



**PENINSULA WOMEN'S CHORUS AND GOLDEN GATE MEN'S CHORUS PRESENT
"WORDS FROM PARADISE" SPRING CONCERT SERIES**

For immediate release

In Santa Clara and San Francisco, May 9-18, 2010

Palo Alto, California - The Golden Gate Men's Chorus (GGMC) joins the Peninsula Women's Chorus (PWC) in a series of sacred concerts in San Francisco and Santa Clara for their second concert appearance together under the direction of Joe Piazza, Interim Artistic Director GGMC, and Martin Benvenuto, Artistic Director PWC. The concert features the Bay Area premiere by the combined choruses of the award-winning composition, *Words from Paradise*, by Daniel E. Forrest, Jr., an extended 8-part *a cappella* choral work in five movements. *Words from Paradise* is based on five sacred words from the scripture and weaves a rich, musical tapestry of the spiritual and fanciful in this highly anticipated, collaborative offering.

The choruses will perform their own sets, as well as join together for several pieces. World premiere pieces by renowned American composers, Frank Ferko of Mountain View and hugely popular Eric Whitacre, highlight this sparkling gem of a concert. To lend to the fanciful, the PWC will perform Alberto Grau's *Como Tu*, set to Nicaraguan poet, Rubén Darío's fairy tale rendering of a dashing king with a diamond palace and herd of pet elephants and the popular, swashbuckling *Song of Perfect Propriety* by Carol Barnett. Continuing this theme, the GGMC set will include David Dickau's *Stars I Shall Find* and Timothy Tharaldson's *To One in Paradise*. This May, the Golden Gate Men's Chorus and the Peninsula Women's Chorus offer songs that celebrate the sacred word, spin novel tales of fantasy and magic, and call for world peace. Also on the program is a new work by Eric Whitacre, *Little Man In a Hurry*, commissioned by a consortium of choruses through Chorus America.

In the *Classical Voice* Jason Serinus says, "Quality is a given when it comes to the Golden Gate Men's Chorus. (The chorus) ... has such a high degree of musical proficiency among its members that the GGMC frequently tackles challenging repertoire that other community choruses tend to avoid." (5/11/09). Local composer Frank Ferko has said of the PWC, "The Peninsula Women's Chorus has an overall sound that is rich, sumptuous, and beautifully blended...absolutely exquisite music-making all the way around..." Rebecca Wallace of the *Palo Alto Weekly* has written about the PWC, "...the sounds blended so purely, with such power and control."

Tickets and Availability

Tickets for performances in Santa Clara and San Francisco are available online and can be purchased immediately. Tickets for each venue are sold separately and can be purchase as follows:

Santa Clara Performance:

- Sunday, May 16, 2010, 2:30 PM
- Mission Santa Clara, Santa Clara University, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara
- \$15 students/seniors
- \$18 general
- www.pwchorus.org



San Francisco Performances:

- Sunday May 9, 2010, 4:00 PM; Tuesday, May 18, 2010, 8:00 PM
- Mission Dolores Basilica 3321 16th Street (at Dolores), San Francisco
- \$10 students w/ID at door
- \$20 general
- www.ggmc.org

The Peninsula Women's Chorus (PWC) is a Palo Alto-based, 50-voice women's choir performing high-quality classical and contemporary music in the Bay Area and many parts of the world. Committed to excellence in the performance of diverse and challenging choral literature for women's voices, the PWC has come to national and international attention through live performance and recordings and has added significantly to the choral literature by commissioning new music. The chorus inspires and enriches its audiences in the Bay Area through its concert series, its ongoing program of premiering new works, and its numerous collaborations with other Bay Area performing groups.

The Golden Gate Men's Chorus (GGMC) was formed by Dick Kramer in 1982 as the Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorale. Mr. Kramer, one of the founding fathers of the American gay choral movement, envisioned a small men's ensemble reminiscent of university men's choruses of 19th-century Europe. Reorganized as the Golden Gate Men's Chorus in 1988, the GGMC continues to present high quality performances of men's choral music. The GGMC presents spring, summer and winter programs annually, in addition to guest and community benefit performances throughout the year.

The Golden Gate Men's Chorus is a select group of 50 men representing the ethnic and social diversity of San Francisco who share a common appreciation of choral music. The GGMC strives for musical excellence, provides a productive social fellowship for its members, and aims to present the rich tradition of choral music to the broad and diverse components of the San Francisco Bay Area community.

The GGMC is proud to be supported by the San Francisco Grants for the Arts/SF Hotel Tax Fund and is a member of GALA Choruses, an international organization of gay- and lesbian-identified and supportive choruses.