

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Please Contact: Tom Giuliano
(415) 297-3734
julies3@pacbell.net

PALO ALTO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
PRESENTS ITS
40TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT
featuring:
PACO alumni, guest cellist, Matt Haimowitz
FEB. 25, 2006, 1:30PM

California Palace of the Legion of Honor, Florence Gould Theatre

Palo Alto, Calif. Jan. 17, 2006 – The **Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra** will perform its 40th Anniversary Concert on Feb. 25, 2006, 1:30pm at the Florence Gould Theatre of the California Palace of the Legion of Honor. Featured guest cellist Matt Haimowitz performs Schumann's cello concerto joined by Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra musicians. Musicians from all 5 of the ensembles, plus alumni who will be in San Francisco to help celebrate the orchestra's 40th anniversary, will perform the Bach Brandenburg Concerto.

The concert program will include; **Robert Schumann - Cello Concerto in A Minor, Op. 129** with PACO alumni, guest cellist Matt Haimowitz; **Johannes Sebastian Bach – Brandenburg Concerto #3 in G Major, BWV 1048**; **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Overture to “Cosi fan Tutte”** and **Robert Stern – “Hazkarah”** for cello and strings.

The Overture to “Cosi fan Tutte” is one of Mozart's most delightful, it is full of wit, charm and grace. The Schumann Cello Concerto was one of Schumann's most beloved and magical pieces into which he poured his 19th century Romantic soul. The Brandenburg #3 was Bach's magnum opus for string orchestra, a divine three by three composition that has delighted audiences for 300 years. Stern's “Hazkarah” transforms the cello line into a cantorial chant entwined with the memory of a poignant Yiddish folk song.

Cellist **Matt Haimowitz**, is a PACO alumnus, and tours extensively around the world. He has appeared with today's greatest orchestras, conductors, and chamber musicians. He has performed and recorded with such artists as James Levine, John McLaughlin, Daniel Barenboim, Rob Wasserman, Isaac Stern, and James Taylor. He has been honored with the Avery Fisher Career Grant (1986), the prestigious Premio Internazionale "Accademia Musicale Chigiana" (1999), and in 2004 was awarded the Trailblazer Award by the American Music Center for his contribution to American music.

Benjamin Simon, Music Director and Conductor since 2002 remarked on this anniversary, "40 Years! It's hard to imagine how many scores of concerts, hundreds of pieces, thousands of hours of rehearsals and millions of notes that go into 40 seasons of music making. The family of the five PACO ensembles, our world famous alumni soloists and current members of the ensembles are excited about this concert."

The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra (PACO) is an organization comprising five training ensembles for Bay Area string players of high-school age and younger. The emphasis on chamber music uniquely sets PACO apart from other youth orchestras in the Bay Area and lies at the core of its educational program. Five ensembles of approximately 25 members each rehearse weekly and perform throughout the year, presenting an extraordinary level of music making and commitment. For forty years PACO has established itself as one of this nation's premiere youth ensembles, and the leadership of music director Benjamin Simon is bringing a fresh energy and exciting direction to our programs.

Benjamin Simon, Artistic Director, a native of San Francisco, has performed around the world as a violist with the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Music from Marlboro, and the Naumberg Award-winning New World String Quartet. He has served as principal violist with the Buffalo Philharmonic as well as the Los Angeles and New Century Chamber Orchestras. Mr. Simon studied with Raphael Hillyer at Yale College and was a graduate student of Lillian Fuchs at the Juilliard School. He has studied and performed chamber music with members of the Budapest, Guarneri, Amadeus, and Juilliard Quartets. Mr. Simon has recorded for MCA Classics, Vox, Musical Heritage Society, Centaur, CRI,

and Laurel Records, and was awarded Grand Prix du Disque in 1991 with the New World String Quartet.

He has taught at Harvard University and joined the faculty of Stanford University in 1992 as a member of the Stanford String Quartet. He is currently on the chamber music faculty at UC Berkeley, the Music Director of the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, and Music Director of the Bay Area premier training orchestra, the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra.

PACO's **Mission Statement** is to cultivate the highest artistic values and embrace the importance of human relationships through the study of chamber music; to serve as goodwill ambassadors through the performance of chamber music at home and abroad; and to instill a life-long appreciation of chamber music in young people, their families and the community.

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ATTENTION CALENDAR EDITORS:

**Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra presents:
Its 40th Anniversary Concert with PACO alumni, guest cellist, Matt Haimowitz
joined by Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra musicians from all five ensembles and
alumni of PACO.**

Date:

Feb. 25, 2006, 1:30pm

Location:

Florence Gould Theatre at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor
Lincoln Park, San Francisco

Tickets:

General \$20.00, Students \$10.00

Please call: (650) 856-3848 or e-mail info@pacomusic.org

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