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**The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia Joins The Joybells of Melmark
for a New CD and Free Holiday Concerts at The Kimmel Center on December 7**

PHILADELPHIA, PA – The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, a founding resident company of The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, will perform for the very first time with The Joybells of Melmark in two free holiday concerts on Sunday, December 7. The Joybells are led by two professional musical directors and features adult choir members with developmental disabilities playing a variety of handbells, chimes and percussion instruments. Gary White will conduct the join ensemble in a program of holiday music arranged by the Chamber Orchestra’s music director Dirk Brossé.

The Joybells and the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia recently recorded a CD of timeless holiday music and Christmas carols, including *Away in A Manger*, *Infant Holy*, *Jolly Old St Nicholas*, *Joy to the World*, *Silent Night*, *The Russian Dance* from “The Nutcracker,” *Up on the Husetop* and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. The CD will be available in the lobby of the Kimmel Center for \$15. This wonderful holiday music is also available online at <https://ecommmelmark.org//joybells-cop-2014> .

Visitors to the Kimmel Center are also invited to donate new or gently used winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves to be distributed to the neediest local communities. Collection boxes will be located in the lobby of the Kimmel Center from December 2, 2014 - January 1, 2015.

For almost forty-five years, The Joybells have performed selections of sacred, classical, popular and patriotic music at churches, schools, colleges and corporate and community events. The handbell choir has been honored to perform at the White House on three occasions and at a Pennsylvania gubernatorial inauguration. Members of The Joybells participate in programs at Melmark, a comprehensive multi-service agency, providing services for children and adults with autism, intellectual disabilities, brain injuries and other neurological and genetic diagnoses.

“Everyone at The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia is very excited about this collaboration,” says their Executive Director Janelle McCoy. She explained how the concerts evolved. *“We’ve nurtured a friendship with Melmark by hosting groups of special audiences at our open rehearsals. Last year, the Chamber Orchestra and Melmark decided to develop the relationship into a musical collaboration.”*

McCoy added, *“Our Music Director Dirk Brossé orchestrated The Joybell’s holiday repertoire for this season, which led to their first collaboration with an orchestra, a recording session and a private performance last September, and now, two free holiday performances at the Kimmel Center on December 7! The musical sounds The Joybells create are always gorgeous and fun. Whether you hear them in concert or on the new CD, this program is guaranteed to put listeners of any age in a holiday mood.”*

Melmark President and CEO, Joanne Gillis-Donovan, Ph.D. says this concert series and CD recording is an extraordinary opportunity for The Joybells. *"We are grateful to The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia for recognizing the talents of our adults,"* said Gillis-Donovan. *"For the men and women of The Joybells to perform on a stage with world class musicians, it just says so much about their talents."*

Sunday, December 7
10 am & 2 pm

Holiday CD Release Concert with The Joybells of Melmark

Gary White, Conductor

Music arranged by Music Director Dirk Brossé

Commonwealth Plaza, Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

300 S. Broad St., Philadelphia

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The Joybells of Melmark

- Led by two professional musical directors, adult choir members with developmental disabilities use a variety of handbells, chimes and percussion instruments for their selections of sacred, classical, popular and patriotic music. The Joybells have been performing since 1970.

For more information about The Joybells, please contact Sue Graves at (610) 325-4715 or sbg@melmark.org or visit melmark.org.

Melmark Mission and Vision

"The mission of Melmark is to serve children, adults and their families affected by a broad range of intellectual disabilities. Melmark provides evidence-based educational, vocational, clinical, residential, healthcare and rehabilitative services, personally designed for each individual in a safe environment of warmth, care and respect.

Melmark's vision is to continue to advance our clinical systems, becoming a national and international resource center. Melmark's services will always be high quality, evidence-based best practices, designed and validated by recognized leaders in the field. Melmark will continue to generate and disseminate knowledge through research, publications, presentations and training. Melmark will always be "The Home that Love Built" in all aspects of what we do."

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The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia is a founding resident company of The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts and performs from September through May in the intimate Perelman Theater. For information, please contact The Chamber Orchestra at 215.545.5451 or visit chamberorchestra.org.

"The Chamber Orchestra always walks a fine line between creating an experience that's different from what goes on elsewhere in the Kimmel Center and something that won't alienate mainstream audiences. Music Director Dirk Brossé is so singular that, regardless of an individual concert's success, it won't be like anything else around."

- The Philadelphia Inquirer

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The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia
Our 50th Anniversary Season continues...

***Mozart with Augustin Dumay* | January 25 & 26, 2015 | Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center**

***Mahler's 4th* | February 22 & 23, 2015 | Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center**

***Masters of All Time* | March 22 & 23, 2015 | Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center**

50th Anniversary Celebration | May 10, 2015 | Verizon Hall, Kimmel Center

Kimmel Center: \$24 - \$81 | chamberorchestra.org or 215.893.1709