



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 11-19-07

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**Add joy to your holidays at the
Nashua Symphony Orchestra & Chorus
HOLIDAY POPS CABARET**

Seasonal favorites in a cabaret setting

The Nashua Symphony Orchestra's 2007 | 08 season continues with a festive and glittery program on Sunday, December 9 at 4:00 p.m. at Nashua's Radisson Hotel. This year's "Holiday POPS Cabaret" is an event for the entire family, not to be missed!

Leading the performance will be conductor Robert Babb, a Nashua native; this performance marks his debut with the NSO. Mr. Babb and the NSA's Director of Choral Activities Diane Cushing have put together an afternoon of Christmas favorites including *Sleigh Ride*, *Winter Wonderland*, *Joy to the World*, *12 Days of Christmas*, and selections from *The Nutcracker*.

Ms. Cushing, who is herself an accomplished soprano, will join the Chorus and Orchestra as soloist for *O, Holy Night*.

Audiences last season raved about the cabaret-style seating, which allows patrons to enjoy food and beverages during the performance (in much the same way as the Boston Pops). Those attendees who do not elect to sit at tables can also enjoy refreshments at their seats. The atmosphere is friendly and celebratory – an afternoon to remember and a great kick-off to the Christmas season.

Robert C. Babb – guest conductor

Robert Babb has been a conductor, musician, and teacher in New England for more than 25 years. A co-founder of the Granite State Symphony Orchestra, Mr. Babb is in his fourteenth season as Conductor and Artistic Director. He is a graduate of Mansfield University and the New England Conservatory of Music, having studied in New York City and Paris with Leon Barzin, a protégé of Arturo Toscanini. He is now in his twenty-ninth season as conductor of the Southeastern Philharmonic Orchestra, one of the featured ensembles in WCRB's 2006 summer music series, "Concerts on the Esplanade".

Previously he has served as Musical Director and Conductor for the New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra, Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra, Actorsingers, New Hampshire Stage Company, Chelmsford Choral Society and the Souhegan Valley Chorus. In the spring of 1999, Mr. Babb became the first conductor residing in New Hampshire to conduct the New Hampshire High School All State Orchestra.

Diane Cushing – soprano soloist

Diane T. Cushing received her music education at Anna Maria College, where she earned the Bachelor Music Education degree. She went on to study conducting at Syracuse University under Dr. Rhonda Fleming as a graduate assistant, where she was Assistant Conductor to the Oratorio Society and directed the Syracuse Concert Choir. Diane earned a Master’s in Vocal Performance at Boston Conservatory, and has been heard as soloist with the MasterWorks Chorale of Boston, Boston Baroque, the Hamilton Baroque Ensemble, the Cape Cod Chorale, the Bach Society, the Neponsett Chorus, the Thayer Symphony Orchestra, the Assabet Valley Mastersingers and the Monadnock Chorus and Orchestra. She currently teaches voice at Assumption College and Keene State College, and is the Conductor of the Keene State College Choir. She is also the founder and director of the Greater Gardner Youth Choir and The Mount Wachusett Community Choir of Gardner, MA.

In her role as Director of Choral Activities for the NSA, Ms. Cushing leads the 80-voice [Nashua Symphony Chorus](#) and serves as Artistic Advisor to the Nashua Youth Choir, a collaboration between the NSA and the [Nashua Community Music School](#).

WHEN: SUNDAY, December 9 @ 4:00 p.m. – PLEASE NOTE SPECIAL TIME!

WHAT: Holiday POPS Cabaret
Robert Babb, conductor;
Nashua Symphony Orchestra & Chorus
Diane Cushing, *soprano; Director of Choral Activities*

An afternoon cabaret of holiday favorites, including *Sleigh Ride, Winter Wonderland, Joy to the World, 12 Days of Christmas*, and selections from *The Nutcracker*.

WHERE: Radisson Hotel, Tara Boulevard, Nashua NH.

Ticket Information

Tickets, priced from \$20 to \$50, are available at the Nashua Symphony Box Office, 6 Church St., can be charged to major credit cards by calling 603.595.9156 or can be purchased online at www.nashuasymphony.org. Discounts for seniors, students, and groups are available. Request a season brochure online, by phone, or via email to NSO@NashuaSymphony.org

