

Village of Orland Park Media Relations

NEWSRelease

Frederick T. Owens Village Hall

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PHOTOS AVAILABLE
October 15, 2008

Village of Orland Park Arts Commission To Host DIY "Messiah" Fifth Third Bank Co-Sponsoring Orland Park Holiday Tradition

ORLAND PARK, IL – Handel's "Messiah" is returning to Orland Park. On Sunday, December 7, at 4:00 p.m., the Village of Orland Park and Fifth Third Bank will present Orland Park's third annual "Do It Yourself Messiah" in the Carl Sandburg High School Performing Arts Center, 13300 South LaGrange Road.

George Frederic Handel composed The Messiah in 1741 as a large scale piece for an orchestra, chorus and soloists. It was originally created as an Easter oratorio but has become more popularly associated with the Christmas holiday season. The "do it yourself" part began in a rural England church more than 30 years ago.

"Orland Park's 'Do It Yourself Messiah' is an exciting event for the commission and the community," said Arts Commissioner Colleen Panega, adding, "We're grateful to the village and to Fifth Third Bank for making this wonderful event possible."

"What began three years ago as a Village of Orland Park debut is now a tradition," said Commissioner Bette Schieber. "It's the perfect way to celebrate the season right in our own backyard with professional soloists and a professional orchestra at a minimal cost with free parking," she added.

The performance will again be directed by Willard Thomen, a veteran of community Messiahs. Thomen will conduct a full orchestra and the four featured soloists, Soprano Sharon Quattrin, Alto Virginia Ebner, Tenor Drew Duncan and Baritone Frank DeVincentis.

"Willard Thomen is a passionate and engaging conductor and has both command and warmth at the podium," Schieber said. "By the 'Hallelujah Chorus', just about everyone is singing along," Schieber said. "Everyone is welcome – singers and non-singers alike. You may be prepared to sing out in full voice or simply enjoy the sounds of a musical masterpiece in live surround sound," she said.

Tickets for Orland Park's Do It Yourself Messiah are currently being sold at Orland Park's Frederick T. Owens Village Hall at 14700 South Ravinia Avenue; the Franklin E. Loebe Recreation Center at 14650 South Ravinia Avenue and at the Orland Park Sportsplex at 11351 West 159th Street.

Village offices are open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Cashier's Office at the Village Hall is also open on Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Saturday office hours at the Sportsplex are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Adult tickets are \$10.00 each and \$8.00 for students and seniors. Musical scores, which are \$8.00 each, are available for purchase at the ticket locations and will be available for purchase at the door.

Schieber added, "After last year's performance, we received a thank you from a woman whose father sat next to her with tears in his eyes when he said it was 'the most wonderful and beautiful beginning to the holidays'."

Further information is available by calling the Village Hall at 403-6140.

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The Village of Orland Park's Arts Commission, in cooperation with Fifth Third Bank, will present the community's third annual Do-It-Yourself Messiah on Sunday, December 7 at 4:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at Carl Sandburg High School. Further information is available by calling the Village Hall at 708/403-6140.