



**The Peninsula Women's Chorus Presents their 40th anniversary celebration — "Forty years and beyond: A celebration of music that has stirred and provoked us"**

**For immediate release**

**Palo Alto, Calif.** The Peninsula Women's Chorus (PWC) continues its 40th Anniversary Season with a special concert. To celebrate its four decades, the Peninsula Women's Chorus will present works by Schubert, Johansson, and selections from Song of Survival at 8pm Saturday March 17 in Stanford Memorial Church. Interspersed with these audience favorites will be the world premiere of four new commissions by Marta Lambertini, Chen Yi, Brian Holmes, and Stacy Garrop. Lambertini's piece, Acrostic, will include a dance accompaniment choreographed by Mark Foehringer and performed by members of his Dance Project. This special concert will be preceded by a 7pm composer's forum where all four composers and Foehringer will discuss their works. PWC alumnae will join current members to sing some classic PWC pieces, and following the concert will be a reception for the composers, alumnae, and concert attendees.

In 1966 the AAUW Midpeninsula Chorus was founded in Palo Alto. Forty years later, having grown through hundreds of singers, 20 commissioned pieces, four wardrobe designs, five conductors, and at least ten accompanists, this performing group--now known as the Peninsula Women's Chorus--is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Chorus alumnae are traveling from as far away as Boston and Virginia to spend a weekend with old friends, to sing favorite songs, and to celebrate forty years of music-making with the current members of the PWC.

The PWC has long included contributions to women's chorus repertoire. This landmark 40th season continues the tradition by premiering four newly commissioned works, one for each decade of the chorus' life. These commissions are made possible through the Patricia Hennings New Music Fund.

Argentinean composer Marta Lambertini's textured "Acrostic" is based on the final poem of Lewis Carroll's "Through the Looking Glass" and is accompanied by piccolo, piano, cello, and percussion (including whistles!). Mark Foehringer and his Dance Project will interpret Acrostic's evocative scene. Chinese composer Chen Yi has scored rich a cappella music for an ancient Chinese poem, "Looking at the Sea." San Jose-based Brian Holmes completes his cycle of three Jane Kenyon poems with the contemplative "Otherwise." American Composer Stacy Garrop has written a stirring and bombastic arrangement of Edna St. Vincent Millay's sonnet, "Thou Famished Grave" for five-part women's chorus and piano.

The Peninsula Women's Chorus continues to look forward to a bright future while still following the same mission: To enrich ourselves and our community through the power of music.

**Saturday, May 17, 2008**

**7pm Composer's Forum and 8pm Concert**

Stanford Memorial Church, Inner Quad, Stanford University

Tickets available at Stanford Tresidder Ticket Office (650-725-ARTS), at the door, or through our website

[www.pwchorus.org](http://www.pwchorus.org)



General Admission \$18 advance purchase or \$20 at concert

Student/Senior \$15 advance purchase or \$18 at concert

For more information call 650-327-3095 or visit our website at [www.pwchorus.org](http://www.pwchorus.org)

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The Peninsula Women's Chorus (PWC) is a 50-voice choir that performs challenging contemporary and classical music locally, nationally, and abroad. It is considered the premier women's vocal ensemble in the San Francisco Bay Area. Founded in 1966, the PWC has made a significant impact on the emergence of women's choral music. The PWC is a two-time winner of Chorus America's prestigious ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming and has performed three times by invitation at the national American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) convention. Since the fall of 2003, the PWC has been directed by Martin Benvenuto.

For further information about the PWC, please visit our website at [www.pwchorus.org](http://www.pwchorus.org).