



I DREAM A WORLD



Jeffrey Benson, Artistic Director

SATURDAY • MARCH 14 • 2026

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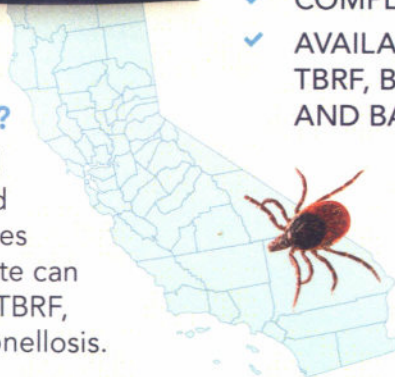
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A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

On behalf of Peninsula Cantare, I am delighted to welcome you to ***I Dream A World***, a program that invites each of us to reflect on change, community, and the dreams that unite us. We are grateful to each of our dedicated singers, artistic leaders, and to you, our audience, for sharing in tonight's performance. May tonight's music uplift your spirit and renew our shared belief in the possibilities we create together.

Thank you for being part of this shared musical experience and for supporting the vibrant choral artistry that brings our vision to life by fostering **a world that explores the human experience through musical storytelling.**

With gratitude,



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A MESSAGE FROM THE MAESTRO

In a world where so much is outside of our control, artists and musicians across the globe continue to share their stories to help inspire and heal. It is my sincere hope that tonight might help us all sit in community and dream of a more love- and light-filled path forward.

From Mozart's sparkling opener (written when he was only 12 years old), we're reminded that a diversity of languages can't stop us from gathering together. And as we travel to Puerto Rico for our grand finale this evening, the celebration continues in spite of a storm brewing: we are indeed resilient! Even as the choir sings in German, in the final stanza of Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*, we want our audience to "accept...happily, the gifts of beautiful art. If love and power join together, humanity is rewarded by the gods' favor."

Thanks for being here! As always, be kind to yourself and continue to make our world better!

Jeffrey Benson

Artistic Director





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PROGRAM

W.A. Mozart
(1756–1791)

Veni Sancte Spiritus, K. 47

Lofn Young, soprano
Pia Satana, mezzo soprano
Jeremy Ryan, tenor
Oliver Chiang, bass

Benjamin Britten
(1913–1976)

Rejoice in the Lamb, Op. 30

Marina Box, soprano
Sam Siegel, countertenor
Cody Scott, tenor
Truelsen Tautolo, bass

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770–1827)

Fantasie in C minor, Op. 80

Amanda Ku, piano

Amy Spencer, Amy Nasci, Simone Horne
Jeremy Ryan, Erik Viovode, Truelsen Tautolo,
soloists

~ INTERMISSION ~

Joan Szymko
(b. 1957)

It Takes a Village

Gabrielle McColgan, soprano

André Thomas
(b. 1952)

I Dream a World

Mari Esabel Valverde
(b. 1987)

When Thunder Comes

Bob Dylan
arr. Adam Podd

The Times They Are a-Changin'

Dylan Platt, baritone

Morten Lauridsen
(b. 1943)

Prayer

Puerto Rican Plena
arr. Diana Saez & Suzette Ortiz

Temporal

Please join us for a reception immediately following the concert!

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Veni Sancte Spiritus

*Veni Sancte Spiritus,
reple tuorum corda fidelium,
et tui amoris in eis ignem accende:*

*qui per diversitatem
linguarum cunctarum,
gentes in unitate fidei congregasti.*

Alleluja.

*Come, holy spirit,
fill the hearts of thy faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of thy love:*

*thou who beyond the diversity of
languages have assembled all peoples in
the unity of faith.*

Alleluia.

Rejoice in the Lamb

*Rejoice in God, O ye Tongues;
Give the glory to the Lord,
And the Lamb.
Nations, and languages,
And every Creature
In which is the breath of Life.
Let man and beast appear before him,
And magnify his name together.*

*Let Nimrod, the mighty hunter,
Bind a leopard to the altar
And consecrate his spear to the Lord.*

*Let Ishmail dedicate a tyger,
And give praise for the liberty
In which the Lord has let him at large.*

*Let Balaam appear with an ass,
And bless the Lord his people
And his creatures for a reward eternal.*

*Let Daniel come forth with a lion,
And praise God with all his might
Through faith in Christ Jesus.*

*Let Ithamar minister with a chamois,
And bless the name of Him
That cloatheth the naked.*

*Let Jakim with the satyr
Bless God in the dance,
Dance, dance, dance.*

*Let David bless with the bear
The beginning of victory to the Lord—
To the Lord the perfection of excellence.*

*Hallelujah from the heart of God,
And from the hand of the artist
inimitable,
And from the echo of the heavenly harp
In sweetness magnificent and mighty.*

*For I will consider my cat Jeoffry.
For he is the servant of the living God,
duly and daily serving him.
For at the first glance
of the glory of God in the East
he worships in his way.
For this is done by wreathing his body
seven times round with elegant
quickness.
For he knows that God is his Saviour.
For God has bless'd him
In the variety of his movements.
For there is nothing sweeter
than his peace when at rest.
For I am possessed of a cat,
surpassing in beauty,
from whom I take occasion
to bless Almighty God.*

*For the Mouse is a creature
of great personal valour.
For—this is a true case—
Cat takes female mouse—
Male mouse will not depart,
but stands threat'ning and daring.
...If you will let her go,
I will engage you,
as prodigious a creature as you are.
For the Mouse is a creature
of great personal valour.
For the Mouse is of
an hospitable disposition.*

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Rejoice in the Lamb (cont.)

*For the flowers are great blessings,
For the flowers are great blessings,
For the flowers have their angels,
Even the words of God's creation.
For the flower glorifies God
And the root parries the adversary.
For there is a language of flowers.
For flowers are peculiarly
The poetry of Christ.*

*For I am under the same
accusation
With my Savior—
For they said,
He is besides himself.
For the officers of the peace
are at variance with me,
and the watchman smites me
with his staff.
For silly fellow, silly fellow,
Is against me,
And belongeth neither to me
Nor to my family.
For I am in twelve hardships,
But he that was born of a virgin
Shall deliver me out of all,
Shall deliver me out of all.*

*For H is a Spirit
And therefore he is God.
For K is King
And therefore he is God.
For L is Love
And therefore he is God.
For M is Musick
And therefore he is God.*

*For the instruments are by their
rhimes,
For the shawm rhimes are lawn
fawn moon boon and the like.
For the harp rhimes are sing ring
string and the like.
For the cymbal rhimes are bell well
toll soul and the like.
For the flute rhimes are tooth youth
suit mute and the like.
For the bassoon rhimes are pass
class and the like.
For the dulcimer rhimes are grace
place beat heat and the like.
For the clarinet rhimes are clean
seen and the like.
For the trumpet rhimes are sound
bound soar more and the like.*

*For the trumpet of God is a blessed
intelligence
and so are all the instruments in
Heaven.
For God the Father Almighty plays
upon the harp
of stupendous magnitude and
melody.*

*For at that time malignity ceases
And the devils themselves are at
peace.
For this time is perceptible to man
By a remarkable stillness and
serenity of soul.*

*Hallelujah from the heart of God,
And from the hand of the artist
inimitable,
And from the echo of the heavenly
harp
In sweetness magnificent and mighty.*

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Choral Fantasy

*Schmeichelnd hold und lieblich klingen
Unsers Lebens Harmonien,
Und dem Schönheitssinn
entschwingen
Blumen sich, die ewig blühen.*

*Fried und Freude gleiten freundlich,
Wie der Wellen Wechselspiel.
Was sich drängte rauh und feindlich,
ordnet sich zu Hochgefühl.*

*Wenn der Töne Zauber walten
Und des Wortes Weihe spricht,
Muß sich Herrliches gestalten,
Nacht und Stürme werden Licht.*

*Äuß're Ruhe, inn're Wonne
Herrschen für den Glücklichen,
Doch der Künste Frühlingssonne
Läßt aus Leiden Licht entstehn.*

*Großes, das ins Herz gedrunken,
Blüht dann neu und schön empor,
Hat ein Geist sich aufgeschwungen,
Hallt ihm stets ein Geisterchor.*

*Nehmt denn hin, ihr schönen Seelen,
Froh die Gaben schöner Kunst!
Wenn sich Lieb' und Kraft vermählen,
Lohnt dem Menschen Götter Gunst.*

Flatteringly sweet and lovely ring out
our lives' harmonies,
and from our sense of
beauty arise
flowers that eternally bloom.

Peace and joy move together,
like the alternating play of waves;
that which seemed harsh and hostile,
transforms itself into inspiration.

When music's magic holds sway,
and poetry's sacredness speaks out,
magnificent things must take form,
night and storms turn into light.

Outer calm, inner joy,
prevail for the happy person;
indeed, the arts' spring sunshine
lets, from sorrow, light come into being.

Greatness, that was deep in the heart,
blooms anew, reaching up beautifully;
if a spirit rises up,
it is always echoed by a chorus of spirits.

Therefore accept, you lovely souls,
happily, the gifts of beautiful art.
If love and power join together,
humanity is rewarded by the gods' favor.

—Christoph Johann Anton Kuffner

Temporal

*Allá viene, allá viene el temporal
Allá viene el temporal.
Que será de Puerto Rico
Cuando llegue el temporal?
Que será de mi Borinquen?
Se levanta el pueblo
Al son de los tambores.
No nos tumba el viento
Ni diez mil temblores
Somos resilientes,
Somos luchadores
No nos tumba el viento
Ni diez mil temblores.*

There comes! There comes the storm!
There comes the storm.
What will become of Puerto Rico
when the storm arrives?
What will become of my Puerto Rico?
The people arise
to the rhythm of the drums.
The wind cannot bring us down
nor ten thousand earthquakes.
We are resilient,
We are warriors.
The wind cannot bring us down,
nor ten thousand earthquakes.

GUEST ARTIST



Amanda Ku

Amanda Ku is a collaborative pianist and music director, whose versatility in choral, classical, and musical theater spaces places her in high demand. A Bay Area native, she regularly accompanies the choirs at Los Altos and Lincoln High Schools, violin repertory program Magical Strings West, and serves as Leigh High School's musical theater coach and vocal director.

She has enjoyed collaborating with local, regional, and state honor choirs since 2018, and made her Western ACDA conference debut in 2024 with Resounding Achord. Other notable choral collaborations include the San José State University Concert Choir and Peninsula Cantare in 2018, and eight seasons as principal accompanist for Cantabile Youth Singers.

In addition, Amanda can be found playing for auditions and musicals across the South Bay and Peninsula. Recently, she has served as music director for well-received productions of *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Gypsy*, and *Little Women*, and received two regional award nominations in Best Music Direction for her work in community theater.

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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 forge connections between diverse communities in the pursuit of choral artistry.

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

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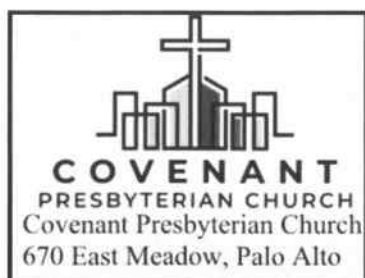
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Our Vision: Forging connections between diverse communities in the pursuit of choral artistry.

Our Mission: A world that explores the human experience through musical storytelling.



ARTISTIC STAFF



Jeffrey Benson

Jeffrey Benson (he/him) is Artistic Director of Peninsula Cantare and Director of Choral Activities at San José State University where he serves as the Charlene Archibeque Endowed Professor of Choral Music. 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 Choraliers in Limerick, Ireland in 2016, and made his Carnegie Hall conducting debut in 2015. 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.

This season, Benson will return to Carnegie Hall to conduct Mozart's *Requiem* with orchestra and chorus, and he just recently conducted Craig Hella Johnson's *Considering Matthew Shepard* at Washington National Cathedral with Berkshire Choral International. In recent years, Benson's choirs have been invited to perform with the Rolling Stones, Josh Groban, Andrea Bocelli, and Sarah Brightman.

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.



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 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

A Michigander currently living in California, **Brendan Lodge** is a choral music educator, conductor, performer, and arranger. In 2014, he earned his Bachelor of Music in Vocal Music Education at Alma College under the tutelage of Dr. Will Nichols, where he had the opportunity to conduct multiple choirs as a student director. Brendan taught middle school choir for four years in Michigan and California before earning his Master of Music in Choral Conducting at San José State University in May 2023 where he was mentored by Dr. Jeffrey Benson and Dr. Corie Brown.

At SJSU, Brendan worked as an instructor in Music Appreciation, Music Fundamentals, Ear Training, and directed the Vocal Jazz Ensemble. In addition to his own coursework, he participated in all of the SJSU choral ensembles in various administrative, artistic, and performance capacities. Upon graduation, he was named the 2023 Outstanding Graduate Student in Music. Following his time at SJSU, he served for two years as the Director of Choirs at Livermore High School in Livermore, CA.

He resides in San José with his husband, Tyler, as well as their two Boston Terriers, Jan and Bob.

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by CRAIG HELLA JOHNSON



Jeffrey Benson, Artistic Director

SATURDAY • MAY 16 • 2026

7:30 PM

First Congregational Church, Palo Alto

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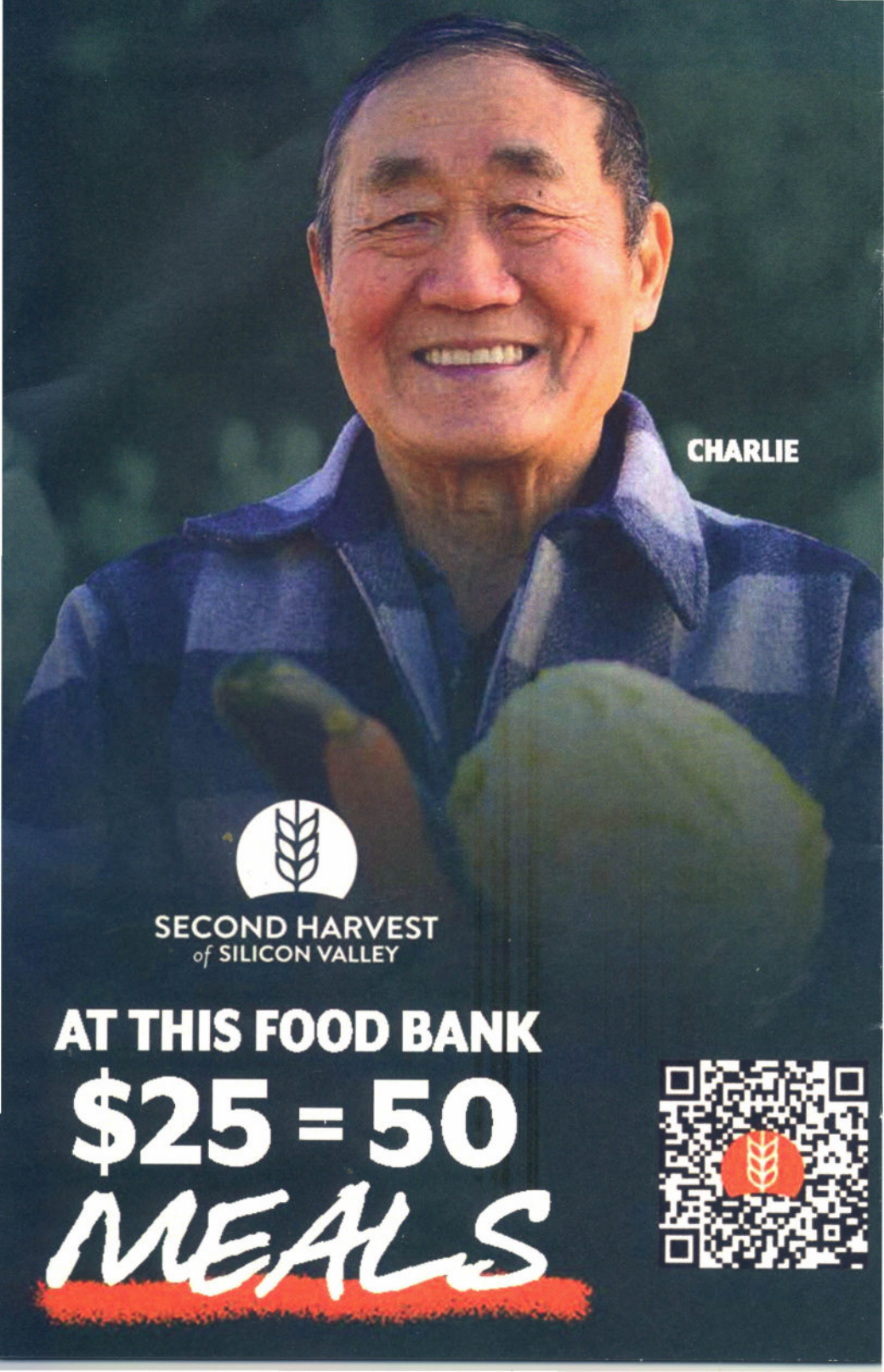
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