

A STAR IS BORN



SATURDAY | MAY 17 | 2025

**PENINSULA
CANTARE**

7:30 PM

First Congregational Church, Palo Alto

Jeffrey Benson, Artistic Director

peninsulacantare.org

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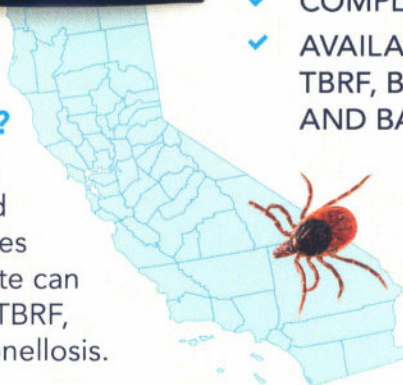
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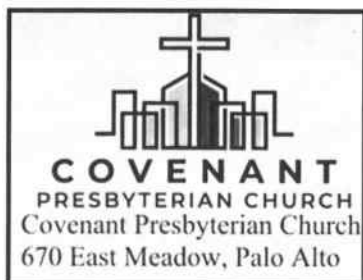
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A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Welcome to Peninsula Cantare's season finale concert – A Star is Born! We're thrilled to have you with us as we close our season with a joyful celebration of music that spans the stage, screen, and beyond.

Tonight's performance promises a vibrant journey through some of the most beloved melodies from Broadway, film, and television. From the timeless charm of *Over the Rainbow* and *Somewhere* to the dazzling flair of *There's No Business Like Show Business*, this program invites you to relive favorite moments and discover new treasures. We're especially excited to present one of Handel's thrilling Coronation Anthems, a stirring reminder of music's grandeur, alongside classic favorites that continue to inspire and uplift.

This evening is not only a celebration of great music—it's a celebration of community. Your presence and support make it possible for us to continue sharing the joy of choral music. Whether this is your first time with us or you've been a part of our journey for years, thank you for being here. Sit back, relax, and let the music carry you—among the stars.

With gratitude,



Chair, Board of Directors



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAESTRO

Thank you for joining us tonight! We are excited to share a rather eclectic program with you. You're hearing one of Handel's epic Coronation Anthems, a song written for a video game, American Broadway classics like *Before the Parade Passes By*, and a world premiere called *Stars* written by one of our devoted singers who happens to be a scientist exploring the origin of a star.

You're also hearing the immense talent of our singers as they shine collectively and as soloists this evening. The individual talents these musicians share with us each week are astounding and I'm excited you're getting to witness what I experience every Tuesday evening. I count my lucky stars that I get to explore music and push the boundaries of choral artistry with each and every one of them. It's a true honor to share all of this music with you.

As always, be kind to yourself. And thank you for all of your support!



Artistic Director

PROGRAM

J. M. Nunes Garcia
(1767–1830)

Ave maris stella

G. F. Handel
(1685–1759)

Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened, HWV 259

I. Allegro

II. Larghetto

III. Allegro

Ronald Hodges

Stars from ***Creation*** (World Premiere)

Katerina Gimon

The Language of the Stars

Amy Spencer, Simone Horne, Jeremy Ryan, soloists

Jocelyn Hagen

We Are the Stars

Andrea Ramsey

Orion

Christopher Tin
arr. Andrew Lu

Sogno di Volare from ***To Shiver the Sky***

~INTERMISSION~

Irving Berlin
arr. Mark Brymer, K. Lewis

There's No Business Like Show Business

Leonard Bernstein
arr. Mac Huff, K. Lewis

Somewhere

Marina Box, soprano

Pasek & Paul
arr. Mac Huff

A Million Dreams

Marcus Edholm, Anne-Marie Strohman, soloists

Harold Arlen
arr. Jacob Narverud

Over the Rainbow

Amy Nasci, soprano

Stephen Flaherty
arr. John Leavitt

The Wheels of a Dream

Truesten Tautolo, baritone

Randy Newman
arr. Philip Lawson

When She Loved Me

Jerry Herman
arr. Mark Hayes, B. Lodge

Before the Parade Passes By

Lofn Young, soprano

Please join us for a reception immediately following the concert!

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Ave maris stella

*Ave, maris stella,
Dei mater alma,
atque semper virgo,
Felix caeli porta.*

*Hail, star of the sea,
Nurturing Mother of God,
And ever Virgin
Happy gate of Heaven*

Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened

Let thy hand be strengthened and thy right hand be exalted.

Let justice and judgment be the preparation of thy seat!

Let mercy and truth go before thy face.

Let justice, judgment, mercy, truth go before thy face.

Alleluia!

Stars

Clouds of hydrogen

Swirling, spinning, billowing, whirling, churning

Pressure, gravity vie for control.

The scale of the clump exceeds the Jeans Length.

The unstable cloud starts a free fall collapse.

Mass accretes in the core of the protostar.

Gravity's energy converts into heat.

The temperature climbs, hotter and hotter.

Ignition! The fusion furnace alights.

Proton plus proton gives deuteron, positron, and neutrino.

Deuteron plus proton gives ${}^3\text{He}$ plus a gamma.

A pair of ${}^3\text{He}$ gives ${}^4\text{He}$ and two protons.

The output of energy: 26.73 MeV.

A main sequence star.

Three ${}^4\text{He}$ gives carbon.

${}^4\text{He}$ and carbon give oxygen or nitrogen.

Expanding, inflating, a red giant

Two hundred thousand thousand degrees,

Five hundred thousand years.

Stellar nucleosynthesis.

Carbon, oxygen, silicon, sulfur,

Argon, and calcium, neon, magnesium,

Nickel and iron.

A supernova! scatters the seeds of life.



TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

The Language of the Stars

Ye brilliant orbs that deck the sky,
shrouded in deepest mystery,
to thee my song I sing!
I long to know of what thou art,
of this great universe a part,
I feel thy glory in my heart
while to the earth I cling.

I long to traverse thy bright spheres,
to stand above the flight of years
remembering earth's dark sod;
Who formed thy glittering, gilded gems,
who framed thy starry diadems,
who all the golden glory bends
of the resplendent sun!

Mysterious questions, answered not,
with deepest meaning ever fraught,
flooding this life below,
when rolling years no more shall be,
when man shall find our destiny,
when time unveils eternity;
perhaps, we then shall know.

-Martha Lavinia Hoffman

We Are the Stars

We are the stars, who sing
from a distant place.
Yes, you are alone in your orbit,
as we are.
Yes, your light burns fiercely,
as fiercely as ours.

The thin wind of loneliness
may howl around you,
suck the breath from your fire.

But look before you
and behind you.
Look above you
and below you.
See how many other hearts are burning,
burning as brightly as yours.

We are the stars.
We sing with our light
in our vast, brilliant constellations:
alone, together.

-Joyce Sidman



TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Orion

I went out at night alone;
The young blood flowing beyond the sea
Seemed to have drenched my spirit's wings—
I bore my sorrow heavily.

But when I lifted up my head
From shadows shaken on the snow,
I saw Orion in the east
Burn steadily as long ago.

From windows in my father's house,
Dreaming my dreams on winter nights,
I watched Orion as a child
Above another city's lights.

Years go, dreams go, and youth goes too,
The world's heart breaks beneath its wars,
All things are changed, save in the east
The faithful beauty of the stars.

-Sara Teasdale

Sogno di Volare

*Una volta che avrai
Spiccato il volo, deciderai
Sguardo verso il ciel saprai:
Lì a casa il cuore sentirai.
Una volta che avrai
Spiccato il volo, deciderai
Sguardo verso il ciel saprai:
Lì a casa il cuore sentirai.
Prenderà il primo volo
Verso il sole il grande uccello
Sorvolando il grande Monte Ceceri
Riempiendo l'universo di stupore e gloria.
Una volta che avrai spiccato il volo,
Allora deciderai
Sguardo verso il ciel saprai:
Lì a casa il cuore sentirai.
L'uomo verrà portato dalla sua creazione
Come gli uccelli, verso il cielo...
Riempendo l'universo di stupore e gloria.
Una volta che avrai
Spiccato il volo, deciderai
Sguardo verso il ciel saprai:
Lì a casa il cuore sentirai.
Gloria!*

Once you have
Taken flight, you'll decide,
Gaze towards the sky, you'll know that
That is where your heart will feel at home.
Once you have
Taken flight, you'll decide,
Gaze towards the sky, you'll know that
That is where your heart will feel at home.
Taking its first flight
Toward the sun, the great bird,
Sweeping over the great Mount Ceceri,
Filling the universe with wonder and glory.
Once you have taken flight,
Then you'll decide,
Gaze towards the sky, you'll know that
That is where your heart will feel at home.
Man will be lifted by his own creation,
Just like birds, towards the sky...
Filling the universe with wonder and glory.
Once you have taken flight,
You'll decide,
Gaze towards the sky, you'll know that
That is where your heart will feel at home.
Glory!

-Adapted from the writings of
Leonardo da Vinci by Chiara Cortez

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Become a member of the **Peninsula Cantare Encore Society** by including Peninsula Cantare in your estate planning. Your bequest, regardless of the amount, will make a lasting difference in our mission to create a better world through music.

With a combined 75 years of service on the board and as singers, we wholeheartedly believe in the long-term vision and mission of this outstanding organization. If you have already included Peninsula Cantare in your will or trust, or would like more information, please contact giving@peninsulacantare.org

Thank you in advance for your generous gift that will sing for years to come,

Kay Johnson, Ruthie Wilkins, & Ginny Grant

peninsulacantare.org



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* Section Leader

Join us before we head to Europe!

BON VOYAGE CONCERT

Sunday, June 1, 2025
3:00pm

St. Francis Episcopal Church
San Jose, CA

FREE



ARTISTIC STAFF



Jeffrey Benson

Jeffrey Benson (he/him) is Artistic Director of Peninsula Cantare and Director of Choral Activities at San José State University. The *Washington Post* hails his choirs for singing "with an exquisite blend, subtlety of phrasing, confident musicianship and fully supported tone."

Dr. Benson made his international conducting debut with the Irish Chamber Orchestra and the SJSU Choraliens in Limerick, Ireland in 2016, and he made his Carnegie Hall conducting debut ten years ago. He has served as cover conductor for the Grammy award-winning Washington Chorus, where he helped to prepare the ensemble for Maestros Leonard Slatkin and Marvin Hamlisch.

In 2025, Benson will return to Carnegie Hall to conduct Elaine Hagenberg's *Illuminare* with orchestra and chorus, and he will conduct Craig Hella Johnson's *Considering Matthew Shepard* at Washington National Cathedral with Berkshire Choral International. Recently Dr. Benson's choirs have been invited to perform with the Rolling Stones, Josh Groban, Andrea Bocelli, Sarah Brightman, the Los Angeles Festival Orchestra and the Skywalker Orchestra.

Dr. Benson is a published composer and arranger, and is the editor of the Jeffrey Benson Choral Series with Gentry Publications. His compositions are published with Colla Voce Music and Santa Barbara Music Publishing, under the Charlene Archibeque Choral Series.



Emily Hsu

Emily Hsu began her piano and musical training at the age of three. By age ten, she had won several prestigious accolades as a soloist. After moving from Taiwan to the Bay Area in 1996, she studied with renowned pianist Rebecca-Sen Chan. In addition to having an extensive and accomplished solo career, Emily is a collaborative musician by nature. She has arranged numerous choral works for the Tzu Chi Foundation and Bo-Ai Chorus, she has performed with the Cambrian Symphony under the direction of Maestro Scott Krijnen, and she's worked with distinguished music educator Jim Yowell for over a decade.

Since 2016, Emily has performed with the California Choral Directors Association Honor Choirs, as well as with the ACDA All-State Honor Choirs. She has collaborated alongside Dr. Judy Bowers (2016), Dr. Jessica Nápoles (2017), Dr. Jeffrey Benson (2017), Dr. Anthony Trecek-King (2021), and Lori Marie Rios (2023). Emily currently resides in Los Gatos with her husband and daughter, and she works closely with Dr. Corie Brown at San José State University and Dr. Jeffrey Benson with both SJSU and Peninsula Cantare.

ARTISTIC STAFF



Brendan Lodge

Brendan Lodge currently serves as Operations Manager for Peninsula Cantare. In 2014, he earned his BM in Vocal Music Education at Alma College under the tutelage of Dr. Will Nichols, where he had the opportunity to conduct several choirs as a student director. Brendan taught middle school choir for four years in Michigan and California before earning his MM in Choral Conducting at San José State University in May 2023.

An avid musical theatre fan, Brendan has worked as a music/pit director for multiple productions, and enjoys performing when he can. Brendan also works as an arranger and frequently arranges music for his own choirs to sing. The Alma College Choirs have repeatedly commissioned his arrangements, and he had the privilege of conducting his own works for the 2014 and 2017 Alma College Homecoming Concerts. In 2017 and 2019, his arrangements were featured at the Michigan Music Conference's Choral Hour. At SJSU, Brendan worked as an instructor in Music Appreciation, Music Fundamentals, and Ear Training, with all of the SJSU choral ensembles in various administrative and artistic capacities, and served as the director of SJSU's Vocal Jazz Ensemble. Brendan now works as the choir teacher at Livermore High School in Livermore, CA. He currently resides in San José with his husband, Tyler, and their two Boston Terriers, Jan and Bob.

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San José State University Choraliers
Peninsula Cantare

BON VOYAGE CONCERT

*Join the SJSU Choraliers &
Peninsula Cantare before they depart
on their 2025 European Concert Tour.*



**Sunday, June 1, 2025
3:00pm**

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A close-up portrait of an elderly man with a warm smile, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt. He is holding a large green vegetable, possibly a bell pepper, in front of him. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

CHARLIE



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