



DATE: For Immediate Release, June 19, 2017
CONTACT: Molly Lloyd, Executive Director
Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir
mlloyd@piedmontchoirs.org
(510) 547-4441

NEA provides *Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir* with \$13k Grant

Oakland, CA — National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu has approved more than \$82 million to fund local arts projects across the country in the NEA's second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2017. Included in this announcement is an Art Works **award of \$13,000 to the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir** in support of the **2018 Golden Gate Festival**. The NEA received 1,728 Art Works applications and will make 1,029 grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

"The arts reflect the vision, energy, and talent of America's artists and arts organizations," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support organizations such as the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir in serving their communities by providing excellent and accessible arts experiences."

Geary has established the choir, founded in 1982, as a leading force in international choral activities with a particular strength in new music. Under his guidance, PEBCC's flagship choir, Ensemble, has won top awards at competitions throughout the world. The choir's exceptional progressive after school instruction attracts children widely from across the Bay Area. Auditions for PEBCC's 2017-18 Season will be held for children four years old and up on Saturday, August 26 at Veteran's Hall in Piedmont. To learn more or schedule an audition, visit www.piedmontchoirs.org or call 510 547-4441.

The grant will support PEBCC's Golden Gate Festival, which will be held from July 8 to 14 in 2018 and will include rehearsals, competitions, concerts, a cruise of San Francisco Bay, a dance for the singer and a conductors' banquet.

"It's a tremendous honor to receive our first grant from the NEA in support of our July 2018 Golden Gate Festival. The Golden Gate Festival, established in 1991, remains the only opportunity for children and youth choirs to meet and compete on an international field in the United States. We are also very thankful to Bell Investment Advisors who has pledged \$10,000 for the Festival. The grants allow us to continue to push the frontiers of choral music; we have commissioned new pieces for the festival from composers Stacy Garrop, Jacqueline Hairston and Mark Wings."

"The federal recognition afforded PEBCC by this NEA grant elevates the organization in stature. This funding will strengthen their creative capacity and facilitate the broadening of their core activities." said Conway Jones, former Chairman, Oakland Arts Council and NEA Music & Opera panelist.

Says long-term PEBCC Corporate Sponsor Jim Bell, president and founder of Bell Investment Advisors, "Bonnie and I have long appreciated how PEBCC fosters the individual development of its students, and prepares them for life in a global context. We are excited to help open up the world for 500 children from top choirs around the globe to join together in song."

###

#NEASpring17



photography © don fogg