



## **The Peninsula Women's Chorus Presents "A Ceremony of Carols"**

### **For immediate release**

**Palo Alto, Calif.** - The Peninsula Women's Chorus (PWC) begins its 41st season with Benjamin Britten's yuletide masterpiece *A Ceremony of Carols* intertwined with 20th century and contemporary choral works by Kodály, Jasinski, Olsson, and Casals. The PWC will present a true "ceremony," using banners and other visual enhancements at its December concerts on the 8th and 9th at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, and the 16th at Mission Santa Clara on the Santa Clara University campus.

*A Ceremony of Carols* showcases Britten's mastery of choral music, each movement in contrast with the next. The piece provides an unusual setting for treble voices and harp (Britten had been studying harp and had intended to write a harp concerto). It opens and concludes with plainsong; the central portion retells traditional stories surrounding the birth of Christ in carols produced by mostly anonymous 15th and 16th century writers.

The PWC's newest holiday CD, *Winter Patterns*, (reviewed at [christmasreviews.com/wpeninsulawomenschorus.shtml](http://christmasreviews.com/wpeninsulawomenschorus.shtml)) will be available to the public at these concerts. Earlier CDs, including *Alleluia Psallat*, which features several movements from the Britten, also will be on hand.

PWC continues its 41st season by joining forces with other local artistic groups: in early April, performing Mahler's Third Symphony with Redwood Symphony; in late April, participating in the inaugural performance of New Music for Treble Voices at Old First Church in San Francisco; and in May, presenting a second poetry and music project—this time in collaboration with Tapestry Arts San Jose.

**Saturday, December 8, 2007, 8:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 9, 2007, 4:00 p.m.**

St. Patrick's Seminary  
320 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025

**Sunday, December 16, 2007, 3:00 p.m.**

Mission Santa Clara, Santa Clara University  
500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95053

Tickets available 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, please visit [www.pwchorus.org/concerts.html](http://www.pwchorus.org/concerts.html) or call (650) 327-3095.

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The Peninsula Women's Chorus (PWC) is a 50-voice non-profit 501c3 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. The PWC has also won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 2006 Bela Bartok Choral Competition. Since the fall of 2003, the PWC has been directed by Martín Benvenuto.

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