



ACCLAIMED RAGAZZI BOYS CHORUS CELEBRATES 30 YEARS WITH RAGAZZI SINGS BING!

2:30pm, Sunday, June 10

REDWOOD CITY, CA (13 April 2018) — Although its singers are youngsters, venerable Ragazzi Boys Chorus marks its 30th Anniversary in June, with a stunning celebration at Stanford's Bing Hall. ***Ragazzi Sings Bing!*** will include all levels of the 200-boy chorus from more than 30 Bay Area communities, plus appearances by Ragazzi alumni who will travel from around the country to participate, as well as ***Ragazzi Continuo***, an adult a cappella choir made up of men who are all former members of Ragazzi. All the boys and men will showcase their wide range of vocal skills and more, as they recreate the unparalleled experience they shared growing up as Ragazzi choristers and pay homage to co-founder and Artistic Director Joyce Keil. Ragazzi is one of the region's top choirs, offering vocal and music theory training, performances throughout the Bay Area, summer music camp, performance opportunities with major symphonies and opera companies, and international touring. ***Ragazzi Sings Bing!*** will be presented **2:30pm, June 10** at **Stanford Bing Concert Hall**, 327 Lasuen Street, Stanford. For tickets (\$15-\$50) and more information, visit www.ragazzi.org or call (650) 342-8785.

The repertoire for ***Ragazzi Sings Bing!*** will showcase favorites including *As Long as I Have Music* by Don Besig and Nancy Price. This stirring piece alludes to the special power music has to lift the hearts and minds of individuals. The chorus will also perform Jing Ling Tam's witty and robust arrangement of *Magnificent Horses*, a fantasy on a Mongolian folk tune.

Among the other works presented will be Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory's arrangement of *Hope for Resolution*, which celebrates diversity and union with its juxtaposition of a European chant melody and an anti-apartheid song from South Africa. In a nod to Ragazzi singers' linguistic

RAGAZZI BOYS CHORUS PRESENTS “RAGAZZI SINGS BING!”

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dexterity, the chorus will present **Wendell Whalum**’s *Betelehemu*, a Nigerian carol with Yoruba text. The chorus will also perform a stirring rendition of *Danny Boy* in a thrilling, multi-leveled arrangement by Michael Cox.

Among the non-secular offerings is Elizabeth Poston’s *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*, conveying the message that all other trees are fruitless compared to the tree of life. Also on the bill is Franz Biebl’s stunning *Ave Maria*, a moving work that grows from a hushed whisper to a stirring climax. Paying tribute to the Native American legacy is the *Cherokee Amazing Grace*, which Ragazzi will perform in the Cherokee language. Rounding out the program is a commission by Bay Area composer Mark Fish, set to Judyth Hill’s poem “Wage Peace.” This commission will be sung by all participants in the concert – from the youngest treble to all returning alumni.

Ragazzi is thrilled to return to the Bing Concert Hall to celebrate this milestone anniversary. At Bing’s gala opening in January 2013, Ragazzi Boys Chorus was one of only two community choruses invited to sing at the inaugural “Bing Fling” concert.

Founded in 1987, 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 200 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, Lawrence Pech Dance Company, Symphony Silicon Valley, Masterworks Chorale, and the Stanford University Symphonic Chorus. 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:

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WHAT: One of the San Francisco Bay Area’s premiere music programs for boys aged 5 – 18, **Ragazzi Boys Chorus** marks its 30th Anniversary with a stunning celebration at Stanford’s Bing Hall. ***Ragazzi Sings Bing!*** will include alums of all generations, coming together to recreate the unparalleled experience they shared growing up as Ragazzi choristers. From tall to small, all the boys will showcase their range of vocalism and the outstanding merit of Ragazzi, which offers vocal and music theory training, and performances throughout the Bay Area, with major symphonies and opera companies, and the opportunity to tour internationally. ***Ragazzi Sings Bing!*** will include all levels of the current chorus, appearances by alumni, and by **Ragazzi Continuo**, an adult a cappella choir made up of men who are all former members of Ragazzi.

WHEN: 5pm Saturday, December 2

WHERE: Stanford Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen Street, Stanford

TICKETS: \$15-\$50; savings available for students, Stanford employees, and youth 18 and under. For information or to order tickets, visit www.ragazzi.org 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/ragazzi/>

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