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Libraries Get Grant To Help Kids "Make A Splash – Read!"

By Diane Rice
Andover Libraries Trustee

The Trustees of the Andover Libraries are delighted to announce that the Andover Public Library has been notified that it is the recipient of a Kids, Books, and the Arts grant. Kids, Books, and the Arts is a project of the New Hampshire State Library in cooperation with CHILIS, the Children's Librarians section of the New Hampshire Library Association.

The stated objectives of the program are several:

- to help promote the participation of children and their families in the New Hampshire Summer Reading Program
- to encourage arts programming in the community
- to introduce library audiences to a variety of art forms
- to strengthen the partnership between the arts community and the public libraries

The New Hampshire State Library has chosen as it 2010 summer theme "Make a Splash – Read" and that's just what will be happening here in Andover at the Andover Public Library.

John Porcino, a well-known storyteller and musician from Amherst, Massachusetts, will be featured as the opening event of this year's Summer Reading Program at the Andover Public Library. His performance will feature a celebration of stories and songs brought to life with musical instruments from around the world as well as playful touches of audience participation. It is guaranteed to be fun for audiences of all ages.

So stay tuned for the date, which will be publicized soon, mark your calendars, and look forward to this special summertime program as our Summer Reading Program gets underway in July.

Pemigewasset Choral Society

The 130-voice regional chorus of central New Hampshire concludes its season with its annual spring concert. *America the Beautiful* will be performed by the Pemigewasset Choral Society at three Lakes Region locations. The first concert will be performed at Our Lady of the Lakes Church in Lakeport on Thursday, May 6, at 7:30 PM. The second performance will be at St. Paul's Church in Franklin, on Friday, May 7, at 7:30 PM. The final concert will be performed in the Hanaway Theatre at Plymouth State University (PSU) campus on Sunday, May 9, at 3 PM.

All concerts are open to the public, and admission is by donation at the Lakeport and Franklin venues. Tickets are $10 each ($5 for seniors and students) for the Plymouth performance and may be purchased in advanced through the PSU Silver Center Box Office or by calling 535-ARTS. Early purchase is recommended.

Featured guest soloists PSU students Jennifer Fijal and Danny Brevik will perform two selections with the chorus: the English version of the Czech-Slovak folksong, *Waters Ripple and Flow (Tece Voda, Tece),* and *Deep River*. Both participated in the 2009 summer competition in Salzburg, Austria where they were awarded second place recital in the international Mirabel Concert.

Other soloists selected from the chorus include Margo Coolidge of Andover, Dan Bowers, Kathryn Bossey, Steven Richmond, Jacob Ross, Jonathan Ross, and Alex Soroka. Assistant piano accompanist is Leslie McDonnell.

The choral group will perform selections that span four centuries of music. Commenting on what inspired the title and musical program, conductor Dr. Robert F. Swift stated, "With the country facing so many challenges, a reminder of what we can celebrate and for which we can feel pride and gratitude was timely and needed."

The variety of compositions parallels the diversity of our great nation, its people, cultures, and religious traditions, and its quest for liberty proclaimed in the immigration anthem *Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor,* by Irving Berlin as inscribed on the Statue of Liberty. William Billings' American Revolution war anthem *Chester* is one of the most popular soldier songs of that period. A stirring arrangement of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic,* an American abolitionist song, will be a highlight of the program.

The musical program will also feature traditional spirituals such as *I Hear a Voice A-Praying, Old Time Religion,* and *River in Judea. I'se the B'y (I is the Boy)* is a rollicking folksong and dance tune of Newfoundland anglers arranged by Dr. Swift. The American folk hymn *Saints Bound for Heaven* is a hymn drawn from William Walker's *Southern Harmony*, one of the most important published sources of American folk hymnody.

Contemporary compositions include Gwyneth Walker's *Sing On! (A Musical Toast),* Stephen Chatman's musical creation of the poem *Nature's Cry* by Tara Wohlberg, and the popular *Bless the Beasts and Children*, from the novel of the same title.

The chorus concludes its concert season under the direction of its conductor, Dr. Robert F. Swift, Professor of Music at Plymouth State University, and accompanied at the piano by Margot W. Swift, a former member of the music department faculty. For more information, visit PemiChoral.org.