



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 41st SEASON FINAL CONCERT
A PROGRAM OF CLASSICAL, NEOCLASSICAL, ROMANTIC AND CONTEMPORARY**

***June 3 Concert Features Bassoon Virtuoso Rufus Oliver
and PACO Principal Cellist Jia Jie "George" Lu***

DATE & TIME: Sunday, June 3, 2007, 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford University

PROGRAM: CPE Bach Cello Concerto
Geoffrey Pope Spires Unceasing [world premiere]
Jean Francaix Divertissement
Dvorak Serenade for Strings

TICKETS: \$12 adults, \$10 seniors, \$6 students
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PALO ALTO, Calif., April 12, 2007 – The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra will perform their final concert of the 2006-07 season on Sunday June 3, with a program combining classical, neoclassical, romantic and contemporary music.

The program will feature two soloists: bassoon virtuoso and Bay Area favorite Rufus Olivier performing Jean Francaix's seldom-heard "Divertissement" and PACO own principal cellist George Lu performing CPE Bach's delightful concerto in A Major. The program will also present the second annual Youth-for-Youth Commission, the world premiere of "Spires Unceasing" by 21-year old Geoffrey Pope, an undergraduate music major at USC. Concluding the concert will be Dvorak's masterpiece for string orchestra, his ever-popular Serenade for Strings.

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 Soloists

Rufus Olivier, bassoon, is principal bassoonist with the San Francisco Opera and San Francisco Ballet. Earlier in his career he was bassoonist with the San Francisco Symphony. A founding member of

the Anchor Chamber Players, the Midsummer Mozart Orchestra and the Stanford Wind Quintet, he is on the music faculties of Stanford University and San Francisco State University. He was awarded the Seal of the City and County of San Francisco in 1993 in recognition of "Exemplary Accomplishment on the Occasion of Black History Month." He first joined the Contemporary Music Players in 1991.

Jia jie "George" Lu, a senior at Gunn High School, has studied cello for nine years. He has a deep appreciation of music and received many honors. In December 2003 he won the PACO concerto competition and performed the Tchaikovsky Rococo Variations with the orchestra. In December 2005 he won this competition again. The following year he received his Licentiate from the Royal Schools of Music with distinction. This summer of 2007 he will perform the CPE Bach Concerto in A Major with PACO on its international tour through Central Europe. He has studied with many teachers, including Irene Sharp, and currently is a student of Stephen Harrison. George also plays piano and holds a Licentiate with distinction from the Royal Schools of Music. He has won competitions and performed the Prokofiev Piano Concerto No.1 and Beethoven Piano Concerto No.1 with local orchestras.

About PACO

Founded in 1966, the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra is composed of the Bay Area's most talented and promising high school musicians chosen by competitive audition. One of the few youth orchestras in the nation devoted exclusively to chamber music, PACO has participated in many international music festivals, has toured worldwide by special invitation, and has made 15 concert recordings. PACO was founded by William Whitson, who served as the orchestra's music director for 36 years, until his death in August 2001. Appointed music director in 2002, violist Benjamin Simon has brought with him a new level of energy and creativity in directing PACO's programs, while continuing the 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 PRESENTS SEASON FINAL CONCERT JUNE 3

PALO ALTO, Calif., April 12, 2007 – The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra will perform the final concert of its forty-first season on Sunday, June 3, 3:00 p.m., at Stanford University's Dinkelspiel Auditorium. The program will feature CPE Bach Concerto in A Major, the world premiere of "Spires Unceasing" by Geoffrey Pope, Jean Francaix's Divertissement and Dvorak's Serenade for Strings. The program will present two soloists: Bay Area bassoon virtuoso Rufus Olivier performing Jean Francaix's seldom-heard "Divertissement" and PACO's own principal cellist Jia Jie "George" Lu performing CPE Bach concerto in A Major. The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra is composed of the Bay Area's most talented and promising high school musicians chosen by competitive audition. For more information call 650-856-3848 or visit <http://www.pacomusic.org>.

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