturday, December 19th, at 2:00 and 7:30 pm. Hampshire Hills is a new and more spacious venue and the Granite Statesmen are excited to perform there.

This year’s Cabaret shows will again feature the 2009 Harmony Inc. fourth place medalist chorus New England Voices in Harmony, the 2009 gold medalist quartet Showcase, the 2004 gold medalist quartet Synchronicity, the string duo Tale, plus the Granite Statesmen. The Fairgrounds Middle School Select Choir will appear in the afternoon show, while the Milford High School Chorus will perform in the evening. Santa Claus, as in past years, will lead audience children in an on-stage sing-along.

As always, the annual Cabaret features a family-friendly cabaret environment with great food and beverages, plus arts and crafts provided by the ladies of the Granite Gems auxiliary. The show on Saturday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. focuses more on the many children who usually attend. The evening show at 7:30 p.m. is geared more towards an adult audience and has more holiday music.

New England Voices in Harmony, founded in January 2000, is an a cappella chorus of 35 plus women based in Nashua and currently ranked the Area 2 champions of Harmony, Inc. Area 2 includes all of New England and parts of eastern Canada. Additionally, Voices is the 2009 International Fourth Place Medalist chorus. The group rehearses every Tuesday evening at the Grace Lutheran Church, 130 Spit Brook Road in Nashua from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. Many members have had some singing experience with glee clubs, church choirs or Community Theater before joining the chorus, although the vast majority are amateur singers. Harmony, Inc. is an international group of women whose purposes are to educate its members in the art of singing four-part, unaccompanied harmony in the barbershop style; to organize, maintain and encourage choruses and quartets; to give private and public performances; to sponsor

contests, and to promote friendship among all women. New England Voices in Harmony is co-directed by founding members Debbie Borsari and Renée Tramack, both internationally acclaimed award-winning directors.

How fitting the name Showcase is for this four-some! They love to sing, to show their best to audiences, and to present special events (songs) in order to tug on the heart-strings of their listeners! In November 2009, Showcase became the International Gold Medalist Quartet and Harmony



The 2004 gold medalist quartet Synchronicity

Queens of Harmony, Inc! Showcase, an a cappella quartet, started singing together in March 2007. Even though this foursome has only been singing together for a limited time, their combined individual entertainment experience brings them to an amazing 92 years. All are members of New England Voices in Harmony.

Synchronicity was formed in June 2002 with the intention of making beautiful music, entertaining audiences, and having a great time doing both! While fulfilling that intention, they have experienced the ultimate reward - winning the gold medals and crowns in the 2004 Harmony, Inc. International Quartet Contest. Synchronicity has had the opportunity to help educate and entertain barbershoppers in both the US and Canada, and to perform in some interesting and fun places such as Disneyland and on a cruise ship in Mexico! They take pride in bringing their unique style of music to people of all ages and walks of life and to bring music and joy into people’s hearts.

Fairgrounds Middle School Select Choir (Afternoon Only) is an extra-curricular vocal ensemble that rehearses once a week for an hour with an emphasis on healthy vocal technique and professional musicianship. Under the direction of FMS Choral Director, Mary Pispitos, the Select Choir sings a variety of challenging and exciting music in three parts: soprano, alto and baritone. Choir membership is open to any FMS student by audition only. The FMS Select Choir is honored to be invited to perform with the Granite Statesmen again this year as this event has become a favorite among its members.

Milford High School Chorus (Evening Only) is a mixed chorus of singers in grades nine through twelve. In addition to the winter and spring concerts, the chorus also performs at the annual Pops Concert and takes its performance, complete with costumes and choreography, on the road to local elementary schools.

They are under the direction of Jennifer K. Erdody.

The Granite Statesmen, directed by Jim Coates, is an internationally competitive a cappella chorus that has won the Northeastern District Chorus Championship

Ticket prices for the matinee show are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors/students, and \$3 for children. For the evening show, ticket costs are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors/students, and \$5 for children. Tickets are available by calling (603) 886-SING or by visiting [www.granitestatesmen.org](http://www.granitestatesmen.org).

### Nashua Symphony Orchestra & Chorus Present

## Family Holiday Concert with Barbara Kilduff

NASHUA - On Saturday, December 19, the Nashua Symphony Orchestra and Chorus will team up with soprano Barbara Kilduff for its family-friendly Holiday Concert. The program, which includes traditional favorites and even a sing-along, begins at 7:30 pm in Nashua High School North’s auditorium. Jonathan McPhee, the NSA’s Music Director and Principal Conductor, and Diane Cushing, Director of Choral Activities, will share conducting duties for the evening.

McPhee and Cushing have designed a program with something for everyone. “It’s less a ‘pops’ concert in the traditional sense than a fun, family-oriented program that will evoke all sorts of holiday memories,” said McPhee. “All the music is familiar and it’ll definitely put people in the joyous mood that makes this season so special.”

Although there are selections that might appeal mostly to kids (A Charlie Brown Christmas, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer), they are also burnished with nostalgia for most parents as well. There is also a smattering of classical works, like Schubert’s Ave Maria and Holst’s Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence. The bulk of the program is made up of songs straight off of



Soprano Barbara Kilduff

the beloved albums of Bing Crosby and Johnny Mathis: O, Holy Night, White Christmas, Winter Wonderland, and others.

Diane Cushing will conduct Randol Alan Bass’s Christmas Flourish, a dazzling medley of holiday favorites for full orchestra and chorus. “It’s such an exciting piece,” says Cushing. “It’s great fun.” She’ll lead the chorus in several other works and also conduct the smaller Nashua Choral Ensemble in a 3-song interlude.

Coloratura soprano Barbara Kilduff enjoys a sparkling career in opera, oratorio and song recital on both sides of the Atlantic. Her voice has been praised as “bright and “silvery”, soaring effortlessly with “crystalline coloratura”. An experienced and versatile actress, this native New Yorker now resides with her husband and two children in Andover, Massachusetts, where she continues to add to her opera roles and broaden her repertoire in oratorio.

National winner of the Metropolitan Opera Council auditions, Ms. Kilduff went on to win first prize in the Munich International Competition and the silver medal in the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. She debuted with the

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