



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  
TO PERFORM AT DINKELSPIEL AUDITORIUM**

***December 19th Concert Features Viola Virtuosa Sharon Wei  
Benjamin Simon, Conductor***

DATE & TIME: Saturday, December 19, 2009, 8:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford University Campus

PROGRAM: Corelli's Concerto Grosso in G minor ("Christmas Concerto")  
Max Bruch - Romanze  
Benjamin Britten - Lachrymae  
Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 2 ("Little Russian")

TICKETS: \$15/adult, \$10/senior and \$5/student  
CONTACT: (650) 856-3848  
[info@pacomusic.org](mailto:info@pacomusic.org)  
<http://www.pacomusic.org>

PALO ALTO, Calif., November 11, 2009 – All those with an interest in classical music are invited to attend the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra's performance of a collection of works in the acoustically acclaimed Dinkelspiel Auditorium Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 pm at Stanford University. Both the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra and its sister ensemble, the Sinfonia Orchestra will perform. These orchestras consist of musicians from local communities ranging from age 12 to 18 years of age. The challenging and entertaining pieces they will perform, under the direction of PACO music director Benjamin Simon, range from traditional and familiar to more contemporary movements. Featured guest artist will be viola acclaimed virtuosa Sharon Wei. Shy middle sister of the string quartet, the viola rarely gets her chance to shine. Violist Sharon Wei will offer rich solos performing Bruch's gorgeous Romanze and Benjamin Britten's haunting Lachrymae, based on an Elizabethan song by John Dowland. Also in the program is Corelli's popular Christmas Concerto. The final piece performed will be the powerful Tchaikovsky's Symphony Number 2 also known as the Little Russian.

## About the Soloist

Sharon Wei completed her studies at the prestigious *Curtis Institute of Music* graduated from Yale with numerous honors including the Viola prize and the *Rising Star Galaxie Award* in 2006. As a recitalist Sharon has performed in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. Sharon was recently awarded a Debut Atlantic recital tour of the Maritime Provinces for the 2009/2010 season. Sharon has appeared as soloist with many orchestras including the *Scarborough Philharmonic*, *International Symphony of Sarnia and Port Huron*, *Sinfonia Toronto*, and has premiered a new viola concerto with the Curtis Symphony Orchestra. Sharon has been principal violist of many orchestras, including principal of the *New York String Orchestra*, with performances in Carnegie Hall. She has been guest principal of the *Canadian Opera Company*, *Reading Symphony*, *IPalpiti*, *Via Salzburg*, *Bridgeport Symphony* and *Yale Philharmonia*. She is a current member of the *Verbier Chamber Orchestra*, a touring and recording orchestra. Recent tours have taken Sharon to Asia, Europe, and to North and South America. She has taught viola and coached chamber music in Yale's undergraduate department and is currently teaching at Stanford University.

## About PACO

Founded in 1966, the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra is composed of the Bay Area's most talented musicians chosen by competitive auditions. The young musicians typically enter the PACO organization at the "Superstrings" level, moving up through the Preparatory, Debut, Sinfonia and Senior PACO orchestras. As being one of the few youth orchestras in the nation devoted exclusively to chamber music, PACO performs adventurous repertoire, 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**

### **PALO ALTO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA 44<sup>TH</sup> SEASON WINTER CONCERT DECEMBER 19**

PALO ALTO, Calif., November 11, 2009 - Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra presents their winter performance of a collection of works in the acoustically acclaimed Dinkelspiel Auditorium Saturday, December 19th at Stanford University at 8:00 p.m. Both the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra and its sister ensemble, The Sinfonia Orchestra will perform. These orchestras consist of musicians from local communities ranging from age 12 to 18 years of age. The challenging and entertaining pieces they will perform, under the direction of PACO music director Benjamin Simon, range from traditional and familiar to more contemporary movements. Featured guest artist will be viola acclaimed virtuosa Sharon Wei. Shy middle sister of the string quartet, the viola rarely gets her chance to shine. Violist Sharon Wei will offer rich solos performing Bruch's gorgeous Romanze and Benjamin Britten's haunting Lachrymae, based on an Elizabethan song by John Dowland. Also in the program is Corelli's popular Christmas Concerto. The final piece performed will be the powerful Tchaikovsky's Symphony Number 2 also known as the Little Russian. For more information call 650-856-3848 or visit <http://www.pacomusic.org>.