



**THE ACCLAIMED RAGAZZI BOYS CHORUS
COLLABORATES WITH THE PENINSULA GIRLS CHORUS IN
SIBLINGS IN SONG**

**5:00pm, Saturday, May 2
First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto**

PALO ALTO, CA (4 March 2020) — Continuing their long-standing history of collaboration, **Ragazzi Boys Chorus** will join forces with the **Peninsula Girls Chorus** in *Siblings in Song*, a rousing concert celebrating the dynamic performance skills of both groups. This concert will showcase Ragazzi's Premiere and Avanti groups, and Peninsula Girls Chorus' Allegra and Brava choirs. **Ragazzi Boys Chorus** is a Grammy award-winning group committed to excellence in musical performance and education. **Peninsula Girls Chorus** focuses on engaging the hearts and minds of girls from diverse backgrounds through a comprehensive experience in choral music. Offering an array of heavenly music, upbeat tunes, and jazzy renditions, the show will conclude with an exciting finale featuring the combined voices. *Siblings in Song* will be presented at **5:00pm, Saturday, May 2** at the **First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto**, 625 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto. For tickets (\$15-\$20) and more information, visit brownpapertickets.com or call **650-342-8785**.

In celebration of the shared history and everlasting bond between these two programs, Ragazzi Boys Chorus and Peninsula Girls Chorus reunite to create a culturally diverse and uniquely dynamic spring concert, *Siblings in Song*. To kick off the evening, Ragazzi will captivate listeners with Camille Saint-Saëns's *Ave Maria*, Victor C. Johnson's rhythmic *Gloria Deo*, and David Brunner's original composition, *Viva la Musica*.

Two additional works performed by Ragazzi will feature upbeat piano accompaniments that offer significant, timely messages for young people. Set to Langston Hughes' famous poem *Dreams*, Susan LaBarr's *Hold Fast to Dreams* draws attention to the importance of having

dreams. Meanwhile, Mary Lynn Lightfoot's spirited and inspirational arrangement of Mark Burrows' *Teach Your Dreams* emphasizes the lifelong benefits of determination and persistence.

John Leavitt's setting of Cy Coleman's *Rhythm of Life* from *Sweet Charity*, the 1966 hit musical, will add a fresh new twist to this Bach-inspired song. Coleman was a Tony Award-winning Broadway composer who wrote songs and musical scores that were tuneful, literate, witty, ironic, and brassy. This electrifying choral showstopper set by Leavitt will also be performed by Ragazzi.

Designed for female voices, Audrey Snyder's setting of Christina Rossetti's beautiful poem, *Skylark and Nightingale*, will set the stage for Peninsula Girls Chorus. This lovely contemporary piece illustrates fascination with sublime beauty which, by definition, is not accessible or commonplace.

Known as one of the most successful composers in modern choral music, Linda Spevacek has continued to keep her works original and creative, while also maintaining the consistency and integrity that has given her a world-renowned reputation. Her celebratory montage of seven truly American favorites, *Americana Jubilee*, will be among the pieces performed by Peninsula Girls Chorus. Set in a variety of styles, the tunes in this extremely creative arrangement will capture the hearts of both singers and audiences.

Peninsula Girls Chorus will also explore traditional songs from around the world with Will Skaff's arrangement *J'entends le Moulin (I Hear the Windmill)*, a French-Canadian folk song well known in the province of Quebec, and Zoltán Kodály's Hungarian folk song, *Ladybird*.

The evening will conclude an exciting finale featuring the combined voices of Ragazzi and Peninsula Girls Chorus. Among the pieces is *Wau Bulan*, a folk song and dance that originates from Malaysia. Performed in *Dikir Barat* style, the boys and girls will perform choreographed hand and body movements to bring this work to life. Henry Purcell's majestic *Sound the Trumpet*, the triumphal movement from his 1694 *Come Ye Sons of Art* birthday ode for Queen Mary, will also be featured.

The concert will end on a high note with the upbeat syncopated rhythms, dynamic melodies, and fun-to-sing harmonies of Mark Burrows' *We Are the Day!* With lyrics inspired by candid conversations with young singers, the inspiring, powerful message of this song is the voices of all children proclaiming "Look out world, here we are! We are here and now. We are the day!"

Founded in 1994, the award-winning **Peninsula Girls Chorus** serves girls ages 6-18 from across the San Francisco Bay Area. With over 200 girls currently enrolled in the program, Peninsula Girls Chorus represents over 90 schools and 20 Bay Area cities. Selected by *CBS News* as one of the top choirs on the Peninsula, PGC was named the recipient of the 2008 ASCAP/Chorus America Award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music, an award that is given to one children's or youth chorus in North America each year.

Peninsula-based **Ragazzi Boys Chorus** is one of the San Francisco Bay Area's premiere music and performance organizations for boys. Currently, there are more than 250 singers from over 100 schools in 30+ Bay Area communities participating in the program. Ragazzi means "boys" in Italian and is the term used in opera to refer to children's voices. Ragazzi has performed with the San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Symphony, Opera San Jose, West Bay Opera, Symphony Silicon Valley, Masterworks Chorale, and the Stanford University Symphonic Chorus among others. The group has toured throughout the United States and internationally. In 2000, Ragazzi was honored for its contribution to the San Francisco Symphony's triple Grammy Award-winning recording of Stravinsky's *Perséphone*, and has five CDs available: *A Holiday Collection*, *Canciones de Alabanza*, *Magnificat: My Spirit Rejoices*, *Splendors of the Italian Baroque*, and *I Dream A World*.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: Continuing their long-standing history of collaboration, **Ragazzi Boys Chorus** will join forces with the **Peninsula Girls Chorus** in *Siblings in Song*, a rousing concert celebrating the dynamic performance skills of both groups. This concert will showcase Ragazzi's Premiere and Avanti groups, and Peninsula Girls Chorus' Allegra and Brava choirs. **Ragazzi Boys Chorus** is a Grammy award-winning group committed to excellence in musical performance and education.

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WHEN: 5:00pm, Saturday, May 2

WHERE: **First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto**, 625 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto

TICKETS: \$15 Students and Seniors (65 and older); \$20 General Admission
Tickets will be available online beginning in April.

INFO: For information or to order tickets, please visit brownpapertickets.com or call (650) 342-8785.

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MEDIA: High resolution photos of **Ragazzi Boys Chorus** can be downloaded from:
<http://cbpr.co/press/siblingsinsong/>

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