



*Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra*

*William Whitson* founder

*Benjamin Simon* music director

*Kris Yenney* director of SuperStrings and Preparatory Orchestras

January 2006

Dear Musician and Parents:

We would like to thank you for your interest in becoming a member of one of our five PACO orchestras. We are a unique organization in that our focus is on string instruments and each of our orchestras has approximately 25 members. Every young musician plays an important role in his/her ensemble, and our intimate size creates an intimate musical community where excellence can be attained. We learn and perform string orchestra music from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary eras, often supplementing our forces with professional woodwind players. PACO offers many opportunities for our young musicians to participate in string quartets and other chamber music ensembles. The cornerstone of PACO remains our effort to deepen each individual's awareness of the value of human relationships in a chamber music setting.

The majority of our openings are in the lower orchestra levels, but placements do occur at all levels. Current PACO members traditionally fill most of the openings in the upper-level orchestras; the families of these seasoned PACO members have supported and volunteered time to the organization for an average of 3-6 years. Positioning of musicians is based not solely on individual talent, but also on an array of criteria that also includes extensive training in chamber music performance.

**Auditions for the 2006-2007 season will be held on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006. To apply for an audition simply complete and mail the attached application along with the non-refundable \$20 fee by Mon., April 10<sup>th</sup> 2006. Candidates will be notified by email of their audition time one week prior to the audition date.**

**In the event that a musician is placed directly into one of our top three orchestras (PACO Training, Junior, or Senior Orchestras), acceptance into PACO is contingent upon being available to attend our annual Chamber Music Workshop in Aptos, Ca. The dates for this workshop in 2006 are Aug. 6 – 13.**

Our music director, Benjamin Simon, and members of our conducting staff will adjudicate all auditions. Auditions are scheduled every 10 minutes and last approximately 5-8 minutes. As a result, judges will be able to hear only excerpts from your audition material. Candidates will be asked to play a scale of their choice (2- or 3- octave) and perform fast and slow sections from a concerto or solo piece of their selection. **No accompanists please.**

We strongly suggest that you arrange to attend one of our concerts in order to familiarize yourself with our current string playing levels. Please refer to our web site for times and locations. You may also arrange to attend an orchestra rehearsal in order to become more familiar with our program by calling the PACO office at (650) 856-3848.

PACO is a family-based organization and relies heavily on the involvement of its members' families. Therefore, we encourage you to discuss together as parent and musician what your individual family's involvement and support would be with PACO if you should become a member.

Your name will be added to our mailing list, unless you specify otherwise. This will allow you to receive advance notice of PACO performances, events and other season activities. For more information, please visit our website at [www.pacomusic.org](http://www.pacomusic.org) or call the PACO office at (650) 856-3848.

Sincerely,

Linh Tran, Managing Director