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CONDUCTOR-COMPOSER-EDUCATOR ERIC TUAN TO BECOME NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF AWARD-WINNING PIEDMONT EAST BAY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ROBERT GEARY TRANSFERS BATON AFTER 33 YEARS ON THE PODIUM

Oakland, CA, April 25, 2019 – Accomplished and gifted conductor, composer and educator **Eric Tuan** has been named new Artistic Director of the internationally recognized and award-winning Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir as founding Artistic Director **Robert Geary** steps down after 33 years leading the educational and performance organization. Tuan, who holds degrees in music from Stanford and Cambridge Universities, has performed with, conducted and composed for the Choirs for 20 years since the age of 11, will assume his new role after the organization tours to Finland and Estonia in June. Tuan joins recently appointed Executive Director **Karim Baer**, who joined Piedmont Choir in 2018, to begin the next chapter in the organization's growth and impact on music and music education in the Bay Area and beyond. Geary will pursue other projects including conducting his adult chorus, Volti, and will continue to conduct the Ancora ensemble of Piedmont Choir as Tuan assumes full leadership of all artistic, training and performance facets of the non-profit organization. For more information about Tuan and Piedmont Choirs, visit www.piedmontchoirs.org .

"Eric Tuan's artistic prowess as both a conductor and a composer, still at a relatively young age, cannot be overstated," says David Baraff, President of the Board of Directors. "We watched as Eric took the leadership of our high-school mixed choir (Ecco) a few years ago and his results exceeded our already very high expectations. Bob's nearly 40-year-long role and history with PEBCC is unique and he is irreplaceable. With Eric, we have found the next great link in the chain of leadership of our Choir. Eric has always been a recurring and legendary presence even after graduation. The entire Board of Directors is excited beyond words to be able to hand over stewardship of the Choir to Eric."

Eric Tuan says, "It's a special joy to return to the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir as Artistic Director after beginning my musical journey here many years ago.

I look forward to deepening the organization's commitment to adventurous music-making that sparks the imagination by exploring issues of transcendence, creativity and social justice. The simple act of singing together is a radical one in an increasingly fragmented world, and I am delighted to have this opportunity to work with a new generation of young people."

"I cannot think of a more exciting and appropriate successor than Eric," says founding artistic director Robert Geary. "He has astonished and challenged us since he was a young man in our program, meeting and exceeding our expectations and maturing into a compelling and significant artist who is clearly going places. Eric is a triple threat as an excellent composer, a fine conductor and a highly skilled ensemble singer. I am honored and proud to deliver the Piedmont Choirs into his artistic care and look forward to watching the fireworks as he brings his energy, dedication, enthusiasm and immense talent to the next phase!"

About New Artistic Director Eric Tuan

Eric Tuan returned to the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir after successfully completing studies in the Bay Area and abroad that expanded his horizons in music composition and performance. Tuan received his B.A. in Music with Honors from Stanford University, and completed a Master of Music in Choral Studies with Distinction at the University of Cambridge with the support of a Gates Cambridge Scholarship. Tuan started his musical journey in the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir as a young chorister and is currently on faculty as Ecco conductor and composer-in-residence. He will take over as Artistic Director of the internationally recognized program in July 2019.

Tuan currently serves as the founding Artistic Director of Convivium, the Peninsula-based chamber chorus he founded in 2012, and as Director of Music at Christ Episcopal Church, Los Altos. His dedication to the creation and exploration of new music has led him to conduct and perform the world premieres of over thirty works. Tuan has sung professionally with Volti, Cappella SF and the Philharmonia Baroque Chorale, and has received acclaim for his sensitive work as a collaborative pianist, continuo player and repetiteur.

Tuan's choral works, published by E.C. Schirmer, draw upon his diverse musical background to explore questions of transcendence and social justice. He has been widely commissioned by ensembles throughout the United States and Europe including Musae, the Fog City Singers, the Peninsula Women's Chorus and Vox Aurea. His music has been broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and Estonian Public Broadcasting.

About Robert Geary, founding Artistic Director

For 33 years as founding Artistic Director, Robert Geary has put the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir in the musical vanguard through his determined advocacy of new music. Commissions, premieres, recordings of innovative and demanding new works by today's leading composers and collaborations with domestic and international arts organizations have led to national and international renown.

Under his direction, in addition to winning many international competition prizes, PEBCC has the distinction of being the only children's choir from the U.S. to ever win a first prize at the Choral Olympics or World Choir Games. Geary and PEBCC have performed throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, Austria, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Italy, Slovenia, United Kingdom, Russia, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Croatia, Serbia and, most recently, Spain.

Geary also founded the professional new music vocal ensemble Volti in 1979 and he has been the Artistic Director of the San Francisco Choral Society for the past 21 years. His choirs have performed at the Oregon Bach Festival, the Newport Music Festival, with Oakland Ballet, San Francisco Symphony, Berkeley Symphony, San Francisco Opera, Mark Morris Dance Group, and Oakland East Bay Symphony; and for the national conferences of Chorus America, the American Choral Directors Association, the College Music Society, and the Organization of American Kodály Educators.

About Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir

The award-winning Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir has been in the forefront of the music scene in the East Bay since 1982. Founding Artistic Director Robert Geary has established the choir as a leading force in international choral activities with a particular strength in newly commissioned music. Under his guidance, its flagship choir, Ensemble, has won top awards at prestigious international competitions throughout the world. These honors are a product of our exceptional, progressive after school instruction in choral singing that attracts children from throughout the East Bay from 4 to 18 years old.