

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Hard Nut: Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir Serenades while the Mark Morris Dance Company Pirouettes

The Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir is to return to Zellerbach Hall for the beloved Bay Area holiday tradition *The Hard Nut*, Mark Morris' brilliant and humorous re-imagining of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*. In nine performances December 14-23, 2012, the Choir will sing during the "Waltz of the Snowflakes." The seasonal favorite has enchanted audiences for more than 20 years, and still has the power to delight, as the *Washington Post* recently called the production "...something approaching a miracle...The Hard Nut doesn't stop at cleverness and humor. By the work's effortlessly poetic end, all that energy...is resolved in as honest and unsentimental a picture of love as you're likely to find in the theater."

This is not the first time the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir has assisted Mark Morris in this capacity; they have sung the children's choir parts several times in the past, and have garnered high praise from the Company: "You are, without a doubt, the best singers we've had participate in the show in all the years of its being performed." Professional, poised and precise musicianship has led to regular collaborations with other major Bay area arts organizations, including the San Francisco Opera, West Edge Opera, Volti, the San Francisco Choral Society, and the Oakland East Bay Symphony.

The Choir, under the tutelage of Robert Geary these past thirty years, has earned international recognition through competitions, concerts, and tours. It has been honored more than any other children's choir for Adventurous Programming by ASCAP and has won many grand prizes, first prizes, gold medals and special awards in Canada, the United States, Germany, Poland, Austria, Italy, and Hong Kong.

Tickets start at \$30. For more information or to purchase tickets visit:
<http://calperformances.org/performances/2012-13/holiday/mark-morris-dance-group-hard-nut.php>

Friday, December 14, 7:30pm

Saturday, December 15, 2pm

Saturday, December 15, 8pm

Sunday, December 16, 3pm

Thursday, December 20, 7:30pm

Friday, December 21, 7:30pm

Saturday, December 22, 2pm

Saturday, December 22, 8pm

Sunday, December 23, 3pm

**

For additional information, contact:

TJ Togasaki, Marketing & Communications
Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir
510-547-4441
Fax 510-451-2947
tjtogasaki@piedmontchoirs.org
www.piedmontchoirs.org

Bell Investment Advisors (www.bellinvest.com) is the lead sponsor for the 2012-2013 Season of the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir.

The internationally-acclaimed Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir has been offering children an outstanding program of choral training and performance since 1982. The Choir is a leading force in global choral activities and new music under the leadership of Artistic Director Robert Geary, and Executive Director Julia Richter. International tours every summer and a keen desire to meet, collaborate, and compete with choruses and singers of other cultures has led to high marks at prestigious festivals across the world, and to the sponsorship of the Golden Gate International Choral Festival. The Choir regularly collaborates with major Bay Area arts organizations such as the Oakland East Bay Symphony, the Mark Morris Dance Company, Berkeley West Edge Opera, and Volti. The Choir's comprehensive music curriculum offers students age 4-18 the chance to progress through a series of training choirs to professional-level performing groups. Besides providing an exceptional education in vocal technique and music theory, the organization strives to offer lessons in creativity, expression, poise and engagement with many cultures.

#