



Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra

William Whitson founder



Benjamin Simon music director

Kris Yenney director of SuperStrings and Preparatory Orchestras

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PALO ALTO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**  
**Benjamin Simon, music director**  
**presents**  
**HANDEL CELEBRATION CONCERT**  
**Featuring Lara Bruckmann, soprano**  
**and Peter Lemberg, oboe**

DATE & TIME: Sunday, March 22, 4:00 p.m.  
 PLACE: Valley Presbyterian Church, Portola Valley

PROGRAM: Rejouissance  
 Entrance of the Queen of Sheba  
 Water Music Suite No. 1  
 Silete Venti (motet)  
 Oboe Concerto in G minor  
 The Hallelujah Chorus

TICKETS: \$20 includes one glass of wine or beer (with I.D.)  
 \$10 for students under age 21

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<http://www.pacomusic.org>

PALO ALTO, Calif., January 30<sup>th</sup> –. The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra will perform their Handel Celebration concert on Sunday, March 22.

Celebrating the 250th anniversary of the death of George Frederic Handel, the combined forces of PACO's five ensembles will present a Handel music program at 4pm in the Valley Presbyterian Church in Portola Valley. Kris Yenney, director of SuperStrings and the Preparatory Ensemble, will lead her young players in "Rejouissance" and the festive "Entrance of the Queen of Sheba" from Handel's opera "Samson".

PACO's music director, Benjamin Simon, will conduct the Handel Festival Orchestra in selections from "Water Music Suite No. 1", the motet "Silete Venti" with soprano soloist Lara Bruckmann, and the Oboe Concerto in G minor featuring virtuoso oboe player Peter Lemberg. Capping the program will be the popular "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's greatest oratorio, The Messiah.

Join us apres-concert at our Handel Feast, a festive reception featuring food and drink that King George I would have enjoyed.

### About the Soloists:

Soprano Lara Bruckmann is a versatile performer whose career has spanned the operatic, concert, and theatrical stages. On the concert stage, she has served as soprano soloist for works including Bach's Mass in B minor and St. John Passion, Rossini's Messa di Gloria, Bruckner's Requiem, Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb, and Orff's Carmina Burana. Her extensive experience with newly composed and 20th Century music has brought her into collaboration with, among many others, sfSound (most notably Elliot Carter's Tempo e Tempi), Volti, and most recently Swiss pianist Eva-Maria Zimmermann to form the duo ChamberBridge, specializing in 20th and 21st Century art song. Bruckmann's cabaret career has included nearly one hundred performances at San Francisco's famed Plush Room, her recent debut at the newly opened Rrazz Room, the premiere of her one-woman show "divagation: an internal cabaret" at the San Francisco Fringe Festival, and four years as a founding member of the group Girlkulture with mezzo-sopranos Darla Wigginton and Ariela Morgenstern and soprano Anja Strauss. Lara is co-founder and Board President emeritus of Arts First Oakland, and she holds degrees from Rice University (BM) and The New England Conservatory (MM).

Peter Lemberg currently plays Oboe and English Horn for the San Francisco Opera Center and Merola Opera productions and until recently, played as Principal Oboe for the Western Opera Theater Orchestra (for San Francisco Opera Center's National Tours). He also plays Principal Oboe and English Horn with the West Bay Opera Orchestra (Palo Alto, CA). Peter plays with many orchestras in the Bay Area as well, most notably with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and for the Monterey Jazz Festival. He has performed as a soloist with the California Chamber Symphony and the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra. Peter has been a participant in the John Mack Master Classes (Hidden Valley, CA) and has played in the Mendocino Music Festival and the Lake Tahoe Summer Music Festival Orchestras. He also plays chamber music concerts in the Bay Area, and has recorded for the Delos label. Peter received his Bachelor of Music Degree from San Francisco State University, where he studied Oboe with Raymond Duste. He has also studied with Marc Lifschey, John Mack, Eleanor Duste, James Matheson and John Ferrillo.

### About PACO

Founded in 1966 by William Whitson, who served as the orchestra's music director for 36 years, the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra is composed of the Bay Area's most talented and promising high school musicians chosen by competitive audition. As being one of the few youth orchestras in the nation devoted exclusively to chamber music, PACO performs adventurous repertoires, features first class soloists, tours internationally and accomplishes frequent recordings. Appointed music director in 2002, violist Benjamin Simon has brought with him a new level of energy and creativity in directing PACO programs, while continuing its tradition of excellence in performance. For more information call 650-856-3848 or visit <http://www.pacomusic.org>.

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**Public Service Announcement**

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HANDEL CELEBRATION CONCERT**

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