



**AWARD-WINNING PENINSULA WOMEN'S CHORUS
CELEBRATES 45TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR
WITH JOYFUL CONCERT SEASON**

**For immediate release
September 1, 2011**

The Peninsula Women's Chorus marks its 45th anniversary with a dynamic year of vibrant choral programming and community partnerships. Following the receipt of second place in The American Prize in Choral Performance for PWC's 2010 Nature Pictures recording, a September release is anticipated for PWC's video documentary "The Face and Heart of New Music," showcasing the New Music For Treble Voices 2011 commission premiered at that festival, and funded by a grant from the Arts Council Silicon Valley and the PWC Patricia Henning's New Music Fund.

Sweet Joy: Winter Concerts

Program Highlights: "Ave Maria" by Franz Biebl, "In Terra Pax" by Marek Jasinski, "Gloria Kajoniesnsis" by Levente Gyöngyösi

Palo Alto, California - The Peninsula Women's Chorus heralds the sweet joy of this year's anniversary, marking 45 years of soulful music-making. The PWC will perform in its most popular venues: St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Palo Alto on Saturday, December 10, 2011, 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 17, 2011, 2:30 p.m., with a post-concert Holiday Sing-Along and reception on December 17th, and St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park on Sunday, December 18, 4:00 p.m. We ring in this landmark year with jubilation, celebrating with some of the music that shaped the history of the chorus and introducing new works by Carol Barnett, John Muehleisen, and Levente Gyöngyösi. Also featured are works by Francis Poulenc, music from the Iberian Peninsula, and a set of festive holiday carols.

Special Fall Performances:

Women's Exchange Festival

Saratoga, California - The Peninsula Women's Chorus will take part in this intergenerational celebration of the purity and power of treble voices, joining six local high school choirs in a unique festival that showcases individual and combined choruses at Saratoga High School's McAfee Center on Monday, November 7 at 7:30 pm. Following featured programs by each choir, the evening will conclude with a combined performance of Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo's "Tundra," a contemporary tone poem evoking the beauty and intensity of a winter tundra landscape.

Holiday Traditions at Filoli

Woodside, California – Join Alla Breve, PWC's chamber group of selected vocalists, at Filoli estate on Saturday, December 3, 2011 at 10:30 am for a joyous seasonal performance at Filoli's Holiday Traditions annual fundraiser.



Journey to Spring: Spring Concerts

Program Highlights: "Reveycy venir du printans" by Claude Le Jeune, "Salut Printemps" by Claude Debussy, "Bendición" by Pablo Ortiz, world premiere by Ted Hearne, commissioned in honor of our 45th anniversary

Palo Alto and Santa Clara, California - How do we arrive at the joys of spring? In our Journey to Spring, join us on a magic ride, from the primal spells and incantations of "Urok" by Slovenian composer Lojze Lebič, to the delight of Le Jeune's salute to spring. Concerts will take place on Saturday, May 12, 2012, at 4:00 pm at St. Mark's Church in Palo Alto, and on Sunday, May 20, 2012, at 2:00 pm at Mission Santa Clara. Slovenian repertoire from our recent European tour is featured alongside our special American section, which includes settings of e.e. cummings' poetry: two movements from Vincent Persichetti's Spring Cantata, and "in time of daffodils" by Kirstina Rasmussen. Journey with us from the mysterious to the sublime!

Special Spring Events:

Sapphire Serenade: Gala Event

Mountain View, California - The Peninsula Women's Chorus hosts our eighth annual Gala Event at 12:00 pm on Saturday, February 11, 2012, at Michael's at Shoreline. Ring in our 45th year while enjoying lunch, a silent auction, a performance by the PWC, and special guest performers San Francisco Parlor Opera, with our very own Jungmee Kim as musical director and pianist! Don't miss out on this wonderful celebration of song!

Song Gathering: New Music For Treble Voices Festival

Palo Alto, California – Experience the soaring power of treble choirs from around the Bay Area on Saturday, March 10, 2012, at All Saint's Episcopal Church in Palo Alto. Celebrating its fifth year, the New Music for Treble Voices Festival welcomes guest chorus Musae from San Francisco, under the direction of former PWC member Amy Stuart Hunn. This exciting group joins the PWC, Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir, and Volti on stage for a dynamic afternoon of contemporary music, featuring the world premiere of "Song Gatherings" by Eric Tuan, based on texts by Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore.

Conductor Elena Sharkova has written about the PWC, "...such a beautiful, flexible, and intelligent ensemble...!" Experience the power and moving musicality of this group. The dynamic Peninsula Women's Chorus offers music to feed your soul and touch your heart – an experience not to be missed!

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 recently won 2nd place in the American Prize competition in choral performance for its 2010 CD release, Nature Pictures, and took 3rd place in the 2006 Bela Bartok Choral Competition. Dr. Martín Benvenuto has directed the PWC since the fall of 2003. The PWC is funded in part by a grant from Arts Council Silicon Valley, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara and California Arts Council.