

OLD NORTH FESTIVAL CHORUS—MARBLEHEAD

8 STACEY STREET

MARBLEHEAD, MA 01945

781-639-4832 or 781-631-1244 x.3

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: K. Fay: 781-608-2782

Virtual Event Program: A Poetry Reading featuring original poems by Clemens Carl Schoenebeck, poet and member of the Old North Festival Chorus, highlighted by choral excerpts performed by the Old North Festival Chorus, and an introduction by Claire Keyes

Date/Time: Wednesday, October 28, 2020, 7pm (and available in perpetuity thereafter)

Virtually Available: YouTube: Old North Church Marblehead

Old North Festival Chorus presents
– A Poetry Reading featuring original poems by Clemens Carl Schoenebeck –
the first virtual event of a series of fall 2020 events to celebrate the
40th Anniversary of the Old North Festival Chorus

On Wednesday evening, October 28, 2020, at 7pm the Old North Festival Chorus presents: A Poetry Reading by Clemens Carl Schoenebeck, poet and member of the Old North Festival Chorus – featuring five (5) original poems by “Clem” – as well as choral excerpts by the Old North Festival Chorus, and an introduction by Claire Keyes, Professor Emerita at Salem State College. This first virtual event – of a series of fall 2020 events to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Old North Festival Chorus – will be available via the Old North Church Marblehead YouTube Channel; for those unable to “attend” on Wednesday, October 28 at 7pm, this presentation will be available on the Old North Church Marblehead YouTube Channel in perpetuity.

“While I had a very different Fall 2020 season in mind – preparatory to our traditional and cherished holiday concerts in early December – given the COVID-19 related challenges impacting the entire performing arts industry and choral singing in particular, our special celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Old North Festival Chorus & Orchestra will now consist of an exceptional virtual event instead. On Sunday, December 6 at 3pm, we shall present a retrospective of 40 years of accomplishment and spectacular Old North Festival Chorus performances. Our celebration will include an array of photographs and favorite musical excerpts by the Festival Chorus, Orchestra, Bell Choir, Youth Choirs, and a selection of interviews and testimonials from past soloists and guest artists. A series of virtual events – both in order to raise awareness of the wonderful work of the Old North Festival Chorus, and to raise needed funds to help defray our professional music staff and artist fees – will take place during the fall and early winter, beginning with this Poetry Reading on October 28”, states Director Maria van Kalken, Minister of Music at Old North Church, who celebrates her 32nd season as Director of the Festival Chorus.

Clemens Carl Schoenebeck – a widely acclaimed and respected poet, as well as a beloved member of the bass section of the Old North Festival Chorus – will recite five (5) of his own evocative and inspiring poems, especially those which were motivated by his love for choral singing. Mr. Schoenebeck has had poems published in *The Aurean*, *Midwest Poetry Review*, *Caribbean Writer*, *Ibbetson Street Press*, *Small Brushes/Adept Press*, and other publications; four of his poems were nominated for The Pushcart Prize. Clem and his daughter Kristen were named featured poets of *Aurean's* December issue in 2000. His short stories have won various prizes in *Writer's World* – under the auspices of the Marblehead Festival of Arts. In 2012, Clem won the poetry and fiction categories. His winning poem was selected for The Marcia Doehner Award, and his short story was awarded the first Georgette Beck Award. His memoir, *Dancing with Fireflies*, is a story of his family living through the darkness and light of his mother's schizophrenia, and how poetry brought hope and healing. His recent collection of poetry, *Where the Time Went; Poems at Eighty*, was published by Encircle Publications, and was nominated for The Massachusetts Book Award for Poetry, and Foreword INDIES Book of the Year. Schoenebeck lives on the North Shore of Boston with his wife, Bonnie. His daughter's family lives nearby.

Claire Keyes – an enthusiastic member of the alto section and member of the Festival Chorus Committee – is Professor Emerita at Salem State College, where she taught English for thirty years. Her poems, essays and reviews have appeared in such journals as *Valparaiso Review*, *Calyx*, *Blueline* and the *Women's Review of Books*, as well as in several anthologies, including *Letters to the World: Poems from the Wom-Po Listserv*. She is a recipient of a grant in poetry from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and a fellowship from the Wurlitzer Foundation. Her chapbook, *Rising and Falling*, won the Foothills Poetry Competition. The *Question of Rapture*, a book of poems, was recently published by Mayapple Press. She lives in Marblehead, Massachusetts.

The Festival Chorus gathers Old North's Senior Choir together with enthusiastic singers – amateur to professional – from many neighboring communities in Marblehead. Each season, the 100+ members of Festival Chorus welcome new voices while maintaining a devoted ensemble from previous years. Encouraged by a love for music and a reputation as the North Shore's most spirited and talented volunteer choirs, the Festival Chorus & Orchestra has been lauded for its outstanding performances of major choral works each year.

Maria van Kalken, Director of the Old North Festival Chorus and Minister of Music at Old North Church, holds graduate and undergraduate degrees from the Oberlin and New England Conservatories of Music – primarily under the tutelage of Yuko Hayashi and the late Donald Teeters – and has amassed an education abroad in Amsterdam (Holland) and Pistoia (Italy).

This Poetry Reading – via the Old North Church Marblehead YouTube Channel – is offered FREE of charge, although contributions to benefit the 40th Anniversary of the Old North Festival Chorus are encouraged and will be gratefully appreciated. Donations can be made online, via the Old North Church Marblehead website, or, by sending a check, to OLD NORTH CHURCH, 8 Stacey Street, Marblehead, MA 01945; please mail your check (made out to Old North Church – with “Festival Chorus” in the memo).

For additional information about this or Old North Festival Chorus events, please call 781-608-2782; information is also available on the Old North Festival Chorus website:

WWW.OLDNORTHFESTIVALCHORUS.ORG

The Old North Festival Chorus is supported, in part, by a grant from the Marblehead Arts Council as administered through the Massachusetts Cultural Council, as well as many local businesses and a host of generous friends.

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