

TOP LINE AND **WE SELL TV'S!**
Appliance Center **OUR PRICES BEAT THE INTERNET!**
www.toplineac.com
SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION

- 100% Low Price Guarantee
- 3.5% Sales Tax (Roselle Store)
- FREE Full Service Local Delivery
- State of the Art Showrooms
- In House Certified Installers & Service Technicians

Jenn-Air - KitchenAid Thermador - Sub Zero Wolf - Viking - GE Maytag - Whirlpool And More!

WESTFIELD 576 North Ave. East 908-232-5200
MANASQUAN 117 Taylor Ave. 732-223-2253
ROSELLE 150 West 1st Ave. 908-298-0400

JENN-AIR Fire & Ice
 Receive up to a **\$500** MasterCard® Prepaid Card by mail with qualified purchase*

THE JENN-AIR® COOKING AND REFRIGERATION EVENT

Receive a **\$100** Rebate on a Select Microwave Hood Combination
 Receive a **\$200** Rebate on a Select Range
 Receive a **\$200** Rebate on a Select Refrigerator

Arts & Entertainment

Choral Art Society to Present Mendelssohn's Oratorio, *Paulus*

WESTFIELD - The Choral Art Society of New Jersey, celebrating its 50th season, will be performing Felix Mendelssohn's Oratorio, *Paulus* (St. Paul), Op. 36, on Saturday, January 21, 2012, 8:00 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield located at the corner of Mountain Avenue and East Broad Street.

James S. Little, Musical Director of the Society, will conduct the evening's performance. Soloists are Ellen Goff Enriken, soprano; Angelika Nair, mezzo-soprano; David Kellett, tenor and Andrew Martens, bass. The Choral Art Society Orchestra will accompany the chorus. Admission is \$20, \$15 for seniors and students, at the door.

For information call (908) 654-5737 or visit our web site www.thechoralartsocietyofnj.org.

The first of Mendelssohn's two oratorios, *Paulus* is rarely performed in its entirety today, but during the composer's lifetime it was heard often. And no wonder: Like *Elijah*, which was written 10 years later and has eclipsed *Paulus* in popularity, the work is full of beautiful melodies, drama, and the

highest level of musical craftsmanship. Chorus and soloists — in a series of choruses, recitatives and arias—and the orchestra all have a vital role in recounting the story of the conversion of Paul from Judaism to Christianity, as told in the *New Testament*, from which the text is largely drawn. Part One begins with several introductory movements, followed by the stoning of St. Stephen (the first Christian martyr) and Paul's conversion and baptism. Part Two follows the ministry of Paul and the apostle Barnabas and includes Paul's persecution by his former coreligionists and his healing of the lame man of Lystra, with a final chorus based on Psalm 103.

Evident throughout *Paulus* is Mendelssohn's admiration for Handel as well as Bach, whose music was virtually unknown in the 19th century until Mendelssohn conducted a public performance of the *St Matthew Passion* in 1829, igniting Bach's rediscovery.

Mr. Little has been the Director of the Choral Art Society of New Jersey since the spring of 1999. He is organist and choirmaster of Cal-

vary Episcopal Church in Summit since 1993, where he directs a program of youth and adult choirs, a hand-bell choir and a concert series by the Calvary Chorale and guest ensembles and soloists. Mr. Little received an M.M. in Sacred Music from Westminster Choir College where he studied organ with Eugene Roan and choral conducting with Melanie Jacobsen and Joseph Flummenfelt. He has performed organ recitals in New Jersey, New York City and New England and is widely known as an accompanist throughout northern and central New Jersey. He is a member of the American Guild of Organists, the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers and the Phi Mu Alpha music fraternity.

Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and for this 50th Anniversary performance has been made possible by a grant provided by the Westfield Foundation.



HAPPY NEW YEAR...The Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) rang in the New Year with its annual salute to Broadway on New Year's Eve. The sold-out show, entitled "That's Entertainment," was held in the Westfield High School auditorium. Pictured, standing left to right, are: soloists Maxime de Toledo and Minda Larsen, WSO Maestro David Wroe, soloists Sandra Joseph and Peter Lockyer.

Westfield Symphony Orchestra Rings in The New Year With Style

By BARBARA THOMSON
 Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Symphony rang in the New Year in fine style with its annual salute to Broadway on New Year's Eve. The Westfield High School auditorium was sold out for "That's Entertainment," as the audience was treated to songs from as early as the 1920s (Jerome Kern's *Show Boat*) to current hits (*Les Misérables* and *Phantom of the Opera*). The arrangements themselves ranged from big-band saxophones ("Hit Me with a Hot Note" from Duke Ellington's *Sophisticated Ladies*) to lush orchestral sonorities ("Gigi" from *Gigi*), from up-tempo numbers ("All That Jazz" from *Chicago*) to ballads ("If Ever I Would Leave You" from *Camelot*).

The program featured four excellent soloists with loads of stage, screen, and Broadway experience. They sang, they danced, they acted silly, they acted serious, and above all, they entertained. Several of the numbers included all four in well-choreographed scenes, but all the singers had a chance to shine in individual solos.

Soprano Sandra Joseph starred as Christine Daae in *Phantom of the Opera* for ten years, becoming the longest-running leading lady in Broadway's longest-running show. She treated the audience to "Think of Me" from *Phantom*, showing off her classical training with some terrific high notes. Mezzo-soprano Minda Larsen, complete with slinky dress and feathered boa, torched her way through the aforementioned "Hit Me with a Hot Note", while charismatic tenor Peter Lockyer brought a lump to the throat with his emotional performance of "Bring Him Home" from *Les Miz*.

Not to be outdone, baritone Maxime de Toledo exuded continental charm singing "The Windmills of Your Mind" from *The Thomas Crown Affair* in both French and English.

The program was not all solos, however, with duets, trios, and quartets adding variety to the evening.

The dressing rooms were kept busy, too, as both leading ladies had multiple costume changes, with each dress more glamorous than the last.

In the numbers that included dancing, all of the singers wore body microphones; in many of the other numbers they used hand-held mics. To my mind, two lovers gazing into each other's eyes singing endearments look silly holding microphones instead of each other. Ms. Joseph's otherwise excellent rendition of "I Could Have Danced All Night" from *My Fair Lady* was earth-bound by having to keep her mic hand up to her

face the whole time. With a body mic she could have danced — not all night perhaps — but for at least the five minutes she was singing.

But I am being picky. The orchestra and singers all sounded great, and a good time was had by all. The printed program ended with the audience joining the ensemble to sing that perennial New Year's standard, "Auld Lang Syne", which was immediately followed by a lively encore of "Oklahoma".

This fun concert is always a big hit and is always sold out. Next year be sure to get your tickets early!

For information on the Westfield Symphony Orchestra visit www.westfieldsymphony.org.

CDW Presents Original Play *The Alphabet Circuit*

WESTFIELD - Back by popular demand, the Contagious Drama Workshop's (CDW) teen class and New Jersey playwright Ben Clawson have teamed up to create another original, one of a kind production. *The Alphabet Circuit* will be performed on Friday, January 13, and Saturday, January 14, at The Presbyterian Church of Westfield in Westminster Hall.

Within days of the tremendous success of last January's *Bomb Threat Day*, Beth Painter, founder of CDW, reserved the talented Mr. Clawson to ensure that her creative teen students had another opportunity to dig into a play written just for them.

This year's play is a collection of short pieces lightly and cleverly strung together by the alphabet. The realistic characters allow each actor to play roles they can relate to and truthfully portray. The production is humorous, thought-provoking and moving.

Performances are at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, January 13 and 14, with a 2 p.m. matinee on the 14. There will be a talk back with the cast and Mr. Clawson immediately following Friday night's performance. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$8 for adults, cheaper than a movie!

The Contagious Drama Workshop offers acting classes for students, ages 6 and up. CDW is currently accepting registrations for its winter session, which begins on Wednesday, January 18.

New for 2012: Improvisation for adults! Never acted before? Fear not; this is a great place to get your feet wet and have some fun. Improvisation is actually a stress relieving activity and is guaranteed to make you a better listener. This class begins on Monday, January 23, at 8 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church.

All forms can be found at www.contagiousdrama.com or contact Beth Painter at (917) 836-3740.



The Choral Art Society

MLK Day of Service Offers Volunteer Opportunities for All

FANWOOD-SCOTCH PLAINS - On Monday, January 16, the 3rd Annual Martin Luther King (MLK) Day of Service will take place in a variety of locations within these neighboring towns, providing an exciting volunteer opportunity for the whole family. Residents in the towns of Fanwood and Scotch Plains will honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by giving back to their communities.

Dr. King believed that "everybody can be great because everybody can serve" and residents can support this belief by donating their time and lending a hand to the many diverse and worthy organizations in their area. Sponsored by the towns of Scotch Plains and Fanwood, the Ministerium, the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Central New Jersey, the YMCA, Patch.com and other local groups, the MLK Day of Service has become an important event for the community.

Interested volunteers should visit www.spfmlkday.com On-line registration will run until January 15.

Last year's event, which involved more than 40 local organizations and attracted over 500 volunteers, was a resounding success and this year's Day of Service promises to build upon and surpass this effort. The most exciting aspect of this day is the fact that it encourages the entire family to become involved.

Age-appropriate activities will take place throughout the two towns, from creating get-well cards for cancer patients to baking apple pies for senior citizens. For the adult members of the family, there will be opportunities such as cleaning the local nature center to working at a

nearby Habitat for Humanity site. "So many organizations in our community have created volunteer opportunities for the day," says Amanda Barnett, a member of the planning task force. "There truly is something for everyone."

MLK Day 2012 will kick off with a "Musical Tribute to Martin Luther King" during the Opening Program at the JCC of Central New Jersey. Michael Goldstein, JCC Program Director, said, "We are working with several community partners — schools and religious organizations — to create what will be a memorable and stirring musical presentation. It will be an inspiring way to start a 'day on' of meaningful community service."

All are welcome. Activities will begin immediately following the opening program and will be held throughout Scotch Plains and Fanwood between 11:15 a.m. and 5

p.m. Although same-day registration will be available during the Opening Program, participants are strongly encouraged to register on-line as space is very limited and has filled up quickly in the past.

On this, the 25th anniversary of the federal holiday, the creators and committee members behind this day have taken Dr. King's advice to heart: "Life's most urgent and persistent question is: what are you doing for others?"

"This is a wonderful opportunity to bring our community together," says MLK Day Task Force Co-Chair, Michelle Shapiro Abraham. "Not only will every member of the family learn the importance of giving back, but they'll also discover all the wonderful volunteer organizations at work in their community."

The JCC is located at 1391 Martine Avenue, Scotch Plains, N.J., 07076.

The Cranford Historical Society Presents 'Chat and Stitch'

CRANFORD - The Cranford Historical Society presents a new program, "Chat and Stitch" on Thursday, January 12, and Thursday, February 9, from 1 - 2 p.m.

Brighten up your winter days at the Crane-Phillips House Museum with your current needlework project for an hour of conversation and warm snacks. Knitters, crocheters, quilters....all crafters are welcome! Share patterns, supplies and ideas. Help for beginners. This program was suggested from a membership survey taken last year.

The Crane-Phillips House Museum located at 124 North Union Avenue in Cranford is open September through May on Sundays from 2 - 4 p.m. or by appointment. Admission is free.

Founded in 1927, the Cranford Historical Society's mission is to preserve and perpetuate the history of Cranford. To see the rest of our schedule or become a member, please visit our website at www.cranfordhistoricalsociety.com or call the office at (908) 276-0082.



The Celebration Singers Adult and Youth Choirs

Celebration Singers Adult, Youth Choirs Hold Auditions

CRANFORD - The Celebration Singers Adult and Youth Choirs will be holding auditions at the Cranford United Methodist Church on Tuesday, January 17. Youth auditions will be held between 6 and 8 p.m., and the adult auditions will be held between 7 and 9 p.m. All auditions are by appointment.

To schedule and audition, email celebrationsingers@hotmail.com. For youth choir auditions, please include your name, age, contact information (phone number and email), and school

in your email.

The Children's Choir ranges in age from 9 to 13 years; the Middle C's is comprised of experienced choral singers ages 14 and up (male changed voices in 8th grade and up; female voices 9th grade and up). The Youth Choirs offer a place where children and adolescents can learn and hone musical skills, experience various styles of music, and perform with a wide range of ages.

The Adult Choir welcomes singers

ages 18 years and older of all experience levels and of all vocal ranges to audition. The ability to read music is a plus but not a requirement as is prior choral experience.

Funding for the Celebration Singers is made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council for the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

For further information, please visit our website at celebration-singers.org.