

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The First Congregational Church of Washington CT will present a recital by cellist Mary Costanza on Saturday, January 19, 2019 at 4:00 pm. Accompanied by pianist Ray Pierpont, Ms. Costanza will perform an all-French program, including works by Offenbach, Saint-Saens and Franck, in First Church's historic Meetinghouse, located at 6 Kirby Road in Washington.

The recital is being presented as a tribute to the Rev. Cheryl Anderson, who is retiring after 22 years as pastor of First Church. Admission is by free-will offering, and all proceeds will go towards the pastor's moving fund.

Mary Costanza was born and raised in Fairport, NY. At the age of 17, she won the prestigious Albright Award sponsored by the Eastman Theatre and performed as soloist with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

Ms. Costanza is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Juilliard School, where she studied with Zara Nelsova, and she received fellowships to perform at the Music Academy of the West, the Blossom Music Festival, the Aspen Music Festival, and the National Orchestra of New York.

Ms. Costanza lives in Washington Depot, where she has developed a thriving private studio that serves students of all ages. She currently performs with the Greenwich Symphony and Windham Festival Orchestras and has previously played in the Hudson Valley and Rochester Philharmonic Orchestras. She is a member of the music faculty at The Hotchkiss School and The Gunnery, where she has been an Instructor in Cello for the past 15 years.

Ms. Costanza has also collaborated with composer Sharon Ruchman, premiering and recording several pieces specifically written for her. Mary has also released her own solo recording of the complete Bach Cello Suites on MSR Classics to critical acclaim, including *Music Web International's* designation as a Recording of the Month.