



## The Peninsula Women's Chorus Presents "Seven Joys"

**For immediate release  
November 5, 2008**

**Palo Alto, California** - The Peninsula Women's Chorus (PWC) winter concerts celebrate the many meanings of the number seven, featuring San Francisco composer Kirke Mechem's beloved *Seven Joys of Christmas* and the seven movements of *Autumn Landscapes* by renowned Estonian composer and PWC friend Veljo Tormis. The concerts will take place on December 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Palo Alto, on December 13<sup>th</sup> at Mission Santa Clara on the Santa Clara University campus, and on December 14<sup>th</sup> at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park.

The root word for the number seven in Hebrew means "complete" or "full," and symbolizes spiritual perfection. This meaning is reflected in the program, with music that aspires to artistic completeness in its technical and spiritual richness. The PWC begins the concert with Matthew Larkin's "Adam Lay Ybounden," a monastic but supple and romantic plainchant describing the events after the seven days of creation. From there, the concert moves through seven stages and many moods, including the sonorous tones of Tormis's *Autumn Landscapes*, the playfulness of Pekka Kostiaainen's "Jaakobin Pojat," the warmth of Joseph Gregorio's "Alleluia" (West Coast premiere), and the festive holiday sounds of Mechem's *Seven Joys of Christmas*. The December concerts also include two older classics from the treble voice repertory: Gustav Holst's lush "Ave Maria" and Josef Rheinberger's "Wie Lieblich Sind Deine Wohnungen."

In addition, this season the PWC introduces the Landmark Series, in which they perform 20<sup>th</sup> century and recently composed masterworks that paved the way for the appreciation of innovative writing for treble voices. In the spring, the PWC will perform Landmark Series pieces in the New Music for Treble Voices festival and in their May concerts.

**Saturday, December 6, 2008, 8:00 p.m.**

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
600 Colorado, Palo Alto, CA 94306

**Sunday, December 14, 2008, 3:00 p.m.**

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

**Saturday, December 13, 2008, 8:00 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 Martin Benvenuto.

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