

Piedmont Choirs to perform with SF Chamber Orchestra

By Heather Saulnier

An inspiring concert series sure to delight all audiences will occur March 17-18.

Naomi Braun, daughter of Edgar Braun, the founder of the SF Chamber Orchestra, follows in her father's footsteps, bringing creative musical performance offerings to Bay Area families. In 2002, when her father's health was failing, Naomi was approached by Ben Simon, then taking the helm of SFCO from her father, to ask what she envisioned in the orchestra's future. Now as Training Department Director of Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir, Naomi realized the virtue of an opportunity for young choir members to perform with a professional orchestra. She and Simon conceived of a Family Concert Series for the orchestra and choir that have are scheduled every two years.

"The SFCO has always been a part of my life," said Braun. "I grew up attending concerts regularly since my father started it when he was at UC Berkeley in the 1950s, well before I was born. Those concerts created forma-



Photo courtesy of Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir
Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir Training Director Naomi Braun is the daughter of San Francisco Chamber Orchestra founder Edgar Braun. The Choir's youngest members will perform in Family Concert with SFCO March 17 and 18.

tive and fond memories. When Ben took over, he asked me what I would like to see happen. I told him 'Family Concerts,' and Ben set out immediately to cre-

ate great programs for families." The Family Concert Series specifically highlights the younger students rather than the older children who perform regularly with high profile groups. "It's an amazing opportunity for performance for the younger kids," said Braun. The San Francisco Chamber Orchestra Family Concerts offer families the superb experience of high quality music in a setting that is kid-friendly. Their venues are accessible in various locations throughout the Bay Area.

Spring Concert Schedule

Concerts this spring will be held:

- Saturday, March 17, 2 p.m. – Noe Valley Ministry, San Francisco
 - Sunday, March 18, 12 p.m. – Asian Cultural Center, Oakland
 - Sunday, March 18, 3:30 p.m. – Burlingame High School Theater
- The Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir has enrollment in the Fall and Spring. To join the Choirs and be a part of the excitement, call: 547-4441 or email registrar@piedmontchoirs.org.