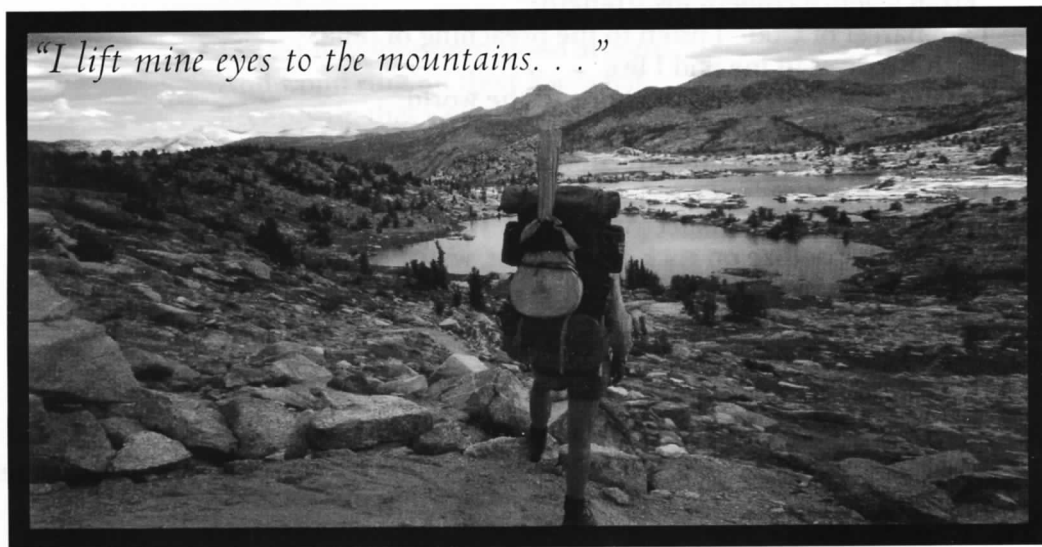


P·E·N·I·N·S·U·L·A
Women's
C·H·O·R·U·S

Patricia Hennings, Artistic Director
Josephine Gandolfi, Pianist



SING A NEW SONG
❁ *Spring Concerts* **2000**

Saturday, May 20, 7:00 p.m.

Pre-concert composers panel featuring six composers, moderated by Libby Larsen

Saturday, May 20, 8:00 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church
Waverley at Loma Verde
Palo Alto

Sunday, May 21, 2:00 p.m.

Mission Santa Clara
Santa Clara University
Santa Clara

SPONSORED BY FOOTHILL COLLEGE
AND SPONSORED IN PART BY ARTS COUNCIL SILICON VALLEY

❁ PROGRAM ❁

I

Shenandoah, *a Song of Welcome*

II

Psalm 121, *Text: Psalm 121, John Muir, Patricia Hennings*

Libby Larsen
b. 1950

World Premiere

*Commissioned for the 25th Anniversary of Patricia Hennings
as Artistic Director of the Peninsula Women's Chorus*

"I lift mine eyes to the mountains."
Glorious flood of light. White whoosh—of morning arroyo,
Noonday dazzle of crystal rocks, alpenglow, iris spray of waterfall.
"From whence cometh my strength?"
I am parcel of God. I listen to the preaching of pine.
Each Ave lives in me and I live.
In God's wilderness lies the hope of the world.
"I lift mine eyes to the mountains."
Walk away quietly in any direction and feel the peace.
Breathe in nature's peace.
Winds refresh, storms electrify. *Vita immortalia mea!*
My feet rhapsodize on rock, water, light, wind;
Sun, east—now west, fills me with grace and gift.
My peace I give unto you.
Vita immortalia mea.

III

Pie Jesu

Michael Cleveland
b. 1937

Pie Jesu, Domine, dona eis requiem.
In paradisum deducant te Angeli.
In tuo adventu suscipiant te Martyres,
et perducant te civitatem sanctam Jerusalem.
Chorus Angelorum te suscipiat,
et cum Lazaro quondam paupere
aeternam habeas requiem.

*Merciful Lord Jesus, grant them rest.
May the angels lead you into paradise;
May the Martyrs welcome you upon your arrival,
and lead you into the holy city of Jerusalem.
May a choir of angels welcome you,
and, with poor Lazarus of old,
may you have eternal rest.*

Jesu, dulcis memoria

Michael Cleveland

Commissioned by PWC member Lorraine Hultquist in memory of Arnie Hultquist

Jesu, dulcis memoria,
dans vera cordis gaudia:
sed super mel et omnia
ejus dulcis praesentia.
Nil canitur suavius,
nil auditur jucundius,
nil cogitatur dulcius,
quam Jesus Dei Filius.
Sis Jesu nostrum gaudium,
qui es futurus praemium:
Sit nostra in te gloria,
per cuncta semper saecula. Amen.

*Jesus, how sweet the very thought,
giving true joy to the heart,
but sweeter than honey and all else
is His presence.
Nothing more melodious is sung,
nothing more delightful is heard,
nothing sweeter is ever thought,
than Jesus, the Son of God.
May Jesus be our glory,
He who will be our reward:
May our glory be in you,
Throughout all eternity. Amen.*

IV

In Praise of Music, text: *Percy Bysshe Shelley and John Dryden*

David Conte
b. 1955

Commissioned for the 25th Anniversary of the Peninsula Women's Chorus, 1992

I pant for the music which is divine,
My heart in its thirst is a dying flow'r;
Pour forth the sound like enchanted wine,
Loosen the notes in a silver show'r,
Like a herbless plain, for the gentle rain,
I gasp, I faint till they wake again.
Let me drink of the spirit of that sweet sound,
More, oh more, I am thirsting yet;
It loosens the serpent which care has bound
Upon my heart to stifle it;
The dissolving strain, through every vein,
Passes into my heart and brain.
What passion cannot music raise and quell?
When Jubal struck his corded Shell,
His listening brethren stood around,
And wondering on their faces fell
To worship that Celestial sound:
Less than a God they thought there could not dwell
Within the hollow of that Shell,
That spoke so sweetly and so well.
As the scent of a violet withered up,
Which grew by the brink of a silver lake,
When the hot noon has drained its dewy cup
And mist there was none its thirst to slake,
And the violet lay dead while the odor flew
On the wings of the wind o'er the water blue,
As one who drinks from a charmed cup
Of foaming and sparkling and murmuring wine,
Whom, a mighty enchantress filling up,
Invites to love with her kiss divine.



INTERMISSION



V

The Wild Rose, from *Three Songs of Love on Poems of Wendell Berry*

Michael Cleveland
b. 1937

*Commissioned by the Rutherford family in honor of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Peninsula Women's Chorus,
and to honor the thirtieth season of founding member Carolyn L. Rutherford, 1996*

Sometimes hidden from me
in daily custom and in trust,
so that I live by you unaware,
as by the beating of my heart,
suddenly you flare in my sight,
a wild rose blooming at the edge of thicket,
grace and light where yesterday was only shade,
and once again I am blest,
choosing again what I chose before.

World Premiere

"The text is drawn from an essay by Susie Bright, an essay that suggests that love is about passion and is not about an abstract principle. The music illustrates a process of gradually coming to this understanding. The first section of the pieces sets the text while limited to a five-note pitch set; the second section loosens up a bit and allows a second transposition of the five-note set to be used. The third section 'gets it right,' abandoning the principle of limited transposition, using free transposition, auxiliary notes, and inversion. As in much of my music, musical ideas and feelings are explored by refracting them through a variety of styles and textures."

- David Meckler

I might fall for
I might fall for you
I will follow
I will follow you,
into flames not principle
lick of flames,
flames not principle
into flames not principle
potential loss, betrayal,
the walk, what you can do
potential loss, fire, betrayal,
potential fire,
I might follow
I might follow you
If potentially not necessarily
into flames not principle
into personal flames not principle
the walk, what can you do
might fall for follow you
the walk, what you can do
might fall for follow you
In the moment
the moment after
this is this is what is memorable
for many moments after.

*Soloists - Kyle Sofman, Beatrice Fanning, Cathleen Kalcic,
Deanne Tucker, Ruthellen Dickinson, Lisa Fenwick
Vibraphone - Kim Venaas*

VI

A Farewell, from "The Winged Joy, A Love Story in Seven Parts for Women's Voices and Piano"

Kirke Mechem

b. 1925

Goodbye!—no, do not grieve that it is over,
The perfect hour;
Do not grieve that the winged joy,
sweet honeyloving rover,
Flits from the flow'r.
Grieve not—it is the law.
Love will be flying—Yes, love and all.
Glad was the living—blessed be the dying.
Let the leaves fall, let the leaves fall.

- Harriet Monroe

Music and Poetry Project Ten World Premieres

In spring 1999, Peninsula Women's Chorus artistic director Patricia Hennings had a dream—that poets could work with school children to help them write poetry which could be set to music for the Chorus. When PWC alumna Mary Lorey read about this dream in a PWC newsletter, she and her family immediately offered their financial support, and the dream became a reality. By last summer, PWC had contracted with California Poets in the Schools (CPITS), the largest writers-in-the-schools program in the nation. CPITS poet/teachers worked with five PWC members who are teachers in Bay Area schools to plan an exciting and productive fall of poetry writing by 390 students in 17 classrooms. Composers Ron Jeffers, Joan Szymko, and Brian Holmes delighted in the works of the young poets and chose nine of their poems as the lyrics for the music presented here.

VII

Aphorisms, text by Ron Jeffers

Ron Jeffers
b. 1943

MUSIC

Music is community,
community of heart and soul
and VOICE!
a voice within, a voice without—
a lullaby, a joyous shout!

POETRY

What is Poetry?
“eternity in a grain of sand”
“possibility in a single bud”
a startling word, a lover's sigh,
a timid laugh, a lonely cry.

ART

Art is the spirit inside the stone
sensed by the sculptors, and them alone.
Art is the shape within the clay
discovered by the potters during their play.
Art is the person we all can be,
transformed by MUSIC and POETRY.

Speaker - Kathie Underdal

VIII

Dos Cantos

Ron Jeffers

1. **Corazón de Espinas**, poem by Eduardo Villalta

Hay un corazón que tiene espinas.
Está diciendo que el amor duele.
Es de color verde
pero se llama corazón de espinas.

*There's a heart that has thorns.
it is saying that love hurts.
The color of it is green
but it is called the heart of thorns.*

2. **Hay un Río**, poem by Michael Espinoza

Hay un río que se mira como el cielo.
Hay un cielo que se mira como el río
donde los sapos viven.
El río sueña.
El río sueña que personas van a nadar en ella.

*There is a river that looks like the sky.
There is a sky that looks like the river
where frogs live.
The river dreams.
The river dreams about people swimming in her.*

IX

This wonderful feeling

Joan Szymko
b. 1957

1. **saboo**, poem by Adriana Madrigal

What will we do
saboo saboo
walla kaboo
Should we jump off
the tree?
Will you play with me?
Saboo saboo
walla kaboo
and I love you
Wallakaboo

2. **In my quiet place**, poem by Marty Whitney

In my quiet place everything is quiet.
Quiet as a butterfly on silent wings.
Quiet as a leaf falling through the air.
Quiet makes me feel like I am the only one on earth.
The first to find this wonderful feeling inside me.

3. **Purple night**, poem by Marty Whitney
 Purple as a purple sky on a Sunday night.
 Purple as a dark purple dress.
 A purple dress on a purple night, a purple world
 and a purple bird in flight.

Soloists - Jeanne Benioff, MaryLouise Meckler, Mary Tusa,
 Gisele LaLonde, Cathleen Kalcic
 Marimba - Kim Venaas

X

Falling Rain, poem by Hannah de Kleer

Brian Holmes
 b. 1946

I am the rain			
I want to rain	and dance	Let me be free	
I want to fall	upon the roofs	Let me be free	Let me fall
	and little hills	Let me fall	Let me
			rain!

XI

Wish Song, poem by Harkiran Bolaria

Brian Holmes

I wish my sister was a big pig	I wish I was a big pig in a little wig
Or I wish she was a little wig	A skinny cat in a fat hat
I wish my mom was a skinny cat	And a sad dog on a happy log
Or I wish she was a fat hat	Sometimes I wish my family
I wish my dad was a sad dog	were big fat pigs in little wigs!
Or I wish he was a happy log	

I Am Dice, poem by Daisuke Miyamoto

Ron Jeffers

(Spoken prologue to *I Am Dice*)

I am a cat, with fur like silk.	I am a cloud, as light as air.
I am a dog, with a shiny coat.	I am a story that has never been told.
I am the moon on an ebony night.	I am the universe—the earth in my hands.
I am a shoe without a pair.	I am sunlight; my warm rays unite.
I am a book—born from my author.	I am the earth: behold the force of life.
I am this poem, with words that weave.	I am the chain, within which we all live.
I am a bird, flying free.	I am the circle; my symbolism is vast.
I am a star shining bright.	I am the air—the breath of life.
I am a dream, shining a light.	I am the machine, on which many depend.
I am the sun: hot as fire.	I am the ocean: the source of life.
I am a mountain, covered in snow.	I am the poet, whose ideas are shared.
I am a pie, smelling sweet as can be.	I am the sense which we all detect.
I am a pizza, but I won't be here for long.	- Matthew Wilde

- Christopher Mitchell

I am dice. My parents are dice.
 I was born in a toy store. I live in Room 23. I eat dots.
 My special power is my body's shape.
 It's square!

Rabbit Skunk, poem by Jennifer Brissman

Brian Holmes

Rabbit Rabbit Rabbit come out of your hole	a million bugs for a great big hug.
Skipity scopity skipity scop skipity scopity	Okay, I'll come out. SPRAY
hop hop hop come out come out	ehew, gross, a skunk
little rabbit come out COME OUT.	oh man, now I have to soak in
Please I will grant you a wish for a fish	tomato juice.

XII

Take Up the Song, text by *Edna St. Vincent Millay*

Ron Jeffers

United States Premiere

Upon this marble bust that is not I,
Lay the round, formal wreath that is not fame.
But in the forum of my silenced cry
Root the living tree whose sap is flame.
I, that was proud and valiant, am no more;
Save as a dream that wanders wide and late,
Save as a wind that rattles the stout door.
The stone will perish, I shall be twice dust.
Only my standard on a taken hill
Can cheat the mildew and the red-brown rust
And make immortal my adventurous will.
Even now the silk is tugging the staff,
Even now forget the epitaph.
Take up the song!

*Special thanks to the Lorey Family,
whose generous support made the
Music and Poetry Project possible.*



PROGRAM NOTES

FEATURED COMPOSERS

DAVID CONTE

David Conte is a San Francisco composer who has received commissions from many of the nation's leading performing ensembles, including Chanticleer, the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, the Dayton Philharmonic, and the Peninsula Women's Chorus. He has published thirty works for a variety of media with E. C. Schirmer Music Company, and his music has been recorded on the Delos, Teldec, and Chanticleer labels. Mr. Conte has been a professor of composition at the San Francisco Conservatory since 1985. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from Bowling Green State University and his Doctor of Musical Arts from Cornell University, where he studied with Karel Husa and Steven Stucky. He was a Fulbright scholar in Paris, where he was one of the last students of Nadia Boulanger. He has been a long-standing champion of the Peninsula Women's Chorus.

MICHAEL CLEVELAND

Michael Cleveland, Chair of the Department of Music at the University of Nevada, Reno, received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in music education and music history and literature from the University of Oregon in 1970. He has served as President of the Western Division of the Music Educators National Conference and, since 1982, as Music Director of the Reno First United Methodist Church, and is an active member of the American Choral Directors Association. He has taught at the University of Nevada, Reno, since 1981, has chaired the Department of Music since 1986, and achieved the title full professor in the spring of 1999. Mr. Cleveland has composed and published a wide variety of choral works. While also composing works for mixed choir, he has specialized in writing for women's chorus and has written many works for PWC.

BRIAN HOLMES

Brian Holmes has written extensively for choir and voice; his compositions include nine song cycles, two operas, a Christmas musical, dozens of Christmas carols, and a variety of works for orchestra and band. Two of his carols are published, and two have been winners in the Amadeus Choir (Toronto) Christmas Carol Writing Competition. Mr. Holmes is a physics professor at San José State University in California. He has given over a hundred lectures on the physics of music at universities and schools throughout the United States.

RON JEFFERS

Ron Jeffers has achieved musical renown in four different areas of accomplishment: as a teacher, a choral conductor, a composer, and a publisher. For many years he was Director of Choral Activities at Oregon State University, and also taught at the University of Choral Directing in Corvallis, Oregon. He recently retired from both of those academic positions, and now devotes himself full time to managing *earthsongs*, a company based in Corvallis and co-founded by Mr. Jeffers that publishes choral music from other cultures in their original languages. In 1998 *earthsongs* celebrated its tenth anniversary with the introduction of three new pieces from Inner Mongolia. Mr. Jeffers was able to work directly with the conductor of the Mongolian Choir while he was visiting Eugene, Oregon, to ensure an authentic interpretation of the works. The Chorus has featured a number of Mr. Jeffers' compositions in recent years. Two of his works can be heard on PWC's *Songs of the Spirit* CD: "Whitman Credo" (text excerpted from Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself*) and "Indian Singing" (text from poems by Gail Tremblay). The Chorus has also been privileged to have Mr. Jeffers lead two workshops, where he focused on techniques for learning and interpreting music from other cultures and taught the Chorus how to strengthen choral ensemble.

LIBBY LARSEN

Libby Larsen is one of America's most prolific and most performed living composers. Her music has been commissioned and premiered internationally by major artists and orchestras and is prized for its dynamic, deeply inspired, and vigorous contemporary American spirit. Ms. Larsen's love of the sounds and rhythms of language—both musical and verbal—prevails in her diverse catalogue of works that speak the American vernacular. Her titles encompass orchestra, dance, choral, opera, theater, chamber, and solo repertory. Her commissions, honors, and awards are numerous, including multiple commissions from the King's Singers and Benita Valente, and a 1994 Grammy as producer for the CD *The Art of Arleen Auger*, an acclaimed recording that features Larsen's "Sonnets from the Portuguese." Larsen, who lives in Minneapolis, has been widely recorded and anthologized. She is a leading thinker in the generation of millennium composers. In 1990 she was commissioned by PWC to write the choral composition "Refuge" in memory of the late PWC member, Dolores Baldauf. PWC congratulates Libby Larsen on her recent Academy Award in Music, bestowed by the American Academy of Arts and Letters, "honoring lifetime achievement and acknowledging the composer who has arrived at his or her own voice."

KIRKE MECHEM

A San Francisco composer of more than two hundred published works, Kirke Mechem has been a friend and long time supporter of the Peninsula Women's Chorus. He was born and raised in Kansas and educated at Stanford and Harvard Universities. Although he has written in almost every form, vocal music is at the heart of his work. He has been called the "dean of American choral composers." According to the Choral Journal, the following elements comprise "characteristic Mechem styling": singing lines, imaginative and varied use of rhythm and texture for expressive ends. PWC recorded *The Music of Kirke Mechem*, a vinyl record before the days of digital recording.

DAVID MECKLER

Bay Area composer David Meckler wrote "Bright Love," a piece for the Peninsula Women's Chorus, as a wedding present for his wife, MaryLouise. He is currently at work on *Apollo 14, a Space Opera*. His degrees in composition include a Master's from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and a Doctorate from the University of California, San Diego. He teaches at Skyline College and the University of the Pacific. Through the American Composers Forum Composer-in-the-Schools Program, he teaches composition at San Francisco's School of the Arts.

JOAN SZYMKO

Joan Szymko has spent much of her professional career in the Pacific Northwest as a conductor, composer, arranger, and teacher. She has nearly twenty years of experience conducting women's choirs in Seattle and Portland, where she now lives and works. Abundant lyricism, rhythmic intensity, and a deep respect for language are hallmarks of Ms. Szymko's diverse and distinctive choral writing. She has also written chamber music, music for modern dance, and two full-length musicals. Several of her choral works will soon be available through Santa Barbara Music Publishing. She has been a resident composer with Do Jump! Movement Theater since 1995 and will be touring with them in New York, Santa Fe, and Europe this year. She recently released a debut CD recording of compositions on Virga Records, *Openings*, available by visiting her Web site at www.szymko.com.

"PSALM 121" COMMISSIONERS

*Thanks to the following for their generous donations
which financed the commissioning of "Psalm 121" by Libby Larsen*

Commission Circle (\$1,000 and above): Barry, Kristin, and Nathan Hennings; Lorraine Hultquist

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CHORUS MEMBERS

First Soprano: Jeanne Benioff, Mardie Daul, Sue Hnilo, Lydia Hwang, Deanna Knickerbocker, Shaula Kumaishi, MaryLouise Meckler, Jill Mueller, Mercidita Navarro, Kyle Sofman, Judy Sweet, Tricia Tani, Mary Tusa

Mezzo Soprano: Juanda Benson, Marie des Jardins, Beatrice Fanning, Rachel Goldsmith, Robin Khodair, Gisele LaLonde, Andra Marynowski, Barbara Pforzheimer, Carol Schultz, Gail Schwettman, Paula Sebring, Bonnie Senko, Carol Stevens, Eithne Wait-Karski, Cindy Welker

First Alto: Loretta Ames, Priscilla Bates, Alice Bauder, Ruthellen Dickinson, Sue Irvine, Emily Jiang, Cathleen Kalcic, Betsy Landergren, Mimi Patterson, Kathy Plock, Julia Shelby, Claire Taylor, Deanne Tucker, Kathie Underdal, Marsha Wells

Second Alto: Mary Ager, Anne Anderson, Beverly Colquhoun, Lisa Fenwick, Diane Ford, May Goodreau, Valerie Hornstein, Karen Lindenberg, Kathy MacLaury, Elena Melendez, Kim Mortyn, Gerri Roe, Barbara Saxton, Mary Shaw

Visit our Web page!

<http://www.pwchorus.org>



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



A special thanks to members of the Peninsula Women's Chorus Auxiliary who help with the production of our concerts: Mark Adams; Russ Ames; Carl Anderson; Jim Bauder; Kelly Bowman; Sue Casey; Ellie and Phil Chambers; John Daul; Jan and Robert Fenwick; Gil Gross; Lisbeth Holley; Greg Kimura; Al Knickerbocker; Rob McCool; David Meckler; Harry and Luke Pforzheimer; Stew Plock; Caroline and Bob Rutherford; Charles G. Schulz; Bob Shaw; Noel Stevens; Steven Tani; Jerry Underdal; Ciara Wait-Karski; and Rose Zukas.

Thanks to the following for their generous donations: Mary Ager; Jeffrey Daily; Marie Brase Hotz; Mary Larner; Frederick and Francis Martin; Harriet J. Palmer; Marti Puff; Lola Stephens; Charlotte B. Turner; Janis Walker

Thanks to the following advertisers for their support: Drs. William and Ellen Fernandez, University Chiropractic Clinic; Stephen Haag, Haag Photo Service; The Herbal Home; Cindy Howard, Creative Memories Consultant; Piazza's Fine Foods; The Palo Alto Baking Company; The Peninsula Girls' Chorus; Marti Puff, E. A.; William F. Rossi, Painting & Decorating; Tengu Sushi; Sweet Amy's; Jacqueline Wolfe, Alain Pinel.

Thanks also to the following for their contributions: Andrew Heller of Location Digital Recording for recording services; Jeanne Benioff for program content; and Mary Tusa for graphic design and production.

Many thanks to the San Francisco Peninsula Alumnae chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota for providing the reception in Brown Hall following the May 20th concert. Musicians and composers affiliated with this professional women's music fraternity are: Kirke Mechem, National Arts Associate and a winner of the SAI American Music Awards series; Libby Larsen, Honorary member; Mr. and Mrs. Michael Cleveland, Honorary members; Marsha Wells (PWC member), member and Sword of Honor; Patricia Hennings, member, Sword of Honor, and Rose of Honor.



MUSIC & POETRY PROJECT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the following schools, teachers, parents and administrators for their help with the Music and Poetry Project:

Barron Park Elementary, Palo Alto Unified School District: Joan Barksdale, Barron Park PTA, Cathy Howard (principal), Gaby Landa, Kathy Plock (PWC member), Lori Schneck, Maryanne Welton

Fiesta Gardens International School, San Mateo-Foster City School District: Fiesta Gardens PTA, Michelle Freschi, Elena Melendez (PWC member), Ricardo Pinedo, Ana Reilly, Joan Rosas, Pilar Tejada (principal)

Juana Briones Elementary, Palo Alto Unified School District: Kay Canrinus, Gary Dalton (principal), Penny Dye, Mary Goodkind, Kathie Underdal (PWC member)

Highlands Elementary, San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School District: Angie Bright, Tish Busselle, Kim Castro, Jackie Hurd, Debbie Maine, Sylvia Mercadeau, The Peninsula Foundation, Sally Sandell, Carol Schultz (PWC member)

Springer Elementary, Los Altos School District: Bob Celeste (principal), Holly Cornelison, Lela Hunter, Cathy Miller, Barbara Pforzheimer (PWC member), Springer School PTA

The poet/teachers whose help was instrumental in the realization of this project are Sarah Anne Cox, John Fox, Dana Lomax, Denise Newman, and Mary Lee McNeal. PWC members Ruthellen Dickinson and Sue Hnilo were the indispensable Project Coordinators.

And our greatest appreciation to the student poets themselves—the more than four hundred children who contributed their creativity, time, energy, and outstanding insights to provide poetry to be set to beautiful music. Many, many thanks.

SUPPORT THE CHORUS!

The Peninsula Women's Chorus has nonprofit status through the Foothill-DeAnza Colleges Foundation. PWC's budget includes expenses for music and accompanists, facility and instrument rental, guest artists, and publicity. Your generous contributions are needed to help defray the costs that are not covered by members' fees. Any donations to the Chorus are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated.

Please send a tax-deductible check made out to "The Foothill-DeAnza Foundation" to:

Peninsula Women's Chorus
2360 Emerson Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301

or drop it in the donations box at the ticket table.

PWC AVAILABLE ON COMPACT DISC

Songs of the Spirit

The Peninsula Women's Chorus's latest CD, *Songs of the Spirit*, features inspirational music ranging from the vocal orchestra arrangements of the documentary film *Song of Survival* to the scintillating contemporary works of Ron Jeffers and Lou Harrison.

For those who have requested a recording of Dvorak's powerful "Largo," Johansson's shimmering "Examine Me," R. Murray Schafer's exotic "Snowforms," or the PWC's favorite "Shenandoah," this CD is for you!

*This CD made possible in part by a grant from
The Peery Foundation*

Alleluia Psallat

Music for the yuletide, this CD features some of PWC's best-loved Christmas music, including pieces by Hildegard von Bingen, Benjamin Britten, and Kirke Mechem.

Treasures

PWC's first CD includes innovative works by contemporary composers Libby Larsen, Michael Cleveland, David Conte, Nancy Telfer, and Knut Nystedt, and a nod to the Western tradition with works by Victoria and Holst.

These CDs can be purchased at today's performance.

Funding from Meet The Composer, Inc. is provided with the support of National Endowment for the Arts, ASCAP, and Virgil Thomson Foundation.

ACDA ADVOCACY RESOLUTION

Whereas the human spirit is elevated to a broader understanding of itself through study and performance in the aesthetic arts;

and

Whereas serious cutbacks in funding and support have steadily eroded state institutions and their programs throughout the country:

Be it resolved that all citizens of the United States actively voice their affirmative and collective support for necessary funding at the local, state, and national levels of education and government to ensure the survival of arts programs for this and future generations.

JOIN THE CHORUS!

The Peninsula Women's Chorus welcomes experienced singers to audition for membership in this dynamic ensemble. Rehearsals are held during the school year every Monday evening from 7:00-10:00 p.m. at Foothill College, Middlefield Campus.

For audition information, please call 650-327-3095.