



*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 LAUNCHES 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON; CONCERTS MOVE TO STANFORD CAMPUS UNDER UNIVERSITY SPONSORSHIP**

PALO ALTO, Calif., Sept. 7, 2005 – The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra will kick off its fortieth season Oct. 29 with the first of a series of concerts featuring alumni who have gone on to acclaimed professional music careers, and with a move to a new concert venue at Stanford University.

The 2005-2006 season concerts will be sponsored by Stanford University's School of Humanities and Science and School of Education. Formerly held in the Spangenberg Theatre at Palo Alto's Gunn High School, the concerts this year will move to Stanford's Dinkelspiel Auditorium.

Season highlights include an anniversary concert at San Francisco's Palace of the Legion of Honor in February, PACO's twenty-first annual Bach celebration in March, and the premiere of a new work specially written for PACO by award-winning 16-year-old composer Matthew Cmiel in June.

Benjamin Simon, PACO music director and conductor, said, "We're celebrating our fortieth year as the Bay Area's premier youth chamber orchestra with a series of themed concerts that showcase some of today's 'stars' who began their musical lives as PACO kids. Our fall concert features violinist Krista Bennion, a 1977 PACO alum, who at age 15 soloed with the San Francisco Symphony and went on to be music director of the New Century Chamber Orchestra. Joining us for our winter holiday concert is pianist Tanya Gabrielian, a 2000 PACO graduate who has won numerous music prizes and now studies at London's Royal Academy of Music. In February we welcome cellist Matt Haimowitz, the 1983 PACO grad and cello virtuoso who has toured internationally and been honored for his contribution to American music. And at our spring concert three current PACO musicians join noted French-horn player Alicia Telford, who performs with local productions of Broadway musicals and is a member of the Oakland East Bay Symphony."

### **New Relationship Forged With Stanford**

Stanford's sponsorship of the 2005-2006 PACO concerts "forges an important new relationship with the University," Simon added. "There has always been a PACO-Stanford synergy, with PACO sending several graduates to Stanford each year, and many PACO parents being Stanford alumni and faculty. Our move to Dinkelspiel Auditorium strengthens this synergy and reflects Stanford's recognition of the high level of PACO's performances."

Jonathan Berger, chairman of Stanford's Department of Music, said, "PACO has had an enormous impact on the music culture of the Bay Area and, as evidenced by this season's soloists, on the musical life of our country. As Music Department chair, director of Stanford's Arts Initiative and, of course, a proud PACO parent, it gives me great pleasure and pride that the University is now a sponsor of PACO and host to this season's concert series."

## PACO 2005-2006 Season Program

Saturday, Oct. 29, 2005, 8:00 p.m., Dinkelspiel Auditorium, "Darkness and Light"

Mendelssohn, String Symphony #10 in B Minor

Mozart, Violin Concerto No. 1 in B Flat Major, K. 207 (Krista Bennion, soloist)

"Fall" from The Four Seasons, Vivaldi

Chamber Symphony, Op. 110a, Shostakovich

Saturday, Dec. 17, 2005, 8:00 p.m., Dinkelspiel Auditorium, "Emperors and Kings"

Beethoven, Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat Major ("Emperor") (Tanya Gabrielian, soloist)

Bernstein, "West Side Story" selections

Schubert, Symphony No. 8 in B Minor, D. 709 ("Unfinished")

Saturday, Feb. 25, 1:30 p.m., Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco

Schumann, Cello Concerto in A Minor, Op. 129 (Matt Haimowitz, soloist)

Bach, Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major, BWV 1048

Sunday, Feb. 26, 2006, 3:00 p.m., Dinkelspiel Auditorium, "Romance and Rejoicing"

Mozart, Overture to "Cosi fan Tutte"

Schumann, Cello Concerto in A Minor, Op. 129 (Matt Haimowitz, soloist)

Robert Stern, Hazkarah for Cello and Strings

Bach, Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major, BWV 1048

Sunday, March 12, 19, 26, 2006, 7:30 p.m., Valley Presbyterian Church, Portola Valley

21<sup>st</sup> Annual Bach Celebration. PACO members, alumni and distinguished Bay Area musicians perform a variety of Bach's instrumental and vocal chamber music

Saturday, June 3, 2006, 8:00 p.m., Dinkelspiel Auditorium, "Yesterday and Tomorrow"

Bach, Concerto for Three Violins in D Major, BWV 1064 (Evie Chen, Evan Jeng, Theodore Chao, soloists)

Mozart, Horn Concerto No. 4 in E Flat Major, K. 495 (Alicia Telford, soloist)

Matthew Cmiel, Premiere of new work written for PACO

Mozart, Symphony No. 29 in A Major, K. 201

## About PACO

The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra (PACO) is an award-winning training orchestra 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 our 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 to their art. We provide our members with frequent opportunities to perform chamber music, including a summer chamber music workshop that attracts faculty from across the country. Our community outreach programs bring smaller ensembles into venues around the Bay Area, providing access to our joyful brand of music-making to audience young and old. 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. For more information call 650-856-3848, email [info@pacomusic.org](mailto:info@pacomusic.org) or visit our website at <http://www.pacomusic.org>.