



## **Festival Fact Sheet**



**The Golden Gate International Children's and Youth Choral Festival is a unique and unforgettable week of concerts, competitions, special events and cultural exchange in the San Francisco East Bay. The festival occurs triennially in July during which participating choirs will sing, learn and live with their peers from around the globe. Founded in 1991 by the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir in California, the festival remains the only recurring youth choral competition in the US.**

**The 2018 festival will be held July 8th through July 14th** and welcomes children from countries including Australia, China, Georgia, Hong Kong and several of the United States to share the joy and rigor of choral music together.

The festival hosts international adjudicators each with a wealth of study and accomplished history in choral and vocal music and performance. Multi prize-winning in their own right, these jurors apply their academic and professional acumen to determining the rankings in the festival's several choral and solo competitions.

From its opening picnic on the banks of Oakland's Lake Merritt, followed by spotlight concerts throughout the week to a cruise for the choirs on the San Francisco Bay and an always stellar Grand Finale Concert, the Golden Gate International Children's and Youth Choral Festival is an inspiring event not to be missed. To kick off the festival, the opening concert will be held at the iconic Scottish Rite Center on Lake Merritt.

**The GGICYC Festival is possible thanks to the generous support of Bell Investment Advisors; John Malick & Associates; The Nick Hartono Memorial Fund; Winkler Real Estate Group, many generous individual donors, and The National Endowment for the Arts.**

## **Festival History and Highlights**

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**In 1991, the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choirs (PEBCC) founded The Golden Gate International Children's Choral Festival, the first recurring international children's choral competition in the United States.**

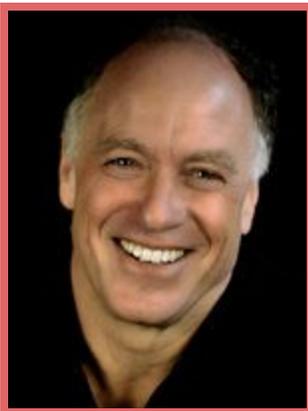
For over 30 years, the singers of PEBCC had been singing, competing, and creating friendships with children throughout the world with their many concert tours to Europe, Asia, Central America, the Baltic States, Cuba, and Russia. Welcomed into concert halls, communities, and homes, members of the choirs have stayed with families and learned to appreciate the hospitality of different cultures.

Often, these opportunities occurred during international festivals which brought multiple choirs together. Realizing the richness this experience offered children as they gained a sense of themselves as citizens of the world and recognizing that there were no similar events in the United States, PEBCC Artistic Director Robert Geary conceived of the Golden Gate International Children's and Youth Choral Festival as an opportunity to enrich the Bay Area with a truly multicultural experience and to share the Northern California lifestyle with guests from around the world.

The Golden Gate Festival is still the only recurring children's and youth choral competition in the U.S. A tenet of PEBCC is that competition helps choirs focus efforts to achieve results they otherwise would not. The adjudicated competitions include several categories of choral music and an opportunity for soloists as well. As hosts of the festival, the PEBCC's four participating choirs abstain from award placement.

## **Festival Founder and PEBCC Founding Artistic Director**

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**Since 1981 founding Artistic Director, Robert Geary has put the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir in the musical vanguard through his determined advocacy of new music. The choir's commissions, premieres, recordings of innovative and demanding new works by today's leading composers and collaborations with domestic and international arts organizations have led to national and international acclaim.**

Under his direction, in addition to winning many international competition prizes, PEBCC has the distinction of being the only children's choir from the U.S. to win first prize at the Choral Olympics or World Choir Games. Geary and PEBCC have performed throughout the United States, South America, Western and Eastern Europe, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Asia, and most recently in the United Kingdom where they earned 2nd Place at the International Eisteddfod in Wales.

In 1979 Robert Geary founded Volti, a professional vocal ensemble specializing in new music and for the past 21 years, Geary has been the Artistic Director of the San Francisco Choral Society, one of the Bay Area's most accomplished choruses. Robert Geary's choirs have recorded with various labels, most recently with Kronos Quartet. They have performed at festivals in the United States and around the world.



## 2018 Festival Participants



City, State, Country	Choir	Singers	Website	Conductor
Stanley, Hong Kong	St. Stephen's College	70	ssc.edu.hk/	William Wai-Leung Chung
Shanghai, People's Republic of China	Shanghai Little Star Chorus	51	littlestar.cn/	Jin Yang
Orange, CT, USA	Fairfield County Children's Choir	40	singFCCC.org	Jon Noyes
Seattle, WA, USA	Columbia Children's Choir - Cantabile	26	columbiachoirs.com	Steve Stevens
Portland, OR, USA	Portland Boychoir	23	portlandboychoir.org	David York
Seattle, WA, USA	Columbia Children's Choir - Bel Canto	22	columbiachoirs.com	Steve Stevens
Tbilisi, Georgia	Choir of E.Mikeladze Central Music School	14	chant-folk-choir.webs.com	Badri Jimsheleishvili
Queensland, Australia	Emmanuel College	11	emmanuel.qld.edu.au	Sally Lockett

City, State, Country	Choir	Singers	Website	Conductor
Oakland, CA, USA	PEBCC, Concert Choir	59	piedmontchoirs.org/concert-choir	Tim Silva, Festival Conductor
Oakland, CA, USA	PEBCC, Ensemble	49	piedmontchoirs.org/ensemble	Robert Geary
Oakland, CA, USA	PEBCC, Ecco	39	piedmontchoirs.org/ecco	Eric Tuan
Oakland, CA, USA	PEBCC, Ancora	21	piedmontchoirs.org/ancora	Robert Geary

## 2018 Festival Honorary Chair - Conway B. Jones, Jr.

Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir works with an honorary chair for each of its festivals, pulling luminaries from the arts community. Conway B. Jones, Jr. is a patriot, businessman, and patron of the arts.

He serves on the board of directors of defense and intelligence corporations, as well as cultural organizations, and the Alameda County Veterans Affairs Commission. He founded several companies and is a journalist. He served on the Music and Opera Panels for the National Endowment for the Arts for 24 years. He is founder and chairman of the Calvin Simmons Center for the Performing Arts. His bronze sculpture commissions were accepted into the Smithsonian Institution and the National Museum of the Marine Corps in 2017. He is a Vietnam-era veteran aviator, with 6,800 flying hours, 87 missions. His adult life is marked by service to country, community, and the Arts.



## Festival Support

The Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir is funded from the generous support of Corporations, Foundations, and Individuals. In addition to participant fees and ticket sales and a host of individual donors, sponsors and volunteers, the choir is deeply indebted to the generous support of the following who have contributed specifically for the Golden Gate Festival:



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Additionally, we receive in-kind support from

- ACFEA
- Holy Names University
- Hornblower Cruises



## 2018 Festival Adjudicators: Choral Competitions

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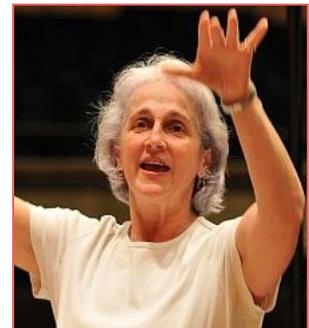


**Judit Hartyányi holds a diploma from the Liszt Academy of Music in Choral Conducting and Teachers' Training. She is recently retired as an Associate Professor of Orchestra and Choral Conducting at the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, Hungary.**

From 1972 to 2011, she conducted several choirs, including the Girls' Chorus of Székesfehérvár, Hungary, which premiered works by many contemporary Hungarian composers and won awards in international competitions. She was awarded the ARTISJUS prize for performers of contemporary music. Since 1995, she has been a frequent visiting professor at Holy Names University. She has served as juror for numerous international choral competitions (France, Hungary, Italy, Romania, USA) and has taught summer courses and workshops in Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Slovenia, the UK and the US. Judit is a Vice President of the International Kodály Society (IKS), and a president of the Arts Council of the Association of Hungarian Choirs and Orchestras.

**\*María Guinand, President of the Jury, is a choral conductor and University Professor, and is frequently invited as conductor and teacher in the U.S.A, Europe, Asia and Latin America.**

A specialist in Latin-American Choral Music of the 20th and 21st centuries, she has won the 'Kulturpreis' (1998) of the InterNationes Foundation, the Robert Edler Preis für Chormusik (2000), and recently Helmuth Rilling Preis (2009). A graduate of Bristol University (England), Guinand studied choral conducting with Alberto Grau. She has studied with Helmuth Rilling, Luigi Agustoni and Johannes B. Goeschl. Ms. Guinand resides in Venezuela, where she directs the Schola Cantorum de Venezuela and the Cantoría Alberto Grau. Guinand's choirs have toured extensively and won many awards. Always interested in new choral music, she has participated in a variety of performances and recordings for the labels Deutsche Grammophon and Nonesuch, including Osvaldo Golijov's *Pasión según San Marcos* and John Adams' *A Flowering Tree*. For over 30 years she has been Associated Conductor and Advisor of Choral Symphonic Performances and Activities of El Sistema (FESNOJIV). She teaches in the Master Degree Program for Choral Conductors at the University Simón Bolívar where she has worked as professor and conductor for 28 years.



**\*Raymond Wise serves as Professor of Practice, African American African Diaspora Studies Department, the Associate Director of the African American Arts Institute and Director of the African American Choral Ensemble at Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.**

He earned a Ph.D. and an M.A. in Music Education from The Ohio State University (2002, 1996) and a B.F.A. in Music from Denison University, Granville, Ohio (1983). Wise studied in Opera, Art, and German at the Institute for European Studies in Vienna, Austria (1982) and in African-American History, Music, and Dance at San Francisco State University in San Francisco, California (1983). His research and teaching interests include the history and performance of African American Gospel and Sacred music.

He is an ordained minister and regularly serves as a singer, pianist, composer, director, conductor, lecturer, and teacher for orchestras, opera companies, churches and choral festivals throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia.

**\*Also a Festival Conductor**

## 2018 Festival Adjudicators : Solo Competitions

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**Karen Anderson has taught private voice for 25 years and has had students win San Francisco Bay area competitions and full scholarships to several universities throughout the United States. Ms Anderson is known as a vocal lecturer to various vocal groups.** She has performed the title role of Alcina with San Francisco Pocket Opera, and has been heard in the world premier of Donald McCullough's Contraries and the Verdi Requiem with San Francisco Choral Society at Davies Symphony Hall. She has performed with the Lancaster Music Festival in the title role of Turandot with a live National Public Radio broadcast, and with Cincinnati Opera in the role of Kitty Hart in Dead Man Walking. She triumphed in the performances of Suor Angelica and Tosca to considerable acclaim with California's Festival Opera.

**Martin Benvenuto, Lead Jurist for solo competitions, is one of the leading treble choir conductors in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. A native of Buenos Aires, Argentina, he is Artistic Director of the Peninsula Women's Chorus (PWC), and is active as a clinician, panelist, and guest conductor.**

Recognized for his exacting technique, compelling presence, and a passion for drawing the finest choral tone, Benvenuto's repertoire is extensive. In addition to the historical repertoire, his choirs are dedicated to commissioning new works from composers such as Kirke Mechem, Libby Larsen, Mark Winges, Ted Hearne, Chen Yi, Stacy Garrop, Judith Shatin, Frank Ferko, Brian Holmes, and David Conte. Benvenuto's choirs have earned high marks in international competitions in Argentina, South Africa, Canada, Hungary, and Spain. Of particular note is third prize awarded to the PWC at the Béla Bartók International Choir Competition in 2006, PWC's second place in the 2011 American Prize in Choral Performance, and the 2010 Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker award, which recognized WomenSing for programming recently- composed music that expanded the mission of the chorus and challenged the chorus's audience in new ways. He holds a D.M.A. in choral conducting from Boston University. He earned his master's degree from Westminster Choir College, majoring both in Choral Conducting and Voice Performance and Pedagogy. His undergraduate degrees in choral conducting and composition are from the Universidad Católica Argentina.



## 2018 Festival Commissions

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**While there is a tremendous wealth of four part harmony SATB choral pieces, the repertoire of demanding high quality treble pieces, appropriate for children and youth choruses is more limited. For the festival, Piedmont Choirs have commissioned three innovative pieces inspired by this year's festival theme of Freedom. Always powerful, the question of freedom and how it is understood between nations and generations is even more topical in today's current political climate.**

Founding Artistic Director Robert Geary reflects "when our singers and community share in the creation of new music, it uplifts us and brings our attention to concepts of freedom, the need to understand our historical failings and the struggle we face, as human beings, in the name of freedom." Eric Tuan, who conducts the PEBCC's mixed chorus Ecco, finds these commissioned works and this year's Golden Gate festival theme of Freedom "a particularly moving and powerful topic for our young people to be addressing, and they sing with both technical precision and deep emotional commitment."

With lyrics and motifs inspired by poetry on the subject, composers Stacy Garrop, Jacqueline Butler Hairston and Mark Wings have each created poignant, urgent pieces that allow these children's choirs to sing with great depth and delivery:

- Garrop's ***Mother of Exiles***, an ode to the Statue of Liberty, is put to the poetry at the statue's base by Emma Lazarus.
- Hairston's ***A Freedom Quodlibet***, intertwines traditional spirituals with lyrics from her friend and local celebrated poet, Alice Walker.
- Wings' ***Last Ditch Fight of the Wish*** is based on a poem work-shopped with PEBCC youth choir members themselves by local poet Denise Newman and choreographed by ODC director KT Nelson.



**Stacy Garrop's music is centered on dramatic and lyrical storytelling. Stacy shares stories by taking audiences on sonic journeys – some simple and beautiful, while others are complicated and dark – depending on the needs and dramatic shape of the story. New Music USA and the League of American Orchestras have chosen Stacy and the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra as one of five orchestra/composer pairings for Music Alive's 2016-2019 residence program.** Stacy has received the Barlow Prize, a Fromm Music Foundation grant, three Barlow Endowment commissions, and the Sackler Music Composition Prize, along with prizes from competitions sponsored by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Omaha Symphony, New England Philharmonic, Boston Choral Ensemble, Utah Arts Festival, and Pittsburgh New

Music Ensemble. Theodore Presser Company publishes her chamber and orchestral works; she self-publishes her choral pieces under Inkjar Publishing Company. Stacy is a recording artist with Cedille Records; her works are also commercially available on ten additional labels. For more information, please visit her website at [www.garrop.com](http://www.garrop.com) or her all-things-composition blog at [www.composerinklings.com/](http://www.composerinklings.com/)

## 2018 Festival Commissions continued

**Jacqueline Butler Hairston, award-winning ASCAP composer-arranger, is a twice invited Carnegie Hall Guest Conductor (2012, 2016). Hairston is a former and legendary Bay Area pianist, music educator, African Diaspora Specialist, Church Musician, and Vocal Coach, as well as a practitioner of Sound-Healing. She has created and arranged works of the African Diaspora for her Mass Choir of 200 and 300 singers respectively.** Her 2012 Carnegie world-premiere was a tribute to her esteemed cousin Jester Hairston. Her 2016 program paid tribute to the Pulitzer awardee, writer-poet Alice Walker, internationally acclaimed Jazz instrumentalist Wynton Marsalis and world renowned soprano Kathleen Battle. Hairston received her pre-college musical education from the Juilliard School of Music; Howard University (B. Mus.Ed.) and Columbia University (M.A. Music, Music Education). A retired music professor from Oakland's Merritt and Laney Colleges, she taught at UC Berkeley's Young Musicians Program; Choir and Piano at the Oakland School for the Arts and designed a Gospel/Jazz course at Oakland's Mills College. A vocal and piano coach for over 45 years, she is a member of the Recording Academy (NARAS), previously on the Board of Governors, SF Chapter. Jacqueline Hairston created Bay Area college courses, **Healing The Soul Through and with Music** and released her pioneering Piano CD, entitled **Spiritual Roots + Classical Fruits: A Healing Harvest (available on iTunes).**



**Mark Wings was born in Louisville, Kentucky, and currently resides in San Francisco, where he has been resident composer / advisor for the vocal ensemble Volti since 1990. He was also composer-in-residence for the San Francisco Choral Artists in the 2012-13 season. He has studied in the US (Cincinnati, San Francisco) and at the Musikhögskolan in Stockholm, Sweden. Mark has had residencies at the MacDowell Colony, Fundación Valparaíso (Mojácar, Spain ) and the Ragdale Foundation. Gramophone magazine has characterized his music as “Stylistically adventurous in setting, but strongly beholden to conventional means”. SF Classical Voice describes him as “a composer with the skill and self-confidence to write music that is clear, direct, and at times even simple, but not at all simple-minded”. His *Leaves from Diana's Tree***

for soprano and piano quartet was premiered by Shauna Fallihee (a Piedmont alum) and the Emphyrean Ensemble at UC Davis this past December. Other recent pieces include **Letters** for chorus and string quartet, premiered last season by Volti and the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble String Quartet, and **The Moon Dreams of Jacqueline** for string quartet and four solo voices, commissioned by the San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music for the Friction Quartet. His **Breath & Hammers**, a concerto for piano and wind ensemble, written for pianist Blaise Bryski, conductor James Spinazzola, and the Cornell University Wind Ensemble, was premiered last fall in Ithaca, NY. It also received a performance at the National Conference of Band Directors at Yale University.

## 2018 Festival Events

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The 2018 Golden Gate International Children's Choral Festival begins Sunday, July 8th with an evening reception and meet and greet with conductors, accompanists and chaperones and concludes with a farewell dance for choir participants on Saturday, July 14th, immediately following the Grand Finale concert. The week's extensive activities will include:

- Welcome picnic for the over 400 singers at Lake Merritt
- Opening Concert - **Scottish Rite Center, Monday July 9, 2018 7:00pm**
- Daily massed rehearsals and adjudicated competition events
- Spotlight Concerts in the evenings - various Bay Area venues
- Cruise on the San Francisco Bay
- Banquet for conductors and accompanists
- Dress rehearsals
- Award presentation
- Grand Finale Concert - **Oakland InterStake Center, Saturday July 14, 2018 6:30pm**
- Farewell party and dance for festival participants

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**All concerts and competition events are FREE to the public,  
except for Opening and Grand Finale concerts for which  
tickets are available at Eventbrite or at (510) 547-4441.  
Tickets and more information at: [goldengatefestival.org](http://goldengatefestival.org)**

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# 2018 Festival Schedule

## 2018 Golden Gate International Children and Youth Choral Festival



### Participant Schedule:

#### Monday JULY 9th

9am-12pm	Festival Chorus Rehearsal	Scottish Rite Center
12pm-4pm	Nick Hartono Welcome Picnic	Lakeside Amphitheater
7pm - 9pm	Opening Concert	Scottish Rite Center

#### Tuesday JULY 10th

9am-12pm	Festival Chorus Rehearsals	First Congregational Church
1pm	Vocal Solo Competition	First Presbyterian Church
1:30pm	Historical/Folk Competition 1	First Congregational Church
7pm	Spotlight Concert	First Presbyterian Church
7pm	Spotlight Concert	First Congregational Church

*premiere Mark Wings  
Last Ditch Flight of the Wish*

#### Wednesday JULY 11th

9am-12pm	Festival Chorus Rehearsals	First Congregational
1pm	Vocal Solo Competition	First Presbyterian
1:30pm	Historical/Folk Competition 2	First Congregational
7pm	Spotlight Concert	First Congregational
7pm	Spotlight Concert	Old First Presbyterian Church

#### Thursday JULY 12th

9am-12pm	Festival Chorus Rehearsals	First Congregational Church
1pm	Gospel/Spiritual Competition	First Congregational Church
3pm	Contemporary Competition	First Congregational Church

#### Friday JULY 13th

9am-12pm	Festival Chorus Rehearsals	First Congregational First Presbyterian
12:15pm	Rendez Vous to Cruise	Jack London Square Ferry
2 - 5pm	San Francisco Bay Cruise	Jack London Square Ferry

#### Saturday JULY 14th

9am-12pm	Chorus Rehearsals	Oakland Interstake Center
5:30pm	Call for Finale Concert	Oakland Interstake Center
6:30pm	Grand Finale Concert	Oakland Interstake Center
	<i>premiere Jacqueline Butler Hairston Freedom Quodlibet</i>	
	<i>premiere Stacy Garrop Mother of Exiles</i>	
8:45pm	Festival Closing Party	Oakland Interstake Center Gymnasium

### Event Venues:

Scottish Rite Center	1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland
Lakeside Amphitheater	btwn 12th Street & 1st Avenue Lake Merritt Blvd, Oakland
First Congregational Church	2345 Channing Way, Berkeley
First Presbyterian Church	2407 Dana Street, Berkeley
Old First Presbyterian Church	1751 Sacramento Street, SF
Jack London Square terminal	10 Clay Street, Oakland
Oakland Interstake Center	4780 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland



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## Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir



The internationally acclaimed Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir offers children throughout San Francisco's East Bay an outstanding program of music training and choral performance. With four performing ensembles as well as a multi-department choir school, PEBCC provides rigorous foundation and advancement in vocal technique, harmony, music theory and choral production.

**Programs and Performance:** Started in 1982 by founding Executive Director Susan Rahl with visionary Artistic Director Robert Geary, PEBCC has performed with the Barenaked Ladies, Berkeley Symphony, John Denver, The Mark Morris Dance Group, Oakland Symphony, San Francisco Choral Society, Volti, the San Francisco Opera and the San Francisco Symphony. PEBCC has also performed at national and regional conventions of the American Choral Directors Association, Chorus America and Organization of American Kodaly Educators.

**Awards and Competitions:** In addition to its vigorous program of innovative new music projects, PEBCC has established itself as a leading force in international choral activities, with far-reaching collaborations, high marks in competitions world-wide, and the establishment of the Golden Gate International Children's and Youth Choral Festival.

The Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir has earned grand prizes, first prizes and gold medals at prestigious competitions across Europe, Asia and the Americas:

- 2nd Second Place, Eisteddfod Competition, Wales, 2017.
- Four Gold Medals and the Grand Prix Award for Choral Music, International Youth Music Festival, Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 2014.
- First Prize in Contemporary Music & Second Prize in the Children's Choir category, Kathaumixw International Choral Festival, British Columbia, Canada, 2010.
- Three Gold Medals at Grand Prix St. Petersburg (Russia), Choral Festival, 2008.
- Two Gold Medals at the Hong Kong International Children's Choral Festival, 2006.
- Special award for highest score among equal voice choirs & Second Prize in contemporary music at prestigious Guido D'Arezzo competition, Gorizia, Italy, 2003.
- First Prize (only American children's choir to date) Choral Olympics/World Choir Games, 2000.



## Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir continued

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**Commissions:** Recognizing that the creation of art is a forward focused endeavor, PEBCC has commissioned and premiered dozens of new works by living composers, including Sue Bohlin, Kui Dong, Stacy Garrop, Anne Hege, Jacqueline Hairston, Olli Kortekangas, Pekka Kostainen, Kirke Mechem, Zae Munn, Melissa Dunphy, Pablo Ortiz, Eric Tuan, Mark Wings and many others.

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**Mission and Vision:** *Our mission is to advance the choral arts through education, performance, and collaboration at the highest artistic level, fostering individual development and international relationships.* The Choir is a both an educational institution and an arts organization. The two are inextricably linked and intertwined. We believe that music is good for children, and that choral singing is a deeply wholesome, invigorating, enriching practice.

Director Geary and the choirs also engage in collaboration to push the boundaries of the performance and composition of choral art, partnering with choreographers, poets, writers, instrumentalists, fellow vocalists and conductors and multimedia artists to create visceral and compelling choral experiences for all audiences.

## Contact Information

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For more information on the **Golden Gate International Choral Festival** or the PEBCC, please contact:

- **Robert Geary**, Artistic Director, [rgeary@piedmontchoirs.org](mailto:rgeary@piedmontchoirs.org) (510) 547-4441, x7
- **Molly Lloyd**, Executive Director, [mlloyd@piedmontchoirs.org](mailto:mlloyd@piedmontchoirs.org) (510) 547-4441, x5
- **Alice Del Simone**, GGF Program Manager, [adelsimone@piedmontchoirs.org](mailto:adelsimone@piedmontchoirs.org) (510) 547-4441, x3

