

MEDIA CONTACT:
Scott Horton Communications
510-735-9200
Bluescott260@hotmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GOLDEN GATE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHORAL
FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES CONCERT PROGRAMS FOR 20TH FESTIVAL IN
SF BAY AREA JULY 9-14**

**20 CHOIRS FROM 12 COUNTRIES TO PERFORM AND COMPETE IN
MULTIPLE BAY AREA CONCERTS**

Oakland, CA, June 13, 2012 – details have been announced for a week of concerts during which more than 600 young vocal artists will convene in the East Bay for the ninth triennial Golden Gate International Children and Youth Choral Festival July 8-14 presented by Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir, Artistic Director Robert Geary. The young singers--who comprise 20 choirs from 12 countries on four continents—will come together to perform individually, compete and sing in a 650-voice combined mega-chorus throughout the Bay Area. The week opens July 9 with a concert featuring all 20 choruses performing individually to give audiences a taste of their virtuosity and versatility. The balance of that week features daily free public concerts and competitions culminating in a Grand Finale Concert featuring the winners of the competitions and all 20 choruses combined to perform collaborative repertoire learned during the Festival week. [EDITOR NOTE: A list of 2012 Festival concerts and performers may be found at the end of this news release] For more information, visit www.goldengatefestival.org .

One of America's most celebrated gatherings of young singers, the Golden Gate International Children's and Youth Choral Festival attracts choirs from all over the world to perform, compete, and build international friendship. Founded in 1991, the Golden Gate Festival is sponsored every three years by the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir in the San Francisco Bay Area. It remains the only opportunity for children's and youth choirs to meet and compete on an international field in the United States. Since its founding the event has brought nearly 4,000 young musicians in 70 choirs from 22 countries together performing for more than 50,000 audience members from throughout Northern California.

Artistic Director Robert Geary will oversee the 2012 Festival activities, aided by renowned guest conductors Maria Guinand of Venezuela and Stephen Leek of Australia. The two Festival Massed Choirs, Children's and Youth, will meet and sing together throughout the week. Competitions will take place for choirs and soloists, and all will perform in community concerts. The jury for the Historical, Folk, and Contemporary Choral Competitions will be comprised of Guinand, Leek, along with Wang Jin of China and Judit Hartyanyi of Hungary.

SCHEDULE OF CONCERTS

Monday, July 9
Opening Concert • 3pm
LDS Interstake Center, Oakland

Performances by:

Amoy Flower Phoenix Youth Group - China
Bach Children's Chorus - Ontario, Canada
Barrington Children's Choir - Illinois, USA
Beijing Rainbow Art Performance Troupe - China
Budi Mulia Dua Choir - Indonesia
Choir of E. Mikelladze Central Music School - Georgia
Columbia Children's Choir - Washington, USA
Columbia Vocal Ensemble - Washington, USA
Discovery Choir - Honduras
Fairfield County Children's Choir - Connecticut, USA
Hamburg Kinderchoir Cantemus - Germany
Junior Amabile Singers - Ontario, Canada
Kinder-&-Jugend singakademie Graz - Austria
Kalrup Pige kor - Denmark
Mandaluyong Children's Choir, Philippines
Marin Girls Chorus - California, USA
Partners in Praise Girls Choir - Minnesota, USA
Young Adelaide Voices - Australia
Youth Choir "Kivi" - Lithuania
Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir

Tuesday, July 10

Vocal Solo Competition • 9:30 AM – 5 PM

Trinity Chapel, 2320 Dana St, Berkeley

Tuesday, July 10, 2012: Children's Division Historical – Folk Competition Concert – 2 PM

First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley
Free admission

Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir – Ensemble
Columbia Children's Choir
Kinder-&-Jugend singakademie Graz
Junior Amabile Singers

Tuesday, July 10, 2012: Youth Division Historical – Folk Competition Concert – 7

PM First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley
Free admission

Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir – Ancora
Childrenchoir Cantemus – Hamburg
Chamber Singers of the Fairfield County Children's Choir

Spotlight Concert • 7pm

St. Theresa Church, 30 Mandalay Road, Oakland
Free admission

Spotlight Concert • 7pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 114 Montecito Ave, Oakland

Free admission

Wednesday, July 11

Vocal Solo Competition • 9:30 AM – 5 PM

Trinity Chapel, 2320 Dana St, Berkeley

Wednesday, July 11, 2012: Children's Division Historical – Folk Competition Concert – 2 PM

First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Free admission

Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir- Concert Choir

Discovery Choir

Marin Girls Chorus

Amoy Phoenix Flower Youth Choral Group

Bach Children's Chorus

Wednesday, July 11, 2012: Youth Division Historical – Folk Competition Concert – 7 PM

First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Free admission

Barrington Children's Choir

Young Adelaide Voices

Choir of the E. Mikeladze Central Music School

Columbia Vocal Ensemble

Spotlight Concert • 7pm

Old First Church, 1751 Sacramento St, San Francisco

Admission \$17 General, \$14 Seniors, \$14 Students

<http://www.oldfirstconcerts.org/performances/>

Spotlight Concert • 7pm

Christ Episcopal Church, 1700 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda

Free admission

Thursday, July 12, 2012: Contemporary Choral Competition Concert – 2 PM

First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Free admission

Marin Girls Chorus

Kinder-&-Jugendsingakademie Graz

Bach Children's Chorus

Chamber Singers of the Fairfield County Children's Choir

Young Adelaide Voices

Columbia Vocal Ensemble

Childrenchoir Cantemus – Hamburg

Klarup Pige Kor

Partners In Praise Girls Choir

Youth Choir "Kivi"

Beijing Rainbow Art Performance Troupe

Thursday, July 11, 2012: Youth Division Historical – Folk Competition Concert – 7 PM

First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley
Free admission

Youth Choir "Kivi"
Partners In Praise Girls Choir
Klarup Pige Kor
Budi Mulia Dua

Spotlight Concert • 7pm
First Presbyterian Church, 2407 Dana Street, Berkeley
Free admission

Spotlight Concert • 7pm
Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette
Free admission

Saturday, July 14
Grand Finale Concert • 7pm
Zellerbach Hall, Lower Sproul Plaza, UC Berkeley
<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/239294>

Sunday, July 15
Community Concert at Festival Del Sole • 1pm
Napa Valley Opera House, 1030 Main Street, Napa

Performance at the San Leandro Library • 3pm
San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo Avenue, San Leandro
Choir of the E. Mikeladze Central School of Music, Democratic Republic of Georgia
Young Adelaide Voices, Australia

For more information about the 2012 Festival, visit <http://goldengatefestival.org/>

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