



DISCOVERING OUR VOICES

2020-21

Winter Season Concerts

DECEMBER 2020 - JANUARY 2021



PIEDMONT EAST BAY
CHILDREN'S CHOIR

CONCERT LIST



Kinder and Training Department Recital

Saturday, December 5, 2020 - 4:00pm

[YouTube Premiere](#) **VIRTUAL**

Experience the budding artistry and infectious joy of our youngest singers in this family-friendly recital! The program features virtual choir performances from our six Kinder and Training Department ensembles.

Candlelight Concert

Saturday, December 12, 2020 - 4:00pm

[YouTube Premiere](#) **VIRTUAL**

As the winter solstice approaches, celebrate the season with a program of choral treasures from our four most advanced performing choirs. This varied international program features a special digital collaboration with renowned children's choir Vox Aurea from Finland alongside music from the Dominican Republic, England, Hungary, and Estonia.



Winter Concert

Saturday, January 23, 2021 - 4:00pm

[YouTube Premiere](#) **VIRTUAL**

Celebrate the start of a new year with the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir family. From our youngest Training Department musicians to the mature and seasoned performances of Concert Choir and Ensemble, this performance connects all of our ensembles in an inspiring showcase of the progressive musical growth and artistry of our singers.



Because of the generosity of our patrons, PEBCC is able to offer our **2020-2021 Discovering Our Voices virtual concert** season free to the public via YouTube Premiere. Your donation in any amount toward our normal ticket prices significantly offsets our production costs for our season and keeps the choir thriving during this time.

Please consider donating the price of a concert ticket to the Choirs this holiday season.

THE CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

Ancora

- Jubilate Deo* Miklós Kocsár (1933-2019)
Ave Maria Pärt Uusberg (b. 1986)
Bonse Aba Traditional Zambian Folk Song
Arr. Andrew Fischer

Concert Choir

- Be Like the Bird* Arthur Frackenpohl (1924-2019)
Christmas Dance of the Shepherds Zoltán Kodály (1882-1967)
English words by Elisabeth M. Lockwood

Ecco

- Alleluia, Senex Puerum Portabat* William Byrd (1543-1623)
Bring Me Little Water, Silvy Huddie Ledbetter (1888-1949)
Arr. Moira Smiley
Body Percussion by Evie Ladin

Alumni Choir

- Autumn Time* A seasonal round by Libana

Ensemble

- Ah, Robin, Gentle Robin* William Cornysh (1465-1523)
Personent Hodie From *Piae Cantiones* (1582)
With Vox Aurea (Finland),
dir. Sanna Salminen
Heini Vesterinen, viola da gamba
Konsta Litmanen, percussion
Pekka Toivanen, medieval harp
Farshad Sanati, santur
Sanna Salminen, medieval fiddle

*Special thanks to Minja Niiranen for assistance with backing tracks,
and to Professor Aila Mielikäinen for language research and coaching.*

- Aires de Quisqueya* Medley of traditional Dominican folk songs
Arr. Pascale Denis & Laurina Vásquez
Andy Gutierrez, percussion
Eric Tuan, piano

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Welcome to the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir's 2020 Virtual Candlelight Concert. As the days grow darker and we continue to shelter in place, it is a delight to share the powerful beauty, hope, and artistry of our four performing ensembles. All of the music in today's program was recorded by our singers individually at home, as they continue to share their voices and bring the choral art alive in ever new and creative ways.

Ancora opens tonight's program with a setting of Psalm 100 by the Hungarian composer Miklós Kocsár. While the work dates from the 20th century, it hails back to the glorious polychoral music of 16th-century Venice. Musicians working in St Mark's Basilica took advantage of the building's numerous balconies to create a stereo effect, with multiple choirs calling back and forth across the reverberant space. In *Jubilate Deo*, Kocsár recreates this effect by dividing the choir into two halves which sing in alternation and finally together.

The small Baltic nation of Estonia boasts one of the world's most remarkable choral traditions. Every five years, up to 30,000 singers join voices in Tallinn for the Laulupidu, or song festival: an extraordinary expression of this small nation's rich cultural heritage, and an event in which PEBC has participated since 2004. The music of the young Estonian composer Pärt Uusberg has been featured prominently at the last two song festivals, and this afternoon Ancora offers his setting of the traditional Catholic prayer *Ave Maria*. The motet features the shimmering, closely woven harmonies that are a signature of Uusberg's style. Ancora closes their set with an arrangement of a traditional Zambian folksong, *Bonse Aba*, sung in the Bemba language. This joyful work proclaims that "All who sing have the right to be called the children of God."

Concert Choir then offers a reflective duet, *Be Like the Bird*, by the 20th-century American composer Arthur Frackenpohl. A longtime professor of music at the State University of New York at Potsdam, Frackenpohl was known for his lyrical, accessible, and idiomatic style. *Be Like the Bird* sets a poem by Victor Hugo with elegant word-painting, depicting the song of the bird soaring expressively over a richly harmonized piano part. By contrast, Zoltán Kodály's ebullient *Christmas Dance of the Shepherds* offers a joyful, intricately woven depiction of the Christmas story. A legendary pedagogue, Kodály was able to craft music equally rich in expression and teaching value.

Ecco shares a work by the Tudor composer William Byrd, written under a very different sort of lockdown. An underground Catholic under the reign of the Protestant queen Elizabeth I, Byrd served the Protestant establishment as a member of the Chapel Royal while simultaneously celebrating small Catholic services in the basements of country manor houses. The five-voice motet *Alleluia, Senex Puerum Portabat* is drawn from the first volume of the *Gradualia*, a collection of liturgical music for the Catholic church year. Byrd's publication of this monumental anthology was particularly daring at a time when the threat of fines or even execution had forced Catholic worship underground. In *Alleluia, Senex Puerum Portabat*, Byrd weaves a dense, intricately woven tapestry out of five independent vocal lines.

Ecco's second piece, *Bring Me Little Water, Silvy*, was made famous by the legendary blues singer Huddie ("Lead Belly") Ledbetter. When performing the piece in concert, Ledbetter would explain that he had learned it from his uncle, who would call for his wife Silvy to bring

him water while he was out plowing the fields. We are not sure whether the story is apocryphal, as it is likely that it is a work song dating back much further – but either way, the sturdy melody and Moira Smiley’s soulful arrangement make for a winning combination.

Ensemble opens their set with a Tudor song from the court of Henry VIII. *Ah, Robin, Gentle Robin* is thought to have been composed by the gifted musician William Cornysh the Younger, who was in charge of producing musical entertainments for the royal court. This hauntingly beautiful reflection on courtly love reflects Cornysh’s gifts as both dramatist and musician.

Ensemble is honored to have a long relationship with the renowned Finnish children’s choir Vox Aurea (“The Voice of Gold”); we have visited them three times in Finland, and they in turn have visited us twice in the Bay Area. During the pandemic, we decided to embark on a joint recording project together celebrating one of the monuments of Finnish musical culture: the 1582 collection of school songs, *Piae Cantiones*. This anthology features some of the greatest hits of the medieval and Renaissance period, many of which have survived as popular Christmas carols such as “*Good King Wenceslas*” and “*Gaudete*.” Although the songs are a matter of great national pride for Finnish musicians, they have never before been recorded in medieval Finnish.

Vox Aurea’s conductor Sanna Salminen decided to fill that gap with a joint recording project between Vox Aurea and PEBCC. First, Sanna recorded backing tracks with a wonderful band of medieval musicians playing such colorful instruments as the medieval harp, medieval fiddle, viola da gamba, santur (a type of hammered dulcimer), and percussion. Then, the singers of Vox Aurea and Ensemble recorded the vocal parts with the help of Professor Aila Mielikäinen of the University of Jyväskylä, who shared her pioneering research into the pronunciation of medieval Finnish. Finally, the singers recorded videos sharing the holiday traditions and settings of their respective communities. Even though we are not currently able to tour, it is a special delight to bring these two choirs together virtually from across the globe.

Ensemble closes this afternoon’s program with *Aires de Quisqueya*, an eclectic medley of folksongs from the Dominican Republic (“Quisqueya” means “mother of all lands” in Taíno, one of the principal languages of the indigenous peoples of the island). The arrangement is by Dominican pianists Pascale Denis and Laurina Vásquez, and was first shared with us by the Dominican conductor Juan Tony Guzman when he served as a guest conductor at PEBCC’s Golden Gate International Choral Festival. *Aires de Quisqueya* includes a setting of the merengue, the unofficial national dance of the Dominican Republic, alongside a lumberjack song and a drumming song.

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Jubilate Deo

Miklós Kocsár (1933-2019)
Text: Psalm 100:1-2a

*Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Know this: The Lord himself is God.*

Ave Maria

Pärt Uusberg (b. 1986)
Text: Traditional Marian prayer

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

Bonse Aba

Trad. Zambian folk song, arr. Andrew Fischer

*All who sing have the right to be called the children of
God.*

Be Like the Bird

Arthur Frackenpohl (1924-2019)
Text: Victor Hugo

*Be like the bird, who
Halting in his flight
On a limb too slight
Feels it give way beneath him,
Yet sings
Knowing he hath wings.*

Christmas Dance of the Shepherds

Zoltán Kodály (1882-1967)
English Translation: Elisabeth Lockwood

*Long I slumbered, by sound sleep o'er taken,
Strange dreams, comrade, bade me now awaken.
Hear you not the wondrous tidings, told by angels holy,
How that Jesus now is born and laid in manger lowly.*

*I'll delay not, there's no time for wasting,
Onward now, to Baby Jesus hastening.
Brother, be thou my companion on the way we're going,
While you shepherd lovely music on his pipe is blowing.*

*Look you, brother, we are many more now,
Play on, piper, marching on before now!
Let us take a little lamb and give it him my brother,
Let us sing our sweetest songs to Jesus and his mother.*

*Stay no longer, now our visit's ending.
Brother, homeward we must now be wending.
All these presents we have brought our love for him are
shewing,
Quickly thank the little Jesus we must now be going.*

*Just one moment let me be delaying,
Some more verses I would fain be saying,
Kneeling at the lowly manger humbly to adore him,
Rising then with joyful heart to sing and dance before
him!*

Alleluia, Senex Puerum Portabat

William Byrd (1543-1623)

Text: Alleluia verse for the Feast of the Purification,
trans. William Mahrt

Alleluia.

*The old man carried the child,
but the child ruled the old man.*

Alleluia.

Bring Me Little Water, Silvy

Huddie Ledbetter (1888-1949), arr. Moira Smiley

*Bring me little water Silvy,
Bring me little water now.
Bring me little water Silvy,
Every little once in a while.*

*Bring it in a bucket Silvy,
Bring it in a bucket now.
Bring it in a bucket Silvy,
Every little once in a while.*

*Silvy come a-runnin',
Bucket in her hand,
I will bring a little water
Fast as I can.*

*Can't you see me comin',
Can't you see me now?
I will bring a little water,
Every little once in a while.*

Bring me little water Silvy...

Autumn Time

A seasonal round by Libana

*Autumn time, red leaves fall,
While the weeping sky looks over all.
Demeter sadly walks the land,
The dying grasses in her hand.*

Ah, Robin, Gentle Robin

William Cornysh (1465-1523)

*Ah, Robin, gentle, Robin,
Tell me how thy leman doth
and thou shalt know of mine.*

*My lady is unkind I wis,
Alack why is she so?
She lov'th another better than me,
and yet she will say no.
Ah, Robin, gentle, Robin...*

*I cannot think such doubleness
for I find women true,
In faith my lady lov'th me well
she will change for no new.
Ah, Robin, gentle, Robin...*

Personent Hodie

From Piae Cantiones (1582)
Medieval Finnish research and coaching by Professor
Aila Mielikäinen (University of Jyväskylä)

*Let resound today
the voices of children,
joyfully praising
Him who is born to us,
given by most high God,
and conceived in a virginal womb.*

*He was born into the world,
wrapped in swaddling clothes,
and laid in a manger
in a stable for animals,
the master of the heavens.
The prince of Hell has lost his spoils.*

*Three Magi came,
they were bearing gifts,
and sought the little one,
following a star,
to worship him,
and offer him gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

*Let all the junior clerics
and also the boys
sing like angels:
“You have come to the world,
I pour out praises to you.
Therefore, glory to God in the highest!”*

Aires de Quisqueya

Medley of traditional Dominican folk songs, arr.
Pascale Denis & Laurina Vásquez

Tonada campesina (country air):

*To fly the dove, eh,
You are little and beautiful,
You are how I like you.
To fly the dove, eh,
You look like a little bell
In the hands of a silversmith.
To fly the dove, eh.*

Merengue (Dominican national dance):

*There Maria goes.
I saw a one-eyed mosquito fighting with a hog,
They fought with knives and the mosquito killed the pig.*

Pambiche (A slower version of merengue):

*Goat, goat, goat,
Goat from the mountain -
Who has seen a goat stumbling?
I have spent a week covering the hole (in a fence),
And the darn goat comes back and gets in (the fence).*

Goat, goat, goat...

Ay! Goat from the mountain!

Canto de Hacha (lumberjack song):

*Such a good worker, ombe,
I used to be, ombe,
And now I cannot, ombe,
Climb the mountain, ombe.*

*Dolores, ombe,
Don't cry, ombe,
My little Dolores, ombe,
Ombe, ombe,
To the mountain.*

Palos (drumming song):

*Let's play palos,
Palo, palo, palo,
Beautiful palo, palo, eh!*

*I have Saint Anthony turned upside down.
I will not fix it until I find a boyfriend.
Palo, palo, palo,
Beautiful palo, palo, eh!*

WELCOME TO OUR WINTER SEASON CONCERTS



What does it mean to sing together during a pandemic? As we navigate our new reality of social distancing, sheltering in place, and distance learning, the art of choral singing has been utterly transformed. We miss the joy of lifting our voices together in harmony, of sharing a hug with a friend during rehearsal, of the hushed silence that settles over the concert hall as we begin to sing. And yet, through the challenges of the past year, we have discovered how strong our voices truly are.

I am so proud of the way our incredible singers, families, faculty, and staff have adapted to this new virtual landscape with creativity, love, and dedication. Our commitment to creating community, inspiring voices, and enriching the world has never been stronger. I am delighted to share our community's passion for making music, no matter the circumstances, with you during our winter season of virtual concerts.

We'll hear the infectious joy of our youngest singers in our first-ever virtual Kinder and Training Department Recital. (You'll see what I mean when you see the videos!). We'll experience the undimmed artistry of our Performing Department ensembles at the Candlelight Concert, including a special digital collaboration with renowned Finnish children's choir Vox Aurea. And we'll bring together the whole PEBCC community at the Winter Concert, when singers from age six to age sixteen have the chance to hear and celebrate each other's accomplishments.

Thank you for joining us today and allowing us to share our music with you. During these difficult times, we hope that the songs and stories you hear today will bring you joy, peace, and light in the darkness.

Yours in Music,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Tuan". The script is fluid and cursive.

Eric Tuan

Artistic Director

WELCOME TO OUR WINTER SEASON CONCERTS



This time of year, for me, has always been about finding the room to breathe in the hustle and bustle – finding the moments to pause and really notice the memories WHILE we are making them. This season holds both the honoring of the past and the promise of the future in a single moment, whether expressed in the image of a moonlit night with quiet, untouched snowfall, a single candle illuminating the darkness, or the countdown to the New Year – anticipating beginnings and endings in 10 seconds.

With our concert season, we also see that juxtaposition of reflecting back and looking forward, and there is much here to inspire us all. We see in the young faces and voices of our Training Department singers joyful hearts and minds, ready to create, connect, and engage in our current normal of virtual formats. We hear the confidence and growing independent musicianship of our Performing Department's young artists, continuing to connect globally with beloved partners around the world to re-imagine collaborations. Their resilience and creativity move us. Their insistence that though we must be physically separate to hold each other close safely, we MUST sing and sing together empowers us.

We're all missing the hugs, the applause, the smiles and laughter of being together as a community in the ways we are used to experiencing the concert season. But as one of THIS community's newest members, I still feel connected. I'm hopeful and excited for what it will be like to carry our voices together forward in the months and years to come, because I see how our singers continue to be lights in the current darkness. So take a breath, settle in, hug them close, and let's all watch them shine!

In harmony,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keri Butkevich".

Keri Butkevich

Executive Director

SINGERS

Kinder Choir

Yamuna DeFries
Matilda McClune
Joella Petreas
Yukie Salaverry-Takei
Nora Venner
Zach Venner
August Wolferson
Jillian Xu

Training 1

Charlotte Creek
Liam Djordjevic
Eva Do
Madeleine Doan
Cora Hart
Anika Holderfield
Marie Hosemann
Saskia Kwiram
Chloe Lee
Kathleen Lynch
Clara Paul
Samar Rao-Sarathy
Irene Rust

Girls Training 2

Roya Agarwal
Sofia Caminos
Amelia Chang
Layla Gomez Williams
Ruby Hetteima
Kaeley Johnston
Tsumugi Kawamoto
Ember McCall
Seneca Miano
Madeline Swanson-Hysell
Molly Wolferson
Caroline Wolferson

Girls Training 3

Nora Bell
Susannah Cantrill
Madison Chang
Amara Clark
Emiko Critchlow
Cara Impallomeni
Zindzi Kaplan Rasheed
Ellena Kau

Chloe Krumboltz
Eloise Malick
Sophi Ouyang
Alice Paul

Girls Training 4

Laura Caceres Spears
Anjali Falbo-Nicosia
Kora Fletcher
Courtney Joe
Jasmine Levin
Ayla Montanez
Ainsley Mullane
Murielle Vance
Alexandria Wilson

Boys Training 2

Nicolas Adams
Andrew Lim
Rafael Rajan
Felix Sudat
Adrian Thong
Bryan Wade

Concert Choir

Cassidy Carter
Gemma Chin
Elana Cortes
Claire Davison
Aiden Emigh
Stella Esainko
Bailey Estrella Kowal
Ilana Eustace-Shoham
Daniel Greenberg
James Hetteima
Sloane Kau
Sarah Khan-Akselrod
Keanna Koehler
Marguerite Laub
Keira Lee
Juliet Malick
Maeve McMullen
Allison Newman
Ryan Newman
Lola Olsen
Georgia Orcharton
Mirella Piccolboni
Michael Sidbury

Emma Stern
Laurna Sudat
Edith Tamarkin Goble
Ava Tarapore
Tanya Thanos
Imogen Wade
Kea Woltag

Ensemble

Sofia Abee
Elizabeth Barr
Amba Beattie
Eva Beck-Ruiz
Lauren Brenner
Lillianne Byers
Jasmine Cazier
Cassandra Colby
Miranda Couch
Julianne Crossland
Kasandra Dagnese
Larissa Edel
Sierra ElginSmith
Eliana Goldstein
Ernie Goux King
Kiera Gray
Lillian Greenberg
Hanna Guyer
Lucy Henrich
Cooper Heyman
Genevieve Hiller
Makenna Hillyard
Maya Huffaker
Cayden Kurio
Karina Lawler
Arcadia Li
Melina Markowitz
Sophia Meisel
Veda Pao-Ziegler
Taryn Rakowski
Dahlia Saffouri
Kailamae Sands
Sophie Santander
Margot Saulnier
Olivia Shoji
Nika Spalaris
Sarah Sullivan
Oona Swartz
Mei Takeuchi

SINGERS

Sarah Turley
Eliza Van de Water
Victoria Van Gelder
Naomi Walker
Clare Weiss
Ryo Woltag
Lilah Young
Olive Zager

Ecco

Madeline Ashburn
Mia Atkinson
Zenaida Barash
Erin Bartholomew
Alexander Beck-Ruiz
Chloe Bobila
Alexa Borden
Roxanne Bostian
Jonah Broscow
Thomas Chu
Audrey Cleveland
Benjamin Colby
Sebastien Combes
Nhelete Donovan
Catalina ElginSmith
Kai Estrella Kowal
Elizabeth Fiske
Alexandra Fiske

Cole Garcia
Ava Golden
Ozmar Huerta
Philippa Kennedy
Anna Klein
Owen Klein
Juliana Lai
Michaela Lim
Julia Manese
Alisia Marques
Scott McKenzie
Lea Meisel
Lucia Moratinos-Chu
George Mouratoff
Quincy Munyan
Jahnavi Muppirla
Gabriela Navarro Moynihan
Zia Pao-Ziegler
Ruth Radwin
Anni Robinson
Khoa Sands
Phoebe Schmidt
Malia Stone
Helena Suarez-Kaminska
Henry Sullivan
Tomohiko Takeuchi
Aiden Thornburg
Natalie Ung

Alec Westland- Hurwitz
Talia Young Skeen
Liam Young Skeen

Ancora

Madeline Ashburn
Mia Atkinson
Gulzar Attari
Erin Bartholomew
Alexa Borden
Roxanne Bostian
Nhelete Donovan
Alexandra Fiske
Elizabeth Fiske
Sydney Gong
Kimiye Hendee
Anna Klein
Emma Leibowitz
Michaela Lim
Milla Munn
Zia Pao-Ziegler
Ruth Radwin
Anni Robinson
Phoebe Schmidt
Talia Young Skeen



FACULTY



ERIC TUAN

Artistic Director, Ensemble and Ecco Conductor

An alum and longtime faculty member of PEBCC, Eric began as Artistic Director of the organization in July 2019. Tuan currently serves as the founding Artistic Director of the chamber chorus Convivium, and as Director of Music at Christ Episcopal Church, Los Altos. In addition to his work as a professional singer, keyboardist, and composer, his choral music has been widely performed throughout the United States and Europe. Tuan received his Master of Music degree at the University of Cambridge with the support of a Gates Cambridge Scholarship, and his undergraduate degree from Stanford University.

KERI BUTKEVICH

Executive Director

Keri has served music education organizations in the Executive Director role since 2008, most recently with the Oakland Youth Chorus. She holds a Masters of Music in Voice from San Jose State University and a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and Acting Specialist Certificate from University of Wisconsin, Madison. Over 30 years as an arts educator, she has taught with Chicago Children's Choir, Chicago Opera Theater, Merit School of Music, Community School of Music and Art, Young Audiences, Cantabile Youth Singers, and Music in Schools Today. Over more than a decade of executive leadership, she spearheaded programs impacting 50 Bay Area schools and shepherded organizations through transformative change. Keri is a proud member of Oakland Rotary #3, Association of Fundraising Professionals, and volunteers with West Coast Boxer Rescue.



ANDREW BROWN

Conductor, Concert Choir

Andrew, leading Kodály-based choral and instrumental conductor, thrives on building musical artistry with young musicians. Currently, in his 10th season as conductor of PEBCC's Concert Choir, he has expanded the choirs' scope and vision leading to collaborations and performances in Bizet's Carmen, Orff's Carmina Burana, Mendelssohn's Elijah and Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker. Brown is also Director of Choral Studies with the Pacific Boychoir Academy conducting the Troubador's in over thirty performances a year. Additionally, He has also served as Artistic Director of the 101-year-old Vallejo Choral Society.

FACULTY



NAOMI BRAUN

Kinder & Training Department Director, Conductor Girls Training 2

Naomi has been the conductor of GT2 since 1995 and worked on the camp staff from 1992-1996. She taught music to children in kindergarten through eighth grade in SF and the East Bay. Ms. Braun is the alto section leader at St Bede's Episcopal Church in Menlo Park and has sung professionally with Volti, Philharmonia Baroque Chorale, Berkeley Opera, George Coates Performance Works, the SF Chamber Orchestra, Pocket Opera, American Bach Soloists, West Edge Opera, SF Renaissance Voices and the San Francisco Opera Chorus.

SUE BOHLIN

Associate Conductor, Performing Department, and Collaborative Pianist

Sue joined our staff in 1984 and is a recipient of PEBCC's Founders Award. A collaborative pianist, conductor, & producer, she works with choirs, orchestras, schools, recording studios, professional theater, opera, multimedia companies and conducts a choir in Gualala. Her music, published by Santa Barbara Music Publishers and Alliance Music, includes "In Anchor Bay", a piece she composed for the children's choir she led from 2004-2013. Sue graduated from the Conservatory at UOP, attended Holy Names Univ. for solfeggio, & studies at Berkeley Jazzschool.



JOEL CHAPMAN

Ecco Associate Conductor

Joel is a conductor, bass-baritone, and songwriter in the Bay Area. He sings professionally with Volti, an SF-based ensemble that performs and animates completely new works, as well as Endersnight, a choir specializing in Renaissance music. He is co-creator of Gravity, a New(tonian) Musical. He has a B.A. in Music—vocal performance and conducting—and an M.A. in Music, Science, & Technology from Stanford.

ANNE DANIEL

Conductor PreKinderChoir, KinderChoir and Training 1

Anne holds a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, where she sang choral and operatic works under distinguished conductors such as Riccardo Muti, Zubin Mehta, and Kurt Masur. Prior to moving to Oakland, Anne sang chorus, comprimario, and cover roles for Opera San José and worked for Vivace Youth Chorus. Ms. Daniel has been teaching voice and piano for over 25 years and delights in working with students of all ages.



FACULTY



ELIZABETH WAGMAN EMIGH

Conductor Girls Training 3, Vocal Pedagogy

Liz has a Master's Degree from the San Francisco Conservatory in vocal performance. She teaches voice classes at Diablo Valley College, has a private voice studio in Oakland, and has been Director of Choirs at Clayton Valley Charter High School in Concord for the past twenty years. Elizabeth received her music teaching credential from Chapman University and her Kodály music education certification from Holy Names University. She is a current member of the SF Symphony Chorus.

ROBERT GEARY

Artistic Director Emeritus, Conductor Ancora

As founding Artistic Director, Maestro Bob Geary has put the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir in the musical vanguard. Under his direction, PEBCC has won awards nationally and internationally, including multiple ASCAP awards and top honors in competitions in Canada, Poland, Austria, Italy, Hong Kong, Russia, Germany, Slovakia, and the United States. With Susan Rahl, he also founded the triennial Golden Gate International Children's and Youth Choral Festival in 1991. Since 1979 Geary has also served as founding Artistic Director of Volti, a professional new music vocal ensemble, and since 1995, as Artistic Director of the San Francisco Choral Society.



NANCY LINFORD

Conductor Girls Training 4, Boys Training 2

Nancy brings a lifelong love of singing and an especial fondness for children's voices to the Choirs. A Bay Area native, she has enjoyed witnessing and being a part of the growth of the Choirs providing opportunities for children that she would have relished as a child. Her training includes a Master's in Kodály music teaching, a K-12 music credential and Orff certification.

TIM SILVA

Concert Choir Assistant Conductor, Vocal Pedagogy, and Theory Teacher

Tim is an active performer, director, and teacher. For the past ten years, he has served many programs around the bay, from children's theater to high school choirs, and spent seven years as the music teacher for St. Leander School. He earned a B.A. in Music Education and Composition from UCLA, and also trained at the Boston Conservatory and Holy Names University. He has recorded and performed with many Bay Area ensembles, including Gaude, San Francisco Symphony Chorus, and Volti.



FACULTY



AMY BELLES

Collaborative Pianist

Amy joined the UC Berkeley staff in 2018, having worked on the CSU East Bay staff under Dr. Buddy James 2012-17. Her choral accompanying includes work with Cantare Con Vivo, Cantabile Youth Singers, Oakland Symphony Chorus, Voci women's ensemble, and the Mt. Eden and Monte Vista High School choirs; she has also vocal directed for Woodminster Amphitheater. Favorite performances include Schumann's Symphonic Etudes and accompanying in Davies Symphony Hall. She studied piano privately at the post-graduate level with Zita Sandor.

MATT BOURNE

Collaborative Pianist

Matt is a pianist who performs and accompanies vocalists and choral groups all around the Bay Area. He is a musical director and conductor for musical theatre productions at many local companies. He is the staff accompanist for Campolindo High School, pianist at First United Methodist Church of Hayward, a piano teacher, and a composer. He is a Bay Area native and a graduate of the music program at UCLA.



KYMRY ESAINKO

Collaborative Pianist

Kymry is the principal pianist for the Santa Rosa Symphony and accompanist for the Oakland Symphony Chorus, Pacific Edge Voices, and the choral program at Head-Royce School. Accomplished chamber music and jazz pianist, he has worked with artists as varied as vocalist Ute Lemper, cellist Johannes Moser, Dave Brubeck, Bobby McFerrin, Meredith Monk, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Sufjan Stevens, and Club Foot Orchestra. He holds degrees in American history and piano performance from Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music.

CHRISTINE FERNANDEZ

Collaborative Pianist

Christine grew up playing piano based on a strong foundation through the Suzuki Method. She's won in various venues such as East Bay Music Festival, MTAC Alameda County Branch Memorial Scholarship Foundation Auditions, Holy Names University Concerto Competition, Palo Alto Philharmonic Concerto Competition, and subsequently performed with Berkeley Youth Orchestra, Holy Names University Orchestra, and Palo Alto Philharmonic Orchestra. She holds a BA in Piano Performance from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.



FACULTY



KAZ KIM

Collaborative Pianist, Teaching Assistant

Kaz began playing the piano as a preschooler. After studying at the Juilliard Pre-College Division as a teenager, she moved west to attend UC Berkeley where she double-majored in Cognitive Science and Music (focus on Composition). Before becoming a parent, she worked at Warner Bros. Television selecting music for TV shows and movies while moonlighting as a keyboardist in a rock band. She is delighted to play more piano while her children joyfully sing with PEBCC.

THERESA CARDINALE

Vocal Pedagogy

Theresa holds a Master's degree in Vocal Pedagogy from Holy Names University in Oakland. These intense studies trained her in numerous and current approaches for working with each individual voice. She is sensitive and astute in assessing the varying needs of the people who come to her for vocal training.

Theresa has worked with many high school students from the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choirs, Head Royce School, Musically Minded Academy and College Preparatory schools. She leads vocal workshops and master classes with community choruses and church choirs and has been an adjudicator for vocal competitions and scholarship auditions many times.



ALICE DEL SIMONE

Vocal Pedagogy

A Bay Area native, Alice received her B.A. in Vocal Performance in 2014. She was awarded the David S. Saxon Award for Excellence in Early Music Performance and the Fannie Kopald Stein Award for Excellence in Music Performance. Del Simone enjoys performing varied repertoire including appearances with Miami Summer Music Festival and Opera Parallèle, and as a soloist under Esa-Pekka Salonen with Philharmonia Orchestra. She is currently a member of Volti and has recently performed with Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, the Berkeley Symphony, ODC, and Jónsi & Alex Sommers among others.

FACULTY



AUDREY HOWITT

Vocal Pedagogy

Audrey teaches voice in the San Francisco Bay Area and has been an associated voice teacher with several award winning choirs including Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir under the baton of Robert Geary, the Young Women's Choral Project of San Francisco under the direction of acclaimed director Susan McMane, the Head Royce School under the tutelage of Robert Wells, and the San Francisco Girls Chorus.

She has sung with San Francisco Symphony Chorus under the direction of both Vance George and Ragnar Bohlin. Ms. Howitt has also sung with the San Francisco Chamber Singers (now Volti) under the direction of Robert Geary. She has appeared in opera and musical theatre roles, covering both the mezzo-soprano and the soprano repertoire.

She holds a master's degree in music from Holy Names University and is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. She maintains a private studio in Alameda. divalounger@gmail.com

CLARISSA LYONS

Vocal Pedagogy

Soprano Clarissa Lyons has worked with PEBCC since 2005, acting as a counselor, voice teacher, and pedagogy advisor. After graduating from UC Berkeley, she received master's degrees from the Manhattan School of Music and Bard College Conservatory. A graduate of The Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist Program, she has also sung with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Cleveland Orchestra, Wolf Trap Opera, and Mark Morris Dance Group. She has appeared as a recitalist at Carnegie Hall, the Park Avenue Armory, Carmel's Sunset Center, Berkeley's Hertz Hall, and Opera America's National Opera Center. Clarissa maintains a private voice studio and resides in the East Bay with her husband, PEBCC alum John Shumway, their daughter Fiona, and rescue basset hound mix Lennie.



COURTNEE RHONE

Vocal Pedagogy

Courtnee graduated from Dillard University in New Orleans, LA with a Bachelors in Vocal Performance. She is a graduate of California State University East Bay where she pursued her master's degree in Music. She began teaching at the Louisiana Academy of Performing Arts in 2008. When she moved to California, she continued teaching students around the Bay Area. She enjoys working with children of all age groups that have a love for music.

She has performed with several concert choirs around the Bay Area and had roles with opera companies such as Verismo Opera and Golden Gate Opera.

Furthermore, she participated with the Franco-American Vocal Academy in Angers, France in 2017. Courtnee also won 2nd place in the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter in 2017. It is important to her to pass down the knowledge and skills that she has been taught, allowing her students to succeed while having fun.



FACULTY



LUCIA SCARDIGNO

Vocal Pedagogy

Lucia has been seen with opera companies throughout Northern California performing the title roles of Madama Butterfly, Turandot, Aida, Suor Angelica, as well as Leonora in “Il Trovatore”, Santuzza (Cavalleria Rusticana) and Amelia in “Masked Ball”, among others. She has performed under such batons as those of Hugo Rinaldi of Marin Opera and Maestro Coradetti (a protégé of Toscanini). Favorite musical theatre roles include the Mother Abbess in “The Sound of Music” and Lady Thiang in “The King and I” with the Willows Theatre Company, and the fun role of the music teacher in “On the Town.” Other credits include voice over work for film and radio, opera cabaret, singing telegrams, and recital and oratorio work. Ms. Scardigno has been teaching voice for over 28 years. Her students have performed in concert halls in Europe, on Broadway and in Broadway touring companies, Disney Cruise ships, at Juilliard, and even Motley Crue concerts!



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