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Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir Announces New Conductors

The Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir kicks off their 31st season by announcing the hiring of two exceptional and highly inspiring Conductors whose focus will be on the development of the young voice in the Training Department choirs. Brandon J. Brack of San Francisco, and Tanya Stum of Oakland were named the Girl's Training 4 conductor and the Girl's Training 1 conductor, respectively, for the award winning Choir of over 350 students, ages 4 - 17. Each conductor is a champion of education in music and are highly experienced with a record of successful innovation. Naomi Braun, Director of the Training Department, commented on behalf of the organization, "I am delighted to welcome two such dynamic and creative teachers to the team."

Brandon Brack embodies a broad range of experience as a singer, teacher and conductor ranging from work with top professional vocal ensembles to youth music education and performance. He has enjoyed a dynamic career as both a singer and choral conductor and recently completed the 2012-2013 season as Interim Music Director of the San Francisco Girls Chorus. A former member of Chanticleer in San Francisco, he has served on the Choral and Voice faculties of Fullerton College and California State Polytechnic University-Pomona. He was a founding Teaching Artist for the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Youth Orchestra LA at HOLA, the El Sistema initiative championed by the LA Philharmonic's Music Director, Gustavo Dudamel. He was conductor of the Apollo Men's Chorus for the 2009-2010 season at the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California, where he will complete his doctorate in 2013. He has been a featured soloist with the New World Symphony under the baton of Michael Tilson Thomas, Seraphic Fire, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the UC- Berkeley Symphony, and the Berkshire Choral Festival, where he led master classes in choral conducting and vocal technique.

Native to rural Pennsylvania, Tanya Stum received her undergraduate degree in Voice Performance from Carnegie Mellon University and graduate degree in Elementary Education from the University of Pittsburgh, receiving the Henry C. Frick Educational Fund of the Buhl Foundation. She is pursuing a Master's Degree in Music Education with Kodaly Emphasis at Holy Names University. She has performed, soloed, and recorded with a variety of opera companies and choral organizations that include Pacific Mozart Ensemble, ASWAT (ensemble specializing

in Arabic music), Nevenka (women's choral group specializing in Balkan folk music), San Francisco Opera Chorus (AGMA member), San Francisco Choral Artists, Pittsburgh Opera Chorus, and Pittsburgh Chorale East. She has served as organist and accompanist for a variety of small churches and feels at home playing gospel music. Most recently, she was the Preparatory Director for the San Francisco Boys Chorus and taught theory and musicianship at the Apprentice and Intermediate levels.

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The 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 since 1982. Founded 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. With international and national 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. 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 Cal Performances.

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