



# New England String Ensemble

Federico Cortese, Music Director

## **New England String Ensemble Presents "Weill on the way"**

### **New England String Ensemble's hosts a spring benefit and auction celebrating 15-Years of Support for String Education**

(Boston, MA April 23, 2008) New England String Ensemble, a non-profit professional orchestra dedicated to performance and education, is hosting "Weill On The Way", a benefit celebration to support the orchestra's upcoming 15th season and K-12 educational programs. The event will feature cabaret-style music performed by Soprano, Ute Gfrerer, hors d'oeuvres, a buffet dinner and a live and silent auction. An auction coinciding with the event will include international travel destination, exotic vacations, fine art, concert tickets and much more.

Ute Gfrerer, the Austrian soprano now living in the Boston area just returned from a concert tour in Germany where she performed *The Seven Deadly Sins* by Kurt Weill. Of her performance Peter Bilsing of "der Opernfreund" magazine wrote "this allround talent, is well on her way to be one of the best Weill Interpreters of the world. She enchanted her audience on a Broadway level! We are looking forward to hearing more from her soon, so - remember this name!"

"I'm often asked whether we're more proud of our great musicians, such as concertmaster Gregory Vitale and principal cello Joshua Gordon, or our work in string education," says executive director and co-founder Peter Stickel. "Each has its own reason for being: we're told our concerts are powerful and sometimes transformative; in the schools we have a specific objective to give string students a boost at various levels of study and we reach approximately 5,000 students each year. It's a great feeling to know that you can make a difference in so many lives. But neither side of our mission can survive by ticket sales alone."

Proceeds from the event, which will be held May 15, 2008 on Beacon Hill, will help NESE continue in its mission to "Engage, Educate and Inspire with Passionate Performances and Innovative Community Programs." Each year the orchestra holds Youth String and Flute Competitions with the first place winners performing as soloists with NESE in concert. The orchestra supports music in the schools with "String Fever" an interactive program at the elementary level, the "New England Musical Heritage Initiative" weaving together history and music at the high school level, and "Genius of Youth", a collaboration among music, drama and art for middle students.

In addition to competitions and in-school programs, the orchestra offers discounted tickets to students through the "Kids to Concerts" program sponsored in part by the Harpley Foundation, Sharon Gewirtz "Kids to Concerts" fund, Stevens Foundation, and the Harvard Musical Association. Each concert is prefaced by a "Conversation with Cortese", an interactive discussion led by Music Director Federico Cortese, about the pieces and composers. Programs are designed to include a mix of "classical" periods & languages, usually including a string favorite that is attractive to young people and less experienced listeners.

The auction running in conjunction with the benefit is open for bidding on cmarkets with several items including a Two-night Luxury Garden Suite stay at the Taj Boston, a piece of Anders Zorn artwork, a Bose Wave Music System and much more with items added daily, the bidding is now open at <http://www.cmarket.com/auction/AuctionHome.action?vhost=NESEgalaauktion>.

To order tickets to the event or for more information about New England String Ensemble's educational programs please call 781-224-1117.