



By Laura Kotti.

***Palmetto Chamber Orchestra* presents holiday concert**

COLUMBIA CELEBRATES!

With the holiday season in full swing, the ***Palmetto Chamber Orchestra*** is returning this month for their fourth annual holiday concert, *Columbia Celebrates!*

Truly, in the spirit of the season, the orchestra will perform this concert as an act of giving. The concert will be recorded live, and it will be available for streaming on December 20 on the Richland Library Main Facebook page. The concert will be free and will feature guest artists Patrick Hawkins on organ and the *Incarnation Ringers*, a hand bell ensemble based at the Incarnation Lutheran Church.

The orchestra has been on a long hiatus due to the impact of the global pandemic. Since February, there have been no rehearsals, performances, or gatherings of any kind. However, Artistic and Music Director Suzanna Pavlovsky felt the dire circumstances of the pandemic necessitated a holiday concert even more than in years past. When she contacted the musicians, almost all of them leapt at the opportunity to practice and perform again--in person.

The first rehearsal was a moment of joy for all of the musicians involved. Having the opportunity to perform again and in person felt like a gift in itself; in return, PCO will provide this concert as a gift to all who are affected by the pandemic while the Columbia community faces the end of a tumultuous and traumatizing year. All musicians involved with PCO hope this

concert will bring some much-needed holiday cheer to the community, particularly because the concert will be filmed live.

Without relying on Zoom or other video communications software, the **Palmetto Chamber Orchestra** will gather together while following strict CDC guidelines. One advantage the chamber group has as string players is the ability to perform while wearing masks. Maestra Pavlovsky has enforced strict social distancing protocols, including the wearing of masks at all times, all musicians performing with social distancing, and only one musician per stand.

The program includes four pieces that embody the holiday spirit and bring happiness to the audience. Scott Joplin's Ragtime classic "The Entertainer" will open the performance, providing a bright and cheerful opening. An orchestral take on Lady Gaga's smash hit "Bad Romance", "Lady Gaga Fugue" will follow, bringing both, Baroque sensibility as well as infusion with a modern pop flavor. The concert will conclude with two pieces from the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, "Wizards of Winter" and "Mad Russian's Christmas."

In all, the event promises to be a warm and merry offering to the community. The **Palmetto Chamber Orchestra** wishes to see you there! Happy Holidays!