

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Children's Choir Launches International Season with International Guests

Piedmont, CA, October 2011 — The Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir's 29th Season has an international theme, and what could be more appropriate to launch that season than an exchange and collaboration with a foreign chorus? On October 20, 2011, 7pm, at First Congregational Church of Berkeley, the Choir presents *The Journey Begins*, a concert featuring Danish children's choir *MidtVest Pigeekor*. The concert will mark the beginning of season pointed towards July 2012, when the Choir will host their Golden Gate International Choral Festival will take place.

The families of the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir are hosting the Danish girls choir in their homes this October, and it's not the first time - MidtVest Pigeekor won several prizes at the 2009 Golden Gate Festival. That visit spawned a creative collaboration and led to a 2011 summer tour to Denmark and a Fall tour to California. During these trips the children studied the music of their sister choirs' countries, performing it singly and together, each representing the culture from which they came, and investing in the culture in which they were immersed. With *The Journey Begins*, they will present the fruits of their collaboration, a project they've titled *Vest Meets West*, and celebrate the spirit of international accord through music that the Golden Gate Festival engenders.

"The Choir is a great experience for anyone who wants to learn about other cultures, and themselves, and music - all at the same time." Alina Whatley, PEBC member who is looking forward to hosting her Danish friends in October.

This international concert is only the beginning for the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir. Their 29th Season has an international theme to support their Golden Gate Festival - an international choral festival for children's and youth's choirs, held July 8-14, 2012. Starting on October 20 and continuing all year, the Choir will lead singers, families and concert goers on a intercontinental journey - all without stirring from the Bay Area. Each concert will feature the music of and about other nations, exploring slices of different cultures and languages. Then in July, the Golden Gate Festival will take place: choirs from diverse corners of the world will gather here to present concerts, collaborate under expert direction, engage in healthy competition, and exchange friendship.

The Journey Begins

Launching the Golden Gate Festival

Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir

With guests MidtVest Pigeekor

Thursday, October 20, 2011, 7pm

First Congregational Church

2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

\$15 suggested donation

Other performances by MidtVest Pigeekor and Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir:

On Sunday, October 16, 2011 at Grace Cathedral, Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir will perform a joint concert with Pacific Boychoir and their guests Herning Kirkes Dregekor, a Danish boychoir. MidtVest Pigeekor and Herning Kirkes Dregekor hail from the same place, the Jutland Singing School in Denmark. Repertoire will feature pieces especially chosen to highlight Grace Cathedral's acoustics, culminating with all four choirs singing Wesley's *Ascribe Unto the Lord*.

When: Sunday, October 16, 2011, 3:00-4:30pm
Where: Grace Cathedral, 1100 California Street, San Francisco
Tickets: Call PBA at 510-652-4722, or get tickets at the door

For additional information, contact:

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Bell Investment Advisors (www.bellinvest.com) is the lead sponsor for the 2011-2012 Season of the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir, including the Golden Gate Festival.

The internationally-acclaimed Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir has been offering children from throughout San Francisco's East Bay an outstanding program of choral training and performance. Founded in 1982 by Suzie Rahl, the Choir has established itself as a leading force in international choral activities and new music under the dynamic leadership of Artistic Director Robert Geary. International tours every summer and a keen desire to meet, collaborate, and compete with choruses and singers of other cultures have led to high marks at prestigious festivals across the world, and to the sponsorship of the Golden Gate International Choral Festival, convening next in July 2012. 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 offering an exceptional education in vocal technique and music theory, the organization strives to offer lessons in creativity, expression, poise and engagement with many cultures.

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