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A Mysterious Connection between 3 Countries plus 3 World Premieres

PIEDMONT, California

Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir will explore a "Mysterious Connection", when its advanced choirs - Ensemble, Ancora, Concert Choir, and Ecco - sing works from Hungary, Finland, and Estonia at the Mysterious Connection Concert on Friday, March 10th at 7:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Berkeley. The Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir will also be joined on this concert by their friends, *Les Petits Chanteurs de Laval* from Québec, Canada.



(Guest Canadian Boy's Choir, *Les Petits Chanteurs de Laval*)

"The 'Mysterious Connection' is that much of the world's greatest choral music comes from these three small countries," said PEBCC Artistic Director, Robert Geary.. "Some experts think that the nature of the languages that come from Hungary, Finland and Estonia has something to do with this; the languages of these three countries are referred to collectively as *Finno-Ugric* languages." Our choirs will perform fantastic music from each of these countries by Arvo Pärt, Veljo Tormis, Zoltán Kodaly, Tellu Turkka, Péteris Plakidis, Gustav Ernesaks, Peep Sarpik, Pärt Uusberg and others.

In addition, there will be **3 premieres** of new commissioned works; *nagasaki* by PEBCC's Eric Tuan, *Flutter a' Folds* by Anne Hege and *The Moment of Here*, which sets the poetry of the 5th century Chinese poet T'ao Ch'ien, by Mark Wings.



Anne Hege, currently The Artistic Director of Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble and Director of Level IV at the SF Girls Chorus speaks on her premiere, *Flutter a' Folds*: [The Title] refers to the beautiful vibrations of our vocal folds, is meant to lie somewhere between dance and music . Years ago, I decided that music, at its root, is actually dance. It is a dance of soundwaves: the striking of the ear drum, the fluttering of the vocal folds, and the flow of breath. This piece is composed of independent lines that are meant to interact like the movements of Merce Cunningham choreography.

Mark Wings, currently resides in San Francisco, where he has been resident composer / advisor for the chamber choir Volti since 1990. Wings says of his premiere, *The Moment of Here*: "It originated from an idea suggesting to do 'something to do with nature'. From the start, I'd wanted to write two short but contrasting pieces to make this set. I found *In the East Garden* in the book of David Hinton's wonderful collection of T'ao Ch'ien's poems. Even in translation, I feel the poet has a strong and unique voice. I tried to reflect the still, specialness of place that the mood of *In the East Garden* so strongly invokes.



Eric Tuan, serves as Director of music at Christ Church Los Altos and is currently conductor of Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir's Ecco group. Tuan says, "*nagasaki* honors the victims of the atomic bombing of the Japanese city of Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. Among the survivors, or *hibakusha* (literally "bomb-affected people"), is my grandmother, Kuniko Shirahama Maggay. *nagasaki* depicts the extraordinary power of the atomic bomb and its devastating effects on the people of Nagasaki. As a performance art piece, it melds together freely composed new music; the spoken words of my grandmother's testimony; and a variety of musical materials that evoke the unique cultural milieu of the city, including Japanese folksong, Gregorian chant, and Buddhist chanting from the Pure Land tradition.

Tickets are available through Eventbrite or at the door. For more information, please visit piedmontchoirs.org

Friday, March 10, 2017, 7pm
First Presbyterian Church
2407 Dana Street, Berkeley, CA 94704

Tickets \$12/\$18/\$30 advance, \$15/\$20 door Alumni \$10 advance only
<https://mysteriousconnectionconcert.eventbrite.com>

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For additional information, contact:

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