

Wakefield Choral Society



The Wakefield Choral Society (WCS) with the Middlesex Concert Band (MCB) invites the community to their annual Spring Pops Concert on Saturday, May 9, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. at the Americal Civic Center in Wakefield.

WCS Music Director, Ryan Murphy, has compiled a program which showcases the Choral Society's range of musical style. It begins with two pieces in Latin, *Exultate Justi* composed by John Williams for the film *Empire of the Sun*, and *Gloria in Excelsis* from Leonard Bernstein's *Mass*; then two pieces in French, *Pavane* by Faure, and *Dirait-on* with lyrics from *Les Roses*, poems by Maria Rilke. The program moves to Americana with *She'll be Coming 'Round the Mountain*, the Shaker song *Simple Gifts*, *The Disclaimer Song*, and *Dry Bones*. Next are two very different love songs. The first from the Robert Burns poem, *A Red Red Rose*, and the second is the 1960's hit song *Happy Together*. The set closes with selections from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. The Choral Society will be accompanied by pianist Joe Beninati of Reading and instrumentalists from the Band.

The Middlesex Concert Band, under the baton of Mark E. Olson will then take the stage to play a set. For the finale, the Choral Society will join the Band to perform *Dry Your Tears*, *Afrika* from the film *Amistad*, and *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

This will be Mr. Murphy's last concert with the Choral Society. He has recently been appointed Associate Music Director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and will be relocating to Utah. WCS President Judi Grogan of Melrose says, "We are thrilled for Ryan. This opportunity with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir must be a dream come true. At the same time, we are profoundly sad to see him leave. He has taken the Choral Society to a whole new level in the year he has been with us, and we will miss him."

Concertgoers may purchase reserved tables ahead of time by calling chorus manager Tom Merchant at 781-246-6444, or may purchase unreserved tickets at the door. Reserved tables for eight are \$120. Reserved tables for ten are \$150. Unreserved tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Refreshments will be sold before the concert, and during the intermission. The Americal Civic Center is located at 467 Main Street, Wakefield, MA (Next to the Galvin Middle School). The center is handicapped accessible.

The Wakefield Choral Society is comprised of amateur voices from Wakefield and nearby towns. The chorus and the Middlesex Concert Band present a winter pops and a spring pops concert annually. The chorus also participates in Wakefield's Veterans' Day ceremonies. Membership is open to anyone who enjoys singing and can carry a tune; the group happily combines all levels of singing ability. Rehearsals are held weekly September to May on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm in the Music Room of Wakefield

High School. The first three rehearsals of each season are considered “open rehearsals”. They offer an opportunity for newcomers to decide if they want to join before paying the membership fee for the season. For more information see www.wakefieldchoralsociety.org.

With over 60 performers, the Middlesex Concert Band of Wakefield, Massachusetts has a rich symphonic sound. The repertoire includes traditional and contemporary wind ensemble music, marches, big band sounds, folk tunes and music from Broadway and Hollywood. From September to May, the Middlesex Concert Band presents a series of pops and holiday concerts. During the summer months, the band can be heard playing traditional outdoor concerts in town parks and commons throughout the region. Visit www.mcbconcertband.org for more information.