



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 CELEBRATES 40 YEARS
WITH SPECIAL CONCERT AT PALACE OF THE LEGION OF HONOR**

Internationally Acclaimed Cellist Matt Haimovitz to be Guest Soloist

DATE/TIME: Saturday, February 25, 1:30 p.m.
PLACE: California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco
TICKETS: \$20 adults, \$10 students

DATE/TIME: Sunday, February 26, 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford University
TICKETS: \$12 adults, \$8 seniors, \$6 students

PROGRAM: Overture to "Don Giovanni," Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Cello Concerto in A Minor, Op. 129, Robert Schumann
Hazkarah for Cello and Strings, Robert Stern
Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major, Johann Sebastian Bach

FOR INFO: (650) 856-3848, info@pacomusic.org, <http://www.pacomusic.org>

PALO ALTO, Calif., Jan. 17, 2006 – The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra will celebrate its fortieth anniversary as the Bay Area's premiere youth chamber ensemble with a special concert at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco.

Highlighting the event will be guest soloist Matt Haimovitz, the world-renowned cellist raised in the Bay Area who was himself a PACO student musician in the 1980s. He will perform Schumann's Cello Concerto in A Minor and Robert Stern's Hazkarah for Cello and Strings.

Also on the program will be the Overture to Mozart's "Don Giovanni" and Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3. The Bach will be performed by the largest PACO orchestra ever assembled: a collaboration of all five levels of PACO ensembles, from the youngest "Superstrings" to the most senior PACO musicians, plus PACO alumni who will converge in the Bay Area from around the country for the occasion.

The concert will take place in the Legion of Honor's Florence Gould Theater on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 1:30 p.m. It will be repeated the following day at 3:00 p.m. at PACO's usual venue, Dinkelspiel Auditorium on the Stanford University campus. Benjamin Simon, PACO music director, will conduct both concerts.

"Our program will begin with the dramatic overture to one of Mozart's greatest operas, Don Giovanni," Simon said. "Next comes the magical and beloved cello concerto into which Schumann poured his nineteenth-century Romantic soul. Robert Stern has done the same for his contemporary Hazkarah for Cello and Strings, transforming the cello line into a cantorial chant entwined with the memory of a poignant Yiddish folk song. We will conclude with Bach's magnum opus for string orchestra, the third Brandenburg Concerto, a magical three-by-three composition which has been delighting audiences for 300 years. The Legion of Honor's Florence Gould Theater is the ideal venue for this program – a beautiful small hall with fine acoustics, perfectly suited to a chamber-size orchestra."

About the Soloist

Matt Haimovitz began his cello studies at age seven and, at 15, replaced his teacher to perform Schubert's cello quintet at Carnegie Hall with Isaac Stern, Mstislav Rostropovich, Shlomo Mintz and Pinchas Zuckerman. The Israeli-born cellist has performed with many American and international symphony and chamber orchestras, appearing with such musicians and conductors as Itzhak Perlman, Zubin Mehta, Daniel Barenboim, Sir Neville Marriner, Seiji Ozawa and Michael Tilson Thomas. He has won numerous prestigious awards, including the Avery Fisher Career Grant, the Premio Internazionale Accademia Musicale Chigiana, and the American Music Center's Trailblazer Award. Mr. Haimovitz, whose recording "Suites and Sonatas for Solo Cello" was awarded the Grand Prix du Disque in 1991, was the subject of a televised feature on CBS' "Sunday Morning with Charles Kuralt" and has appeared on PBS's "Salute to the Arts" and "Nova." Currently he heads the cello program at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. A former PACO musician himself, he has performed as a guest soloist with PACO on several occasions.

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

**PALO ALTO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY
WITH FEBRUARY CONCERTS IN SAN FRANCISCO, PALO ALTO**

PALO ALTO, Calif., Jan. 17, 2006 - The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra will celebrate its fortieth anniversary with a special concert at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 1:30 p.m. The concert will be repeated the next day at 3:00 p.m. at Stanford University's Dinkelspiel Auditorium. World-renowned cellist and PACO alumnus Matt Haimovitz will be guest soloist on Schumann's Cello Concerto in A Minor and Robert Stern's Hazkarah for Cello and Strings. The program will also include Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 and the Overture to Mozart's "Don Giovanni." 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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