



PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PIEDMONT EAST BAY CHILDREN'S CHOIRS WINS FIRST AND SECOND PLACE AWARDS AT INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

The Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir (PEBCC) has returned triumphantly from the "International Choral Kathaumixw" choral competition, with first and second place awards. The festival is a biannual, invitational choral competition held in, Powell River, British Columbia, Kathaumixw, a word from the Tla'Amin people of the Sliammon First Nation of Canada means, "a gathering together of different peoples". The elaborate festival, which opened with an entry parade led by a color guard of Royal Canadian Mounties and Fire Department officers, bagpipe band, and Olympic style procession of all participating choirs, is sponsored by the Powell River Academy of Music, of Canada. Their first festival was held in 1982 and the PEBCC first attended the event in 1984. This year was the festival's 14th and was attended by over 1,000 students from 30 of the world's top choirs, from 13 different countries.

The PEBCC performing Department groups "Ancora" and Ensemble" prepared all year for the competition singing both a broad and challenging repertoire of works by composers from America: Wings, Tuan, and Bohlin; Finland: Kostianen and Kortekangas; Italy: Verdi, the Czech Republic: Macha, England: Byrd; Japan: Matsushita; and others.

Ancora and Ensemble combined together to win 1st place in the Contemporary Competition by performing "Ikikaiku" by Olli Kortekangas, an ethereal piece that studies the struggles of life and identity, and "Moon-Dance", by San Francisco composer Mark Wings, a piece that celebrates the beauty of the moon's movement through space.

Ensemble took second place as Best Children's Choir.

The ending First Place Winners Concert included performances by Aarhus Pigeekor from Denmark, performing delightfully blended pieces, the N.Z. Secondary Students' Choir from New Zealand, performing rousing Maorian melodies and chants, and the PEBCC once again performing "Ikikaiku", which included a stirring passage with choir/audience call and response, followed by a dramatic vocal fade-out and moving joining of hands.