

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Walnut Creek, CA - December 2, 2013

Pacific Boychoir's 4th to 8th graders to fill the Leshner Center with the sounds of holiday joy!

Share the magic of music with your family! Tickets start at just \$15 for students and \$28 for adults (with our 20% promo code)



"America's Got Talent" judge Howard Stern was so captivated by the Bay Area's three-time Grammy-winning Pacific Boychoir on NBC last June that he declared: "I had chills from the beginning. I want to hear a million other songs from you."

These sensational fourth to eighth graders are coming to Walnut Creek two days before Christmas to join the California Symphony at the Leshner Center for the Arts for a heartwarming family concert that promises to be remembered for years.

This enchanting evening of holiday favorites and four audience sing-alongs will be conducted by Donato Cabrera, San Francisco Symphony's highly-regarded Resident Conductor and Music Director of its Youth Orchestra since 2009. Called "a key player in the San Francisco music scene" by the *San Francisco Classical Voice*, Cabrera was also appointed Music Director of the California Symphony earlier this year.

Among its astonishing accomplishments, the Pacific Boychoir has received three Grammy Awards (the recording industry's equivalent of the Oscar) for its work with the San Francisco Symphony under the esteemed Michael Tilson Thomas. Since 2001, they have performed with major orchestras on every continent for a total of 15 international tours (summer 2014: Vietnam). And their own recordings have included a Spirituals CD, *That Promised Land*, which was honored with the Academy of Gospel Music and Friends of Negro Spirituals Award.

Yet the group was founded only 15 years ago with no financial capital, only six students and Artistic Director Kevin Fox's bold vision of a world-class boys choir. Within five years, the Pacific Boychoir Academy was established to provide a full academic curriculum, including two hours of music each day, for grades four through eight. The only U.S. boys choir school outside of the East Coast, PBA today supports seven afterschool choirs for boys in kindergarten through high school, serving over 150 choristers a season.

Surprisingly, you don't have to be a musical prodigy, or need prior vocal training and musical experience to join the group. "Most of the kids coming into our afterschool program come with no musical background whatsoever. They like to make noise and they like the way music sounds." says Brenna Gustafson, PBA's Choir and Campus Manager.

"Our motto is we can teach pretty much anyone how to sing. as long as you're not completely tone deaf. If you can match pitch, we can teach you how to be a professional singer. Some people are born with exceptional musical talent but that's not what we expect. We want boys who are interested and love music, and we'll take care of the rest," she says, adding: "Kevin Fox and his music

department have really worked hard to hone in on what works and how to best work with the boys and make them the best singers that they can be."

Indeed, learning how to sing well is just one of the benefits from the type of education provided by PBA. "The skills that the students learn through music can be life-changing. Whether or not you decide to do anything musically the rest of your life, you are learning how to work as a team, how to be dedicated, how to work hard, and how to challenge yourself. Those are skills that boys especially need at this age level," says Gustafson.

Mark your calendar for 7:30 PM on Monday, December 23, 2013. Tickets start at just \$15 for students and \$28 for adults with our 20% discount promotion code. To purchase, call 925-943-7469 or visit www.LesherArtsCenter.org (click on California Symphony's "Home for the Holidays," and type in promo code **CHOIR** when prompted.)

Links:

Pacific Boychoir Academy: www.PacificBoychoir.org

California Symphony: www.CaliforniaSymphony.org

Conductor Donato Cabrera: www.DonatoCabrera.com

"America's Got Talent" appearance:

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x10l0iv_pacific-boys-choir-9-14-agt-2013-los-angeles-auditions_music

Concert Details:

DATE: Monday, December 23, 2013

TIME: 7:30 PM

PLACE: Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek CA 94596

PROGRAM: "Home for the Holidays" (a family concert with holiday favorites and four audience sing-alongs)

PRESENTER: California Symphony

CONDUCTOR: Donato Cabrera

GUEST ARTIST: Pacific Boychoir

TICKETS: Students \$15 Adults \$35-\$65 (USE CODE **CHOIR for 20% discount)**

TO PURCHASE: call 925-943-7469 or visit www.LesherArtsCenter.org

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