

**For timely release by April 26, 2024**

For further information, please contact:

Susan Nash: [press@cantemus.org](mailto:press@cantemus.org) or 978-476-0325

### **Cantemus Declares “love is love is love”**

On Mother’s Day weekend, May 11 and 12, the Cantemus Chamber Chorus will explore four types of love in a concert titled “love is love is love.” Under Artistic Director Jason Iannuzzi, the 38 members will sing of love among friends, between lovers, between parent and child, and love for all humankind.

Iannuzzi chose the theme and the title after reading Lin-Manuel Miranda’s 2016 Tony Award acceptance speech for his musical “Hamilton.” Delivered the day after a mass shooting at a nightclub in Florida, Miranda wrote “...love is love is love... [It] cannot be killed or swept aside.... Now fill the world with music, love and pride.”

Cantemus’ program mixes modern arrangements of traditional songs with tender songs by such well-known composers as Pablo Casals and Eric Whitacre. Cantemus accompanist Jeffrey Mead will be joined on the piano bench by Cantemus member Patty Clark while the singers perform four humorous favorites by P.D.Q. Bach. Cantemus singers Jeremy Satchell and Byron Winn will be featured in Leonard Bernstein’s moving “To What You Said,” with text by Walt Whitman.

Guest soloist Varun Sasisekharan, baritone, will be featured in a rousing musical adaptation of a West African proverb. The chorus will sing composer Linthicum-

Blackhorse's arrangement of a Lakota lullaby, which he dedicated to the victims of the 2022 mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

Iannuzzi explained, "We live in an incredibly divisive time – hatred often underscores our national politics, acts of unthinkable violence regularly fill the airwaves, and armed conflicts around the world threaten the cause of freedom and tear families apart.

"As an antidote, this evening's program exalts LOVE in all its forms."

Cantemus will perform "love is love is love" at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Beverly on Saturday, May 11 at 7:30pm, and at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Newburyport on Sunday, May 12 at 4:00pm. For more information about the program and to purchase tickets, visit [www.cantemus.org/concerts](http://www.cantemus.org/concerts). Tickets may be also be purchased at the door.

Cantemus gratefully acknowledges funding support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and from the Local Cultural Councils of Amesbury, Boxford, Essex, Ipswich, Marblehead, Newbury, and Newburyport. Cantemus participates in the Card to Culture program, a Mass Cultural Council initiative that offers reduced-price tickets to card holders.

Cantemus is a member of Chorus America; MASSCreative.org; and the Greater Boston Choral Consortium, a cooperative association of diverse choral groups in Boston and the surrounding area.

**Cantemus members come from across the North Shore and New Hampshire:**

**Amesbury:** Gary Lubarsky, Ron Pressler. **Beverly:** Paul Kelly, Karen Kepler, Richard Salandrea, Marjorie Short, Braden Willenbrock\*. **Bradford:** Mern Ebinger. **Danvers:** Carrie Evanchik. **Essex:** Betsy Vicksell. **Georgetown:** Patty Clark. **Gloucester:** Roger

Garberg, Ed Mowrey. **Hamilton:** Pamela Morris, Andrea Welty Peachey. **Haverhill:** Doug Guy. **Ipswich:** Anne Maguire, Stephen Miles, Chris Reif. **Lexington:** Izzy Baron\*, Deniz Dokmecioglu\*, Artistic Director Jason Iannuzzi. **Manchester:** Isabella Bates, Caroline Royer, Byron Winn. **Melrose:** Accompanist Jeffrey Mead. **Newburyport:** Richard Blumenscheid, Claire Cayot, Ann Harter. **North Reading:** Priscilla March. **Rockport:** Brittany Betts. **Roslindale:** Deborah Lemont. **Wenham:** Jeremy Satchell. **West Newbury:** Melissa Lugo, Susan Nash. **Durham, NH:** Sydney van Asselt.

\* Cantemus Choral Interns from Beverly High School and Lexington High School

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