



St. Cecilia Chamber Choir

Linda Blanchard, Conductor Sean Fleming, Organist

Give ear to our voices

Spring 2010

Music by Charles Stanford Herbert Howells
William Harris Ralph Vaughan Williams Conrad Susa
and two new works by **Richard Francis**

Saturday, April 10 at 3:00 PM
Bowdoin College Chapel Brunswick, Maine

Sunday, April 11 at 3:00 PM
Second Congregational Church Newcastle, Maine

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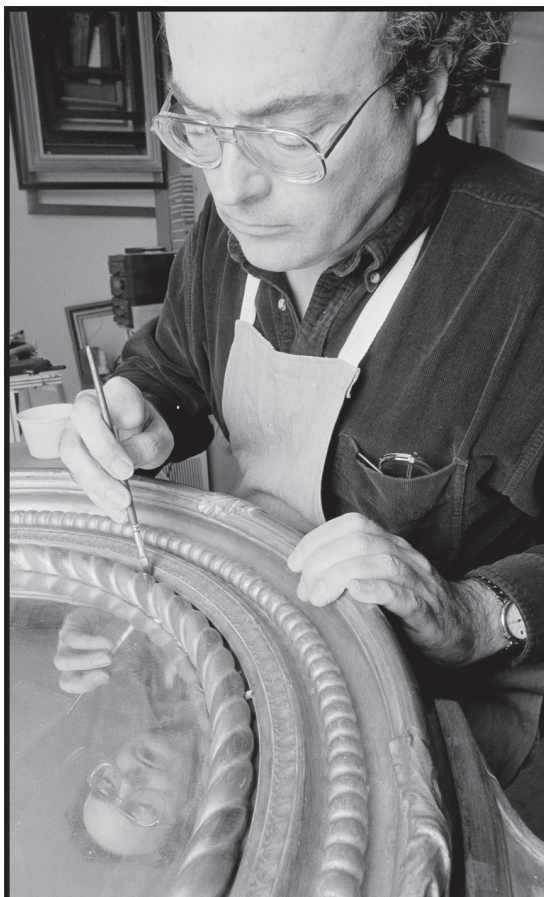
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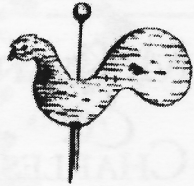
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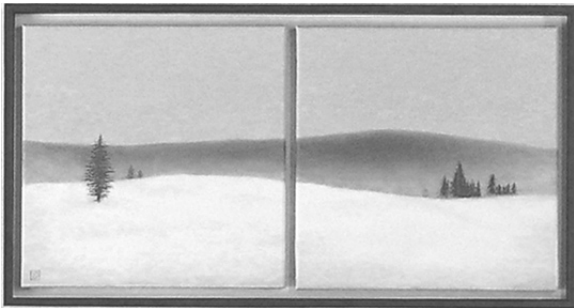


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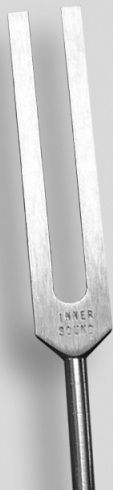
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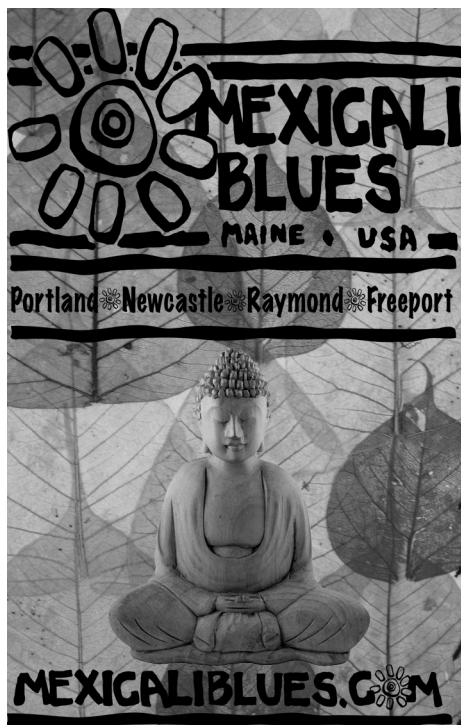
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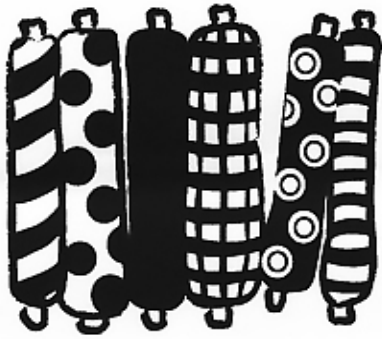
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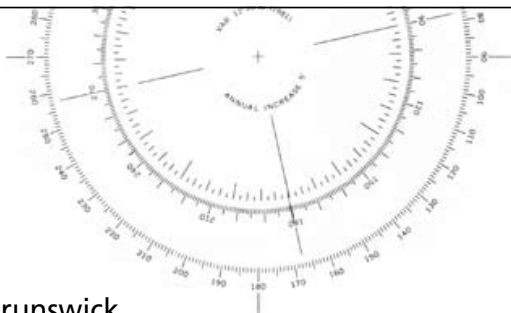
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St. Cecilia Chamber Choir

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Celebrate Winter Delights!

Friday, December 10 at 7:30 PM
Second Congregational Church, Newcastle

Saturday, December 11 at 3:00 PM
Bowdoin College Chapel, Brunswick

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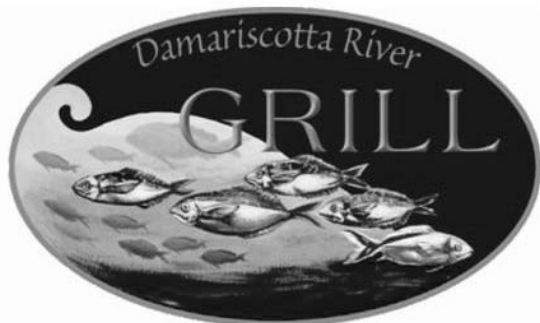
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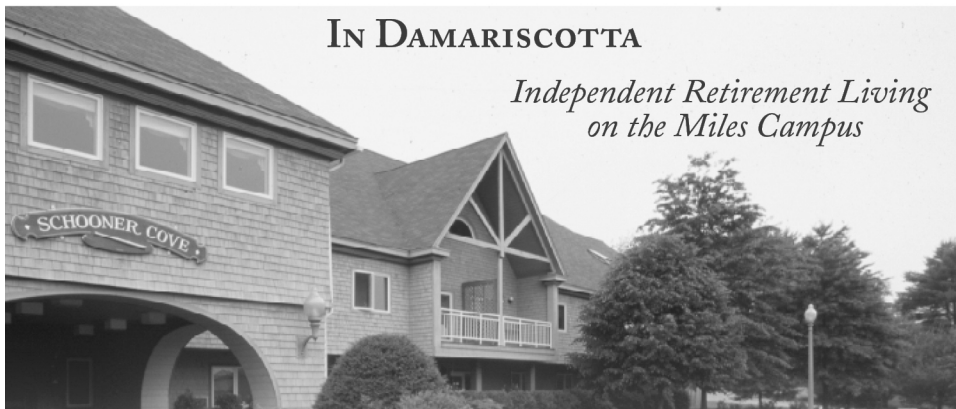
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St. Cecilia Chamber Choir
Give Ear to Our Voices

April 10, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. • Bowdoin College Chapel, Brunswick
April 11, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. • Second Congregational Church, Newcastle

Easter Hymn Richard Francis
b. 1969

Sequence for St. Michael Herbert Howells
(1892-1983)

Richard Francis, tenor
Ruth Monsell, soprano

Faire is the Heaven William H. Harris
(1883-1973)

Magnificat Conrad Susa
b. 1935

Let the People Praise Thee, O God William Mathias
(1934-1992)

Intermission

Sailing at Dawn, from *Songs of the Fleet* Charles Villiers Stanford
(1852-1924)

Richard Francis, tenor

Ward, the Pirate English folksong, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

O Swallow, Swallow Gustav Holst
(1874-1934)

Linden Lea Vaughan Williams

My Love's an Arbutus Irish melody, arr. Stanford

i thank You God for most this amazing day Todd N. Monsell
b.1976

For Winter's Rains and Ruins are Over Richard Francis

Easter Hymn

If in that Syrian garden, ages slain,
You sleep, and know not you are dead in vain,
Nor even in dreams behold how dark and bright
Ascends in smoke and fire by day and night
The hate you died to quench and could but fan,
Sleep well and see no morning, son of man.

But if, the grave rent and the stone rolled by,
At the right hand of majesty on high
You sit, and sitting so remember yet
Your tears, your agony and bloody sweat,
Your cross and passion and the life you gave,
Bow hither out of heaven and see and save.

— A. E. Houseman (1859-1936)



Image by seikinsou

Sequence for St. Michael

Michael, Archangel of the King of Kings,
Give ear to our voices.
We acknowledge thee to be the Prince of the citizens of heaven:
And at thy prayer God sends His angels unto men
That the enemy with cunning craft shall not prevail
To do the hurt he craves to weary men.
Yea, thou hast the dominion of perpetual Paradise.
And ever do the holy angels honour thee.

Thou wast seen in the Temple of God,
A censer of gold in thy hands
And the smoke of it fragrant with spices
Rose up till it came before God.

Thou with strong hand didst smite the cruel dragon
And many souls didst rescue from his jaws.
Then was there a great silence in heav'n,
And a thousand thousand saying
Glory to the Lord King.

Hear us, Michael, Greatest angel,
Come down a little from thy high seat,
To bring us the strength of God
And the lightening of His mercy.
And do thou, Gabriel, lay low our foes.
And thou, Raphael, heal our sick,
Purge our disease, ease thou our pain,
And give us to share in the joys of the blessed.

— Alcuin of York (c. 735-804). Written for the Emperor Charles.

Faire Is the Heaven

Faire is the heaven where happy soules have place
In full enjoyment of felicitie;
Whence they do still behold the glorious face
Of the Divine, Eternall Majestie;

Yet farre more faire be those bright Cherubins
Which all with golden wings are overdight.
And those eternall burning Seraphins
Which from their faces dart out fiery light;

Yet fairer than they both and much more bright
Be the Angels and Archangels
Which attend on God's owne person without rest or end.
These then in faire each other farre excelling
As to the Highest they approach more neare,
Yet is that Highest farre beyond all telling

Fairer than all the rest which there appeare
Though all their beauties joynd together were;
How then can mortal tongue hope to expresse
The image of such endlesse perfectnesse?

— Edmund Spencer (c. 1552-1599)

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord.
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me;
And holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear them,
Throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm;
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
And hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things;
And the rich he hath sent empty away.
He rememb'ring his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel;
As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end,
Amen.

— Book of Luke I: 46-55



Botticelli - Madonna of the Magnificat



Let the People Praise Thee, O God

Let the people praise thee, O God, yea: let all the people praise thee.
O let the nations rejoice and be glad,
For thou shalt judge the folk righteously,
And govern the nations upon earth.

Let the people praise thee, O God, yea: let all the people praise thee.
Then shall the earth bring forth her increase,
And God, even our own God, shall give us blessing.
God shall bless us; and all the ends of the world shall fear him.

God be merciful unto us, and bless us,
And shew us the light of his countenance,
And be merciful unto us.
That thy way may be known upon earth;
Thy saving health among all nations.

Let all the people praise thee, O God, yea: let all the people praise thee.
O let the nations rejoice and be glad.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be;
World without end,
Amen.

Sailing at Dawn (*from Songs of the Fleet*)

One by one the pale stars die before the day now,
One by one the great ships are stirring from their sleep,
Cables all are rumbling, anchors all a-weigh now,
Now the fleet's a fleet again, gliding towards the deep.

Now the fleet's a fleet again, bound upon the old ways,
Splendour of the past comes shining in the spray;
Admirals of old time, bring us on the bold ways!
Souls of all the seadogs, lead the line today!

Far away behind us town and tower are dwindling,
Home becomes a fair dream faded long ago;
Infinitely glorious the height of heav'n is kindling,
Infinitely desolate the shoreless sea below.

Now the fleet's a fleet again, bound upon the old ways,
Splendour of the past comes shining in the spray;
Admirals of old time, bring us on the bold ways!
Souls of all the seadogs, lead the line today!

Once again with proud hearts we make the old surrender,
Once again with high hearts serve the age to be,
Not for us the warm life of Earth, secure and tender,
Ours th'eternal wandering and warfare of the sea.

Now the fleet's a fleet again, bound upon the old ways,
Splendour of the past comes shining in the spray;
Admirals of old time, bring us on the bold ways!
Souls of all the seadogs, lead the line today!



— Henry Newbolt (1862-1938)

Ward the Pirate

Come all you gallant seamen bold, all you that march to drum,
Let's go and look for Captain Ward, far on the sea he roams;
He is the biggest robber that ever you did hear,
There's not been such a robber found for above this hundred year.

A ship was sailing from the east and going to the west
Loaded with silks and satins and velvets of the best
But meeting there with Captain Ward, it proved a bad meeting;
He robbed them of all their wealth and bid them tell their king.

O then the king provided a ship of noble fame
She's called the Royal Rainbow if you would know her name;
She was as well provided for as any ship could be --
Full thirteen hundred men on-board to bear her company.

'Twas eight o'clock in the morning when they began to fight
And so they did continue there 'til nine o'clock at night.
"Fight on, fight on", says Captain Ward, "This spot well pleases me.
For if you fight this month or more, your master will I be."

O then the brilliant Rainbow she fired, she fired in vain,
'Til six and thirty of her men on the deck were slain.
"Go home, go home" says Captain Ward, "and tell your king for me
If he reigns king on all the land, Ward will reign king on sea."

— Traditional English Folksong



O Swallow, Swallow

O Swallow, Swallow flying, flying South,
Fly to her and fall upon her gilded eaves,
And tell her, tell her what I tell to thee.

O tell her, Swallow, thou that knowest each,
That bright and fierce and fickle is the South.
And dark and true and tender is the North.

O tell her, Swallow, that thy brood is flown:
Say to her, I do but wanton in the South,
But in the North long since my nest is made.

O tell her, brief is life, but love is long,
And brief the sun of summer in the North,
And brief the moon of beauty in the South.

O Swallow, flying from the golden woods,
Fly to her, and pipe and woo her, and make her mine,
And tell her, tell her that I follow thee.

— from the poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

Linden Lea

Within the woodlands, flow'ry gladed,
By the oak trees' mossy moot,
The shining grass blades, timber shaded,
Now do quiver under foot;
And birds do whistle over head,
And water's bubbling in its bed;
And there for me, the apple tree
Do lean down low in Linden Lea.

When leaves, that lately were a-springing,
Now do fade within the copse,
And painted birds do hush their singing,
Up upon the timber tops;
And brown leav'd fruits a-turning red,
In cloudless sunshine overhead,
With fruits for me the apple tree
Do lean down low in Linden Lea.

Let other folk make money faster,
In the air of dark-room'd towns;
I don't dread a peevish master,
Tho' no man may heed my frowns.
I be free to go abroad,
Or take again my homeward road,
To where, for me, the apple tree
Do lean down low in Linden Lea.



— Traditional English Folksong

My Love's an Arbutus

My love's an arbutus
By the borders of Lene,
So slender and shapely
In her girdle of green.
And I measure the pleasure
Of her eye's sapphire sheen
By the blue skies that sparkle
Through the soft branching screen.

But though ruddy the berry
And snowy the flower
That brighten together
The arbutus bower,
Perfuming and blooming

Through sunshine and shower,
Give me her bright lips
And her laugh's pearly dower.

Alas, fruit and blossom
Shall lie dead on the lea,
And Time's jealous fingers
Dim your young charms, Machree.
But unchanging, unchanging,
You'll still cling to me,
Like the evergreen leaf
To the arbutus tree.

— Alfred Perceval Graves (1846-1931)

i thank You God for most this amazing day

i thank You God for most this amazing
day:for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky;and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday;this is the birth
day of life and love and wings:and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any--lifted from the no
of all nothing--human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

— e. e. cummings

For Winter's Rains and Ruins Are Over

For winter's rains and ruins are over,
And all the season of snows and sins;
The days dividing lover and lover,
The light that loses, the night that wins;
And time remembered is grief forgotten,
And frosts are slain and flowers begotten,
And in green underwood and cover
Blossom by blossom the spring begins.

— Algernon Charles Swinburne (1837-1909)

St Cecilia Chamber Choir Board of Directors

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Judy Falconer, Sean Fleming, Sidney Harvey,
Kit Hayden, Pam Van Siclen

Composer Richard Francis (b. 1969) received his bachelors degree from



Bowdoin College, and his Masters from the University of Michigan. Born and raised in New York city, he fell in love with Maine while attending Bowdoin. After spending some years working in New York and Florida, he decided not to wait for retirement and moved to Maine. He is a freelance cellist and recording engineer and teaches in Bristol and Freeport, in addition to his work as a composer. He and his wife live in the house in

Damariscotta that they just completed building themselves this year.

Commissions have come from the Bangor Symphony, Portland Choral Arts Society, the American Guild of Organists, St. Andrews Church, St. Cecilia Chamber Choir, and private patrons. He has written numerous chamber works as well orchestral, band, and choral works. His teachers have included Elliot Schwartz, William Bolcom, Michael Daugherty, Stephen Albert, Leslie Bassett, and, most importantly, the 10,000 recordings in his studio.

Composer Todd Monsell, (b. 1976) is son of Ruth Monsell of our soprano



section. He holds degrees from Hamilton College and the University of New Hampshire. He is currently Director of Music at St. John's Lutheran Church, in Charleston, South Carolina, where he serves as Organist and leads the St. John Chorale and Handbell Choir. He is also the Lower School music teacher at the Porter-Gaud School, where he teaches third through fifth grade music and

directs the 104-voice Lower School Choir. Additionally Todd is director of the Charleston Children's Chorus.

Founding Director Linda Blanchard also directs the Sheepscot Valley Chorus,



is Director of Choirs at St. Andrew's Church, Newcastle, and prepares the chorus for the Conductors Retreat at Medomak. She has directed the Bowdoin College Chamber Choir, University of Michigan Residential College Choirs and Orpheus Singers, worked in Maine and Michigan as a church organist and choir director, taught junior high and high school chorus in Maine, taught voice at Bowdoin College, and worked extensively as a musical theater director. Ms. Blanchard earned

her MA in Conducting from University of Michigan School of Music, Ann Arbor, and her BA in Music from Bowdoin College. She is recipient of the Susan Winchell Burnett Music Prize and the Abraham Goldberg Prize for Directing. She studied orchestral conducting with Gustav Meier and Zae Munn, and choral conducting with Theodore Morrison, Jerry Blackstone, and Robert Greenlee.

Organist Sean Fleming has been active as an organist, pianist, accompanist and



music director throughout Maine, New Hampshire, Michigan and Ohio. In addition to St. Cecilia Chamber Choir, he accompanies Sheepscot Valley Chorus, Lincoln Arts Festival Chorus, Bowdoin Chorus, Coastal Chorale, and Tapestry Singers. He has worked with the Ann Arbor Camerata, Bowdoin College Chamber Choir, Bowdoin Summer Music Festival Chorus, Downeast Singers, Oratorio Chorale, University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society, and

University of Southern Maine Chorale and Chamber Singers. Mr. Fleming has performed as accompanist in recitals at Bates College, Bowdoin College, Colby College, Round Top Center for the Arts, University of Southern Maine, University of Michigan School of Music, and many other venues. He has been music director or accompanist for over fifty theatrical productions. Mr. Fleming has performed as an organ recitalist in Maine, Michigan and New Hampshire. He serves as organist at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Newcastle, and teaches clarinet, euphonium, organ, piano, saxophone and tuba. He studied organ with Ray Cornils, John Doney, Michael Lindsey, and Gerald McGee, and piano with Michael Lindsey.

In Memoriam

Betsy Greene

Paula Brown Green 1943-2010

Joozie ... So Krishna, as when he advised Arjuna.

Mom ... Still fondly remembered by many

Madeleine and John Reid

St. Cecilia Chamber Choir

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The Mission of the St. Cecilia Chamber Choir is:

To present outstanding performances of the very **best choral repertoire**;
To provide challenging musical **opportunities for gifted local youth**;
To support our community with **outreach programs**; and
To **support Maine composers** through the commissioning of new music.

Since the Choir's inception, **seventeen gifted young students** have sung with us, many continuing to study music in college and beyond.

Community outreach concerts have benefited the Damariscotta Baptist Church Steeple Fund, the Great Salt Bay School lunch program, Skidompha Library, Round Top Center for the Arts, the Kennedy Leadership Center at Kieve, the historic Old German Church in Waldoboro, the historic St. John's Church in Dresden, and the Waldo Theater.

To date, we have performed **sixteen new works by four Maine composers**, ten of which were especially composed for the Choir.

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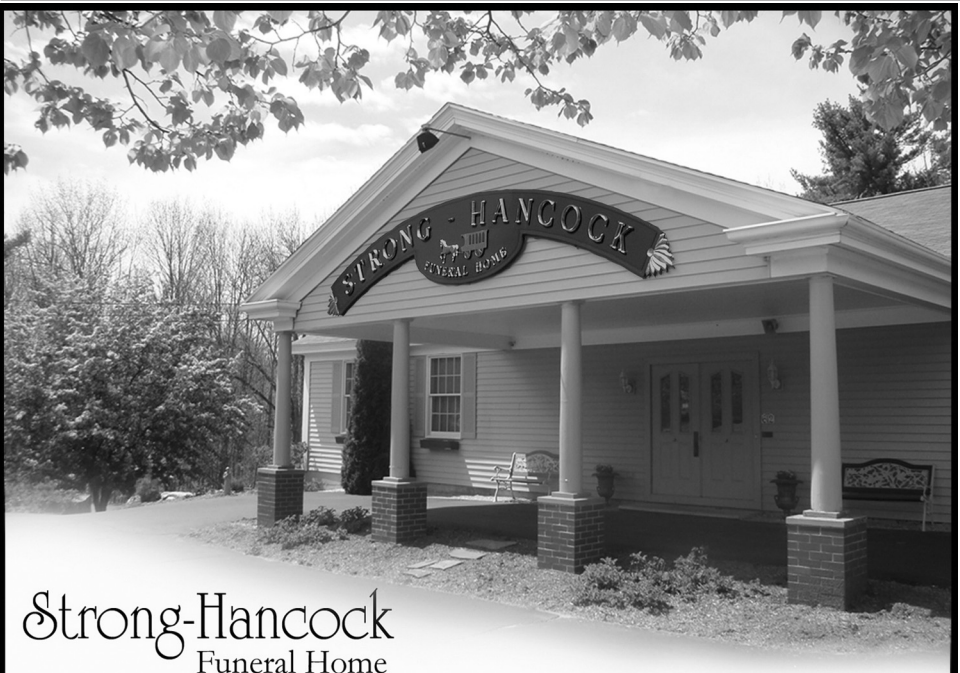


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11/7, 1/9, 3/6, 4/17, 6/5**

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11/8**

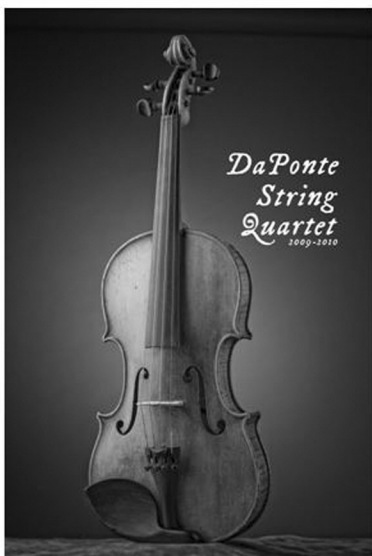
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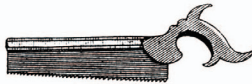
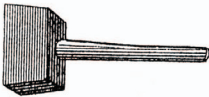
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