

NET Radio Offers Special Holiday Programs

LINCOLN, Neb. (Dec. 5, 2007) -- Whether you're in the car, trimming the tree, wrapping packages or preparing the feast, you'll enjoy your holidays even more listening to seasonal music on NET Radio. In addition to holiday favorites as part of our regular schedule, NET Radio will offer the following special programs.

Saturday, Dec. 8 --

-- "Jazz Piano Christmas XVIII" 8-9 p.m. CT

Live from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, this year's edition of one of NPR's most popular programs mixes established jazz stars with promising newcomers to offer original and unique jazz interpretations of holiday favorites.

-- "A Hipster's Holiday & An Island Christmas" 9-11 p.m. CT

David Hughes offers up some decidedly laid-back and rhythmic holiday tunes.

Sunday, Dec. 9 --

-- "Nebraska Concerts: Abendmusik's *Messiah*" 2-4 p.m. CT

From last year's Abendmusik: Lincoln season comes a Baroque-inspired performance of Handel's "Messiah." Abendmusik creative director and concert conductor John Cummins led the Abendmusik Chorus and Chamber Orchestra in a performance a reviewer called "impeccable." Soloists included soprano Emily Albrink, countertenor John Bradford Bohl, tenor Kevin Hanrahan and bass-baritone Jeff Keele.

-- "Happy Joyous Hannukah" 6-7 p.m.

A concert from the New York City-based 2006 Grammy-award-winning band, the Klezmatics.

-- "The Verge: Hanukkah with a Twist" 7-9 p.m. CT

Music for Hanukkah played on the theremin, four cellos, native American flute and more.

Friday, Dec. 14 -- "Concordia College Christmas Concert" 10:05-11:05 a.m. CT

With a choir and orchestra of over 400, the Concordia College Christmas concert attracts capacity crowds from all faiths to celebrate the season and the promise it holds.

Saturday, Dec. 15 --

-- "Jazz Piano Christmas XVII" 8-9 p.m. CT

This encore offering of last year's concert from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts features performances from New Orleans keyboard legend Allen Toussaint, 2006 Thelonious Monk Jazz Competition award winner Tigran Hamasyan and many more.

-- "A Jazzy Christmas/A Brave Combo & Blues Christmas" 9-11 p.m. CT

More jazz and blues holiday tunes from David Hughes, with a bit of polka added.

Sunday, Dec. 16 -- "Nebraska Concerts: Lincoln Early Music" 2-4 p.m. CT

This holiday concert features Lincoln-based early music vocal ensemble Dulces Voces and the Lincoln Early Music Consort as they perform a program entitled "A Spotless Rose."

Thursday, Dec. 20 -- "A Chanticleer Christmas" 2-3 p.m. CT

The twelve men of Chanticleer perform with impeccable taste and captivating style.

Friday, Dec. 21 -- "Christmas Around the Country" 10:05-11:05 a.m. CT

The best of holiday music-making from coast to coast.

Saturday, Dec. 22

-- "A Charlie Brown and Charles Brown Christmas & A Rockin' Roots & Blues Christmas" 8-11 p.m. CT

-- "Blind Boys of Alabama Christmas Show" 11 p.m.-midnight CT

This legendary gospel group offers their own take on holiday classics.

Sunday, Dec. 23 --

-- "Nebraska Concerts: Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert" 2-4 p.m. CT

Recorded earlier in December, the concert features the LSO Honor Choir of selected high school students and includes Bach's "Magnificat" and other holiday favorites from Rimsky-Korsakov's "Dance of the Tumblers" to Guaraldi's "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

-- "Tinsel Tales: NPR Christmas Favorites" 6-7 p.m. CT

Stories from the NPR archives that touch on the meaning of Christmas. David Sedaris, Bailey White, John Henry Faulk and many more tell stories of the season.

-- "Peter Ostroushko's Heartland Holiday" 7-8 p.m. CT

Ostroushko is a master fiddler, mandolin and guitar player, and his musical journey features traditional and ancient carols from a multi-cultural perspective.

-- "The Verge: Classical Crossover Christmas" 8-9 p.m. CT

Monday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Day --

-- "A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols" 9-10:30 a.m. CT (Live from Cambridge, England, times approx.)

Hear a live broadcast from the chapel of King's College in Cambridge, England. Michael Barone hosts the exclusive broadcast of the legendary Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols service of Biblical readings and music as performed by the King's College Choir.

-- "St. Olaf Christmas Festival" 1-3 p.m. CT

One of the nation's most cherished holiday celebrations, the St. Olaf Christmas Festival is a service in song and word featuring more than 500 student musicians. The broadcast includes hymns, carols, choral works and orchestral selections celebrating the Nativity.

Tuesday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day --

-- **"Welcome Christmas!" 11 a.m.-noon CT** The Minneapolis-based ensemble VocalEssence ("A Prairie Home Companion" favorite) offers a tribute to English composer Sir Richard Rodney Bennett, along with favorite carols old and new.

-- **"Echoes of Christmas" 2-3 p.m. CT**

Dale Warland, director of the acclaimed Dale Warland Singers, hosts a celebration of Christmas choral music new and old, drawing from more than twenty years of concerts by his Singers.

Saturday, Dec. 29 -- "A New Year's Eve Eve Eve Jazz Party" 8 p.m.-midnight CT

Dave Hughes offers jazz and blues for the new year a few days early.

Sunday, Dec. 30 -- "The Verge: Classical Crossover New Year's Celebration" 7-9 p.m. CT

Tuesday, Jan. 1, New Year's Day -- "New Year's Day from Vienna" 10 a.m.-noon CT

Public radio takes you direct to the Golden Hall of the Musikverein in Vienna for the most popular classical music concert in the world, the Vienna Philharmonic New Year's Day concert.

For more information about NET Radio or to listen to NET Radio programming Webcast live, visit NET Radio's homepage. All that is needed is access to the Internet and a free RealPlayer program. Webcasting of NET Radio is a free service provided by NET (Nebraska Educational Telecommunications).

RELEASE WRITTEN BY: Deb Miller, (402) 472-9333, ext. 353, or e-mail at debmiller@netNebraska.org

NET Radio:

Broadcasts on the following frequencies: Alliance/91.1 FM; Bassett/90.3 FM; Chadron/91.9 FM; Columbus/90.3 FM; Culbertson/92.7 FM; Falls City/91.7 FM; Harrison/89.5 FM; Hastings/Grand Island/89.1 FM; Lexington/88.7 FM; Lincoln/91.1 FM; Max/93.3 FM; Merriman/91.5 FM; Norfolk/89.3 FM; and North Platte/91.7 FM