

The Mercury News

goodtimes

Your guide to what's hot



ANNIE MUNGER — RAGAZZI BOYS CHOR

Ragazzi Boys Chorus member Talinn will perform in a real-time virtual concert conducted by Eric Whitacre, using JackTrip Labs technology, on Friday.

Many voices, one video

If you've ever enjoyed one of those streaming videos depicting chorus singers performing individually but spliced into a glorious whole with their fellow choir members, you may well have Eric Whitacre to thank.

The Grammy-winning composer and conductor has pioneered the art of virtual choirs, which seem to defy imagination as dozens or more individual voices create the kind of gorgeous harmony you'd hear if the singers were performing live, right in front of you. Although the virtual concert format has gained popularity during the pandemic, Whitacre has actually been working on the format since 2010.

But now he is doing something he has never tried before — a live virtual choral concert, with Bay Area performers contributing their voices.

On Friday, Whitacre will lead members of the Redwood City-based Ragazzi Boys Chorus, the San

Francisco Girls Chorus and the Southern California Children's Chorus in a performance of his composition "Sing Gently." It's the same work he showcased last year when he assembled more than 17,500 singers from 129 countries to perform one of his virtual concerts.

But on Friday, he will be presenting the work in real time, making use of virtual concert software created by JackTrip Labs, a venture developed by Stanford University's Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics and Silicon Valley software entrepreneurs. And we are all invited to watch. A recorded version of the concert will also be available to stream indefinitely after the performance.

Details: Noon Friday; performance will be followed by Q&A with Whitacre and JackTrip Labs CEO Mike Dickey; free; accessible via Whitacre's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/EricWhitacreOfficial.

— Randy McMullen, Staff