

# OLD NORTH FESTIVAL CHORUS

8 STACEY STREET

MARBLEHEAD, MA 01945

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release Date: September 20, 2019

Contact: Kathleen Fay

E-mail: [kfay@tech2010.net](mailto:kfay@tech2010.net)

Telephone: 781-608-2782

## Registration and First Rehearsal Announced for Award-winning Old North Festival Youth Chorus

**What:** Registration and First Rehearsal for Old North Festival Youth Chorus

**Who:** Youth in Grades 4-12

**When:** Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 5pm. Rehearsals continue each Wednesday from 5pm to 6pm through December 7 & 8, 2019 Christmas Concerts

**Where:** Parish Hall, Old North Church, 35 Washington St., Marblehead, MA 01945

**Cost:** Registration fee of \$40

MARBLEHEAD ó Calling all singers in grades 4-12! Sarah Del Dotto, Director of the Old North Youth Choirs, has announced Registration and First Rehearsal details for the award-winning Old North Festival Youth Chorus! Singers will rehearse for approximately eight (8) weeks and perform in the popular Old North Festival Chorus Christmas Concerts taking place as part of the Marblehead Christmas Walk, on Saturday and Sunday, December 7, and 8, 2019.

Registration and the First Rehearsal take place on Wednesday, October 2, at 5pm, in the Parish Hall of Old North Church, 35 Washington St., Marblehead. Rehearsals continue each Wednesday from 5 to 6pm; registrants will be accepted through Wednesday, October 16, 2019.

In 2011, the Old North Festival Youth Chorus won second prize in the contest öThe American Prizeö for their performances in programs as part of the annual Old North Festival Chorus concerts led by Maria van Kalken. öThe American Prize,ö founded in 2009, is a series of annual, non-profit national competitions.

This season, Sarah Del Dotto enters her second year as director of the Old North Festival Youth Chorus. Mrs. Del Dotto is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music. While a student at Eastman, Sarah worked with faculty in the Community Education Division; she was invited to be an aid in the early childhood music program, working with families and their children, aged 6 months to 4 years old. Immediately upon graduation, Sarah received a position to teach in the Rush-Henrietta School District (NY) and the Greece Central School District (NY) before going on to be the Choral Director in the Greater Johnstown School District. In Johnstown, Sarah directed five choirs, where her students were regular recipients of local and state awards and honors. During her years in New York, Sarah was also sought out as a guest conductor for choral music festivals. Sarah completed the Master of Music (Piano Performance) program at the Longy School of Music, in Cambridge, MA. Sarah has performed in numerous recitals both solo and as a collaborative artist throughout Massachusetts and New York. Besides being a dedicated piano teacher at the Del Dotto Piano School, Mrs. Del Dotto currently works as the middle school choral director and music teacher for the Dana Hall School in Wellesley, MA.

A wonderful tradition which started thirty-nine years ago at Old North Church, and was initially conceived as a gift to the Marblehead community the Old North Festival Chorus has grown to include over one hundred (100) voices under the leadership of Maria van Kalken, Minister of Music at Old North Church. Two holiday concerts, presented as part of Marblehead's Christmas Walk, will take place on Saturday, December 7 at 8pm, and Sunday, December 8, at 7:30pm in the sanctuary of the historic Old North Church Meeting House, 35 Washington Street, Marblehead.

Maria van Kalken, celebrating her 31<sup>st</sup> year as Director of the Old North Festival Chorus, recently remarked:

“Making music together no matter how young or old, experienced or inexperienced requires attention to detail, a bit of hard work, but most of all, it's great FUN! At Old North, we encourage inter-generational development, where children are inspired to learn and appreciate new skills, and then share those new skills with the community! That's where Sarah has been so successful in meeting our goals: she's highly experienced and beloved by children of all ages!”

New singers for the Old North Festival Youth Chorus (grades 4-12) are welcome. No auditions take place, and prior singing experience is not required.

<p>Reminder: Registration and the first Rehearsal for Adult Singers of the Old North Festival Chorus took place on Wednesday, September 25, 2019, in the Parish Hall of Old North Church, but Director Maria van Kalken reminds all interested singers that there is still time to join! Singers are not required to audition but are expected to have experience. All participants will be required to purchase the music provided at Registration (unless scores are already owned) in addition to a nominal Registration Fee of \$40.</p>
--

#####