



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 PRESENTS SEASON FINALE CONCERT JUNE 3

Program Features Premiere of New Work by Award-winning Student Composer

DATE/TIME: Saturday, June 3, 8:00 p.m.
PLACE: Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford University
TICKETS: \$12 adults, \$8 seniors, \$6 students
PROGRAM: Concerto for Three Violins in D Major, BWV 1064, Johann Sebastian Bach
Horn Concerto No. 2 in E Flat Major, K. 495, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Leaving Home, Matthew Cmiel
Symphony No. 29 in A Major, K. 201, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
FOR INFO: (650) 856-3848, info@pacomusic.org, <http://www.pacomusic.org>

PALO ALTO, Calif., April 24, 2006 – The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra's fortieth anniversary season finale concert on Saturday, June 3, will feature the premiere performance of a new work written especially for PACO by an award-winning student composer.

The concert will include Bach's Concerto for Three Violins in D Major; Mozart's Horn Concerto No. 2 in E Flat Major and Symphony No. 29 in A Major; and "Leaving Home," a new work by 17-year-old Matthew Cmiel of San Francisco. Cmiel last year won an ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composers Award and took first place in the National Federation of Music Clubs Young Composer Competition.

The concert, to be conducted by PACO Music Director Benjamin Simon, will take place at 8:00 p.m. at Dinkelspiel Auditorium on the Stanford University campus.

"This will be a very exciting season finale," said Simon. "The talented soloists for the Bach Triple Violin Concerto – Evan Jeng, Theodore Chao and Evie Chen – were the winners of our 2005 concerto performance competition. Bay Area horn virtuoso Alicia Telford makes her PACO debut in Mozart's delightful second horn concerto. Leaving Home is the first work commissioned as part of PACO's Youth-for-Youth program, which asks young composers to write new works for performances by their peers in the orchestra. Rounding out the program will be Mozart's sparkling Symphony No. 29."

Leaving Home is a 12-minute, three-movement work by Matthew Cmiel, a student at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's Preparatory Division, who plays guitar and double bass. Inspired by a series of works by Futurist painter Umberto Boccioni (1882-1916), Leaving Home focuses on "the emotions I and so many others have on leaving home for the first time," Cmiel said. "The paintings were done just

before World War I, and the original concept was of young men traveling to join the army. I am fortunate to be young and looking forward to my college years, but I dedicate this piece to all those who have been torn from their lives by war." Following the work's debut at the June 3 concert, Leaving Home will be performed by PACO at summer concerts in Dunsmuir, Calif., and Ashland, Ore.

About the Soloists

Alicia Telford is a well-known Bay Area musician and horn instructor. A member of the Oakland East Bay Symphony and a regular extra with the San Francisco Symphony and Opera Orchestras, she has performed in many Broadway musicals at San Francisco's Curran, Golden Gate and Orpheum theaters. She also plays with and coaches the Golden Gate Brass, the Fog City Winds, the Women's Philharmonic Woodwind Quartet and other chamber groups.

Evan Jeng, 17, is a senior at Mountain View High School. He won first prize in the Fremont Symphony Concerto Competition and the Burlingame Music Competition in 2005, and has made solo appearances with the Palo Alto Philharmonic, the Fremont Symphony, the Winchester Orchestra of San Jose and the South Valley Symphony Orchestra.

Evie Chen, 14, is a freshman at Palo Alto High School. At age eight, she was the youngest-ever winner of the Nafisa Taghioff Award of the Fremont Symphony Orchestra's Young Artists Competition, and has since won numerous other awards. In 2002 she appeared on "Inside Art," a cable television program about gifted children, and in 2004 was a featured artist with the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra.

Theodore Chao, 15, who attends Leland High School, is co-principle of the second violins in PACO. He was a winner of PACO's Young Artist Competition in the 2002-2003 season. Recently selected as one of three winners of the San Jose Youth Symphony's 2006 Young Artist Competition, he will perform Sarasate's Carmen Fantasy with their Philharmonic Orchestra during the 2006-2007 season.

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. For more information call 650-856-3848 or visit <http://www.pacomusic.org>.

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Public Service Announcement

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