



Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra

William Whitson founder



Benjamin Simon music director

Kris Yenny director of SuperStrings and Preparatory Orchestras

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PALO ALTO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA 43<sup>rd</sup> SEASON THIRD CONCERT  
A PROGRAM OF MENDELSSOHN MUSIC  
*March 8 Concert Features San Francisco Opera Orchestra Concert Master Kay Stern***

DATE & TIME: Sunday, March 8, 3:00 p.m.  
 PLACE: Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford University

PROGRAM: Violin Concerto in E Major  
 Symphony No. 4 in E Major  
 Octet for Strings

TICKETS: \$15 adults, \$10 seniors, \$6 students  
 CONTACT: (650) 856-3848  
[info@pacomusic.org](mailto:info@pacomusic.org)  
<http://www.pacomusic.org>

PALO ALTO, Calif., January 19<sup>th</sup> – The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra will perform their third concert of the 2008-09 season on Sunday, March 8. The concert will present a program of Mendelssohn music.

PACO's third subscription concert, "Mostly Mendelssohn", celebrates the 200th birthday of the great German composer with a full program of symphonic and chamber music. San Francisco Opera Orchestra concertmaster Kay Stern performs Mendelssohn's beloved Violin Concerto in E Major, followed by PACO's performance of his Symphony No. 4 in E Major, subtitled "Italian", another of his best-known works. Chamber music performances include his youthful masterpiece, the Octet for Strings, written in his fifteenth year! The concert, to be conducted by PACO Music Director Benjamin Simon, will take place at 3:00 p.m. at Dinkelspiel Auditorium on the Stanford University campus.

About the Soloist

Kay Stern is currently the Concertmaster of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, a position she has held since 1994. Kay has served as assistant to Dorothy DeLay at the Aspen Music Festival, assistant to the Juilliard Quartet at the Juilliard School, has been a faculty member at the Cleveland Institute of Music, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and the University of San Francisco. Kay has taught and coached at various music festivals around the world, and has been in residence at Wellesley College and San Diego State University. Kay has been featured on television and radio. She has appeared in PBS's "Live from

Lincoln Center," CNN's "Women Today," Minnesota Public Radio's Garrison Keillor "A Prairie Home Companion," "St. Paul Sunday Morning," WQXR-NY Robert Sherman's Listening Room. Kay has contributed to several articles in Chamber Music America.

As former first violinist and founding member of the Lark String Quartet, she performed and gave master classes throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. Some of Kay's Concertmaster positions have included The Orchestra of St. Luke's, Concordia at Lincoln Center, Cabrillo Music Festival, Cleveland Chamber Symphony and the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra. She regularly plays as Concertmaster for the many movie sound tracks and video games recorded at George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch. Kay Stern's concerto and chamber music recordings can be heard on Phillips, Nonesuch, Innova, MusicMasters, Koch International and Gramma Vision.

### 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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