



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – NOVEMBER 1, 2004
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The Choral Project Collaborates with The San José Chamber Orchestra to Present a Unique Winter Concert December 10-12

The critically acclaimed groups, which have performed internationally, will present community concerts in Saratoga, Santa Cruz and Hollister.

What: Holiday Choral and Orchestral Concert
Who: The Choral Project and The San José Chamber Orchestra
When and Where:
Friday, December 10, 8 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Saratoga
Saturday, December 11, 8 p.m., Holy Cross Church, Santa Cruz
Sunday, December 12, 7:30 p.m., St. Benedict's Church, Hollister
Tickets: \$30 general, \$20 student/senior,
available at (408) 295-4416 and www.choralproject.org

SAN JOSE, CA -- The Choral Project, the critically acclaimed 40-voice Bay Area vocal ensemble, and the San José Chamber Orchestra, a 21-member professional string orchestra, will collaborate December 10-12 in a seasonal program that combines old and new, east and west.

Eric Whitacre's "Winter" set for strings, harp, sitar and choir, will be the centerpiece of the program. Additional selections include Antonio Vivaldi's "Winter" from "The Four Seasons," as well as seasonal music that evokes all that is winter, spanning the centuries and the globe. The concert will close with The Choral Project's traditional setting of "Silent Night" with orchestra and an audience sing-along. Barbara Day Turner of the San José Chamber Orchestra and Daniel Hughes of The Choral Project will conduct the concerts.

"We assembled this program to highlight the unique abilities of each ensemble and to share with our audience a program that offered a multi-cultural mixture of the season," said Maestro Hughes. "For example, Whitacre's 'Winter' is a piece unlike any other, combining the use of sitar, an instrument from India's heritage, with the western idiom of orchestra and choir. The effect is stunning and truly suggests the silent, reverent mood of snowfall. This piece even employs an Indian raga in its musical architecture. The multi-cultural 'menu' is rounded out with selections that include the Jamaican carol 'Mary's Little Boy Child,' a rousing contemporary work 'Estampie Natalis,' which harkens back to medieval styles and Franz Biebl's beloved 'Ave Maria'."

Maestra Turner said, "We are looking forward to this collaboration of The Choral Project and the San José Chamber Orchestra becoming the most musically interesting and culturally representative holiday concert in the South Bay Area."

A 501(c)(3)
nonprofit organization



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The Choral Project, whose singing has been described as “pure balm for the ears” (Bay Area Reporter, 2004) recently won 2nd place in the Mixed Choir competition at the 58th annual International Eisteddfod, in Wales. This is a significant achievement for The Choral Project, as over 650 choirs from around the world auditioned and only nine were chosen to compete. At the end of the competition, The Choral Project scored 274 out of 300, trailing the first place choir by only one point. An International panel of judges adjudicated the competition and awarded the highest individual score of any performing group (95 out of 100) for The Choral Project’s performance of Juris Karlsons’ “Neslegtais Gredzens,” acclaimed by the judges as a “tour de force.”

The San José Chamber Orchestra has performed 14 seasons of new and exciting string orchestra repertoire. Critics have hailed the ensemble with such laurels as: “Bemoan the times, but cheer mightily the existence of the San José Chamber Orchestra.” (www.artssf.com)

The holiday performances will be held Friday, December 10, at 8 p.m. at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 13601 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga; Saturday, December 11, at 8 p.m. at Holy Cross Church, 126 High St., Santa Cruz; and Sunday, December 12, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Benedict’s Church, 1200 Fairview Road, Hollister.

Tickets are \$30 general and \$20 student/senior. They are available at www.choralproject.org or by calling (408) 295-4416.

About the Musicians

The Choral Project was founded by Artistic Director Daniel Hughes in September 1996 to expand the choral art through excellent performance of high-level choral literature and to bridge the gap between text and music, singer and spectator. The 40-voice ensemble rehearses at Lincoln Glen Church in San José. For more information, visit www.choralproject.org.

The San José Chamber Orchestra is a 21-member professional string orchestra founded in 1991 by Music Director Barbara Day Turner. It presents high-quality chamber orchestra repertoire. For more information on the San José Chamber Orchestra, visit www.sjco.org.

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