



**RAGAZZI BOYS CHORUS
PRESENTS HOLIDAY CONCERT**

Magnificent Wonders

1pm PST Saturday, December 3, 2022

4pm PST Sunday, December 11, 2022

REDWOOD CITY, CA (4 November 2022) — **Ragazzi Boys Chorus** will lift their voices with festive songs of the holiday season in the concert *Magnificent Wonders*. Featuring Ragazzi's Concert Group, Choral Scholars, and Young Men's Ensemble, this evening of marvelous music is filled with treasured yuletide favorites as well as stunning choral pieces, celebrating the season of wonder. Led by Artistic and Executive Director **Kent Jue**, *Magnificent Wonders* will perform **1pm PST Saturday, December 3 2022** at First United Methodist Church in Palo Alto and **4pm PST Sunday, December 11, 2022** at Old First Church in San Francisco. For tickets (\$15-\$45) and more information the public may visit **Ragazzi.org** or call **(650) 362-4425**.

For *Magnificent Wonders*, Ragazzi is joined by special guest artists from the **Cal Arte Ensemble**, who will provide accompaniment for several pieces within the program. These musicians include **Julian Brown** (violin), **Brandon Wang** (violin), **Goetz Leonhardt** (viola), and **Sam Cotta** (cello)

Spotlighting the magic of the holiday season, *Magnificent Wonders* will include a wide variety of songs in its festive repertoire. Among the works offered by Ragazzi's Concert Group (CG) and Choral Scholars (CS) is Movement I of Giovanni Battista Pergolesi's euphoric *Magnificat*, Andy Brooke's buoyant arrangement of the English traditional carol *I Saw Three Ships*, and Stuart Nicholson's vibrant arrangement of Christmas classic *Ding Dong! Merrily on High* with organ accompaniment. The two groups will also perform Ola Gjeilo's flowing and resplendent *Ecce Novum* and Rosephanye Powell's striking *Non Nobis Domine*. CG will then perform an

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exquisite rendition of *Ave Maria* by Johann Sebastian Bach and Charles Gounod, as well as John Rutter’s masterful anthem *For the Beauty of the Earth*.

During this thrilling performance, Young Men’s Ensemble (YME) will perform Franz Biebl’s breathtaking *Ave Maria*, Chad Weirick’s sparkling arrangement of the traditional English carol *A-Wassailing!*, and Ola Gjeilo’s haunting setting of *Ave Generosa*, with text by Hildegard von Bingen. YME will also sing Via Olatunji and Wendell Whalum’s dramatic and engaging Nigerian carol *Betelehemu*; Stephen Main’s mysterious yet joyful *The Darkest Midnight in December*; Shawn Kirchner’s lively *Brightest and Best* based on an American hymn tune with text by Reginald Heber; and Ken Berg’s dynamic gospel-infused *Come and See the King*.

All Ragazzi ensembles will then come together to sing Dan Forrest’s tender and elegant *Shalom*, urging peace for all with its text “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you, not as the world gives; do not be afraid.” The full chorus will close the concert with William McKee’s rendition of the jubilant holiday staple *Joy to the World* by Isaac Watts.

Peninsula-based **Ragazzi Boys Chorus** is one of the San Francisco Bay Area’s premier music and performance organizations for boys. Currently, more than 180 boys from over 100 schools in 30+ Bay Area communities participate 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. 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: **Ragazzi Boys Chorus** will lift their voices with festive songs of the holiday season in the concert *Magnificent Wonders*. Featuring Ragazzi’s Concert Group,

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Choral Scholars, and Young Men's Ensemble with special guests from the **Cal Arte Ensemble**, this evening of marvelous music is filled with treasured yuletide favorites including *Joy to the World*, *Ding Dong! Merrily On High*, and *I Saw Three Ships* as well as stunning choral pieces including Franz Biebl's *Ave Maria*, *Non Nobis Domine*, John Rutter's *For the Beauty of the Earth*, and Nigerian carol *Betelehemu*, celebrating the season of wonder.

WHEN: **1pm PST Saturday, December 3**
First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto

4pm PST Sunday, December 11
Old First Presbyterian Church, 1751 Sacramento Street, San Francisco

TICKETS: **Tickets (\$25-\$45) for December 3 performance**
Reserved: \$45
General admission: \$35
12 and under: \$25

General admission tickets are free to current Ragazzi choristers wearing a Ragazzi logo t-shirt when accompanied by an adult with a paid general admission ticket.

Tickets (\$15-\$35) for December 11 performance
\$35 general admission
\$25 seniors
\$15 students and those 12 and younger

INFO: For information or to order tickets, the public may visit **Ragazzi.org** or call (650) 362-4425.

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

PRESS: Contact Lauren Goldfarb, Carla Befera & Co.
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