



...Because every child deserves a childhood

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LaGrange Church to Host Notre Dame Folk Choir Concert

LAGRANGEVILLE, NY—The Notre Dame Folk Choir, a 45-member student ensemble of vocalists and musicians, will appear in concert May 31 at Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Roman Catholic Church.

The concert is hosted by the Notre Dame Club of the Mid-Hudson Valley, Saint Kateri church, Astor Services for Children and Families, and Catholic Charities. Proceeds will benefit programs and services funded by the four organizations.

“Our organization is extremely pleased and excited to be bringing this talented group of young people to the mid-Hudson Valley,” said Les McCarthy, a Notre Dame Club member and a co-chair of the event.

The choir has been giving concerts throughout the United States, Canada and parts of Europe since 1988. The group is touring the Northeast this spring. Including a stop at a Catholic church in Newtown, Conn., where several of the families of victims of the Dec. 14, 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting were members.

The choir members will arrive in Dutchess County May 30, when they’ll tour the Culinary Institute of America. The visit will include some instruction by CIA students on how to make candy, and the group will give a short concert. On May 31, the choir will visit the Walkway Over the Hudson and give a short concert on the span before leaving for Saint Kateri Tekakwitha for the 7 p.m. concert.

A 6 p.m. VIP reception hosted by the concert committee at St. Kateri Parish will precede the concert. Steven McDonald, a former New York City police officer who was shot and paralyzed in the line of duty, will be among the dignitaries at the reception. In McDonald’s honor, all active or retired police officers will be admitted to the concert for free. Children under 5 are also free.

Choir Director Steven Warner said the group was looking forward to its performance.

“We’re going to be singing liturgical music from all over the globe, and we expect the audience to be singing along with us,” Warner said. “We’ll be presenting a wide spectrum of music in the Catholic Church. It’s not just Gregorian chants – it’s an eclectic sampling of how rich and vast Catholic music is.”

Astor executive vice president Sonia Barnes-Moorhead, said she was “delighted to be partnering” with the Notre Dame Club and Catholic Charities in hosting the concert.

“It will give our community an opportunity to experience the beautiful music of this choir, which travels the world to share their gift with others,” Barnes-Moorhead said.

Mary Marshall, director of Catholic Charities Community Services in the City of Poughkeepsie, said she was glad to be collaborating with Astor and the Notre Dame Club “to sponsor this rare opportunity to see the talented young people from the Notre Dame Folk Choir perform in our area.



“Each of our organizations serves families in the area in different ways,” Marshall said. “The staff of Catholic Charities provides case management, advocacy and immigration services for many families in the region, and proceeds from this concert will benefit them directly.”

Tickets for the concert, priced at \$25 each or four for \$80, may be obtained at Catholic Charities, 218 Church St., Poughkeepsie, weekdays from 9 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m.; the Children’s Foundation of Astor, 6369 Mill St., Rhinebeck, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; the St. Kateri Parish office, 1925 Route 82, Lagrangeville, weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Molloy’s Pharmacy, Route 9, Hyde Park, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tickets may also be purchased online at www.astorservices.org and through Les McCarthy at les@macdulac.com .

Since 1953, Astor Services for Children & Families (formerly The Astor Home for Children) has been providing behavioral and educational services in a caring environment where children and their families find strength, healing, hope and trust. Now serving over 6,000 children and families annually, Astor’s current range of services to families in the Mid-Hudson Valley and the Bronx include: Residential Treatment, Therapeutic Foster Family Care, Early Childhood Programs, and Community-Based Behavioral Health and Prevention Services. For additional information about Astor Services for Children & Families, please visit their website at www.astorservices.org or call Astor Services for Children & Families: Home for Children Foundation at (845) 871-1117.

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