

PACIFIC CHORALE ANNOUNCES WINNER OF 2009–2010 YOUNG COMPOSERS COMPETITION

***Love, thrice* by Joseph Gregorio of Redwood City, CA, chosen in nationwide competition.**

**Winning work to be performed by 24-voice John Alexander Singers
at *A Romantic Affair* in Samueli Theater on February 12 and 13.**

Composer Gregorio to attend performance and receive \$1,500 honorarium.

Concert marks Pacific Chorale conducting debut of Robert Istad.

Santa Ana, CA, January 11, 2010 – Pacific Chorale Artistic Director John Alexander and President Kelly Ruggirello congratulated Joseph Gregorio of Redwood City, CA, the winner of Pacific Chorale’s 2009–2010 Young Composers Competition for his work *Love, thrice*. Mr. Gregorio’s submission was chosen out of pieces received from throughout the country to be premiered by the John Alexander Singers, Pacific Chorale’s professional chamber choir, under the baton of Assistant Conductor Robert Istad at their *A Romantic Affair* concert in the Orange County Performing Arts Center’s Samueli Theater at Segerstrom Center for the Arts on February 12–13, 2010. *Love, thrice*, for unaccompanied chorus, sets texts by three American poets: Witter Byner (1881–1968), Emily Dickinson (1830–1886) and Sidney Lanier (1842–1881). Mr. Gregorio will attend the Saturday performance of *A Romantic Affair*, where he will receive a \$1,500 honorarium.

A Romantic Affair marks the conducting debut of Robert Istad on the podium of a Pacific Chorale season concert. Dr. Istad’s program for this Valentine’s Day-themed concert showcases the incredible versatility of the John Alexander Singers, with musical selections ranging from the Renaissance polyphony of Monteverdi to popular hits of the twentieth century, including selections by James Taylor and The Beatles.

Pacific Chorale’s Young Composers Competition was founded in 2007 to encourage the proliferation of American choral music. This nationwide competition, held biennially, is open to composers under the age of 35.

CONCERT DETAILS AND PROGRAM

A Romantic Affair: A Valentine’s Concert for Lovers

- Dates:** Friday, February 12, 2010 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, February 13, 2010 at 8 p.m.
- Location:** Samueli Theater, Orange County Performing Arts Center
615 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626
- Featuring:** Pacific Chorale’s John Alexander Singers
David Clemensen, piano
Robert Istad, conducting

Program:	<i>With a Lily in Your Hand</i>	Eric Whitacre
	<i>Mary Hynes from Reincarnation</i>	Samuel Barber
	<i>My Spirit Sang All Day</i>	Gerald Finzi
	<i>Something in the Way She Moves</i>	James Taylor
	<i>Tous les droits from Sept Chansons</i>	Francis Poulenc
	<i>Dirait-on from Les Chansons des Roses</i>	Morten Lauridsen
	<i>Sfogava con le stele</i>	Claudio Monteverdi
	<i>Fuggi, fuggi, dolor</i>	William Hawley
	<i>L'amour est un oiseau rebelle from Carmen</i>	Georges Bizet
	<i>Sing for Love from Die Fledermaus</i>	Johann Strauss II

Intermission

<i>The Look of Love</i>	Burt Bacharach and Hal David arr. Michele Weir
<i>It Was a Lover and His Lass</i>	Ward Swingle
<i>Can't Buy Me Love</i>	John Lennon and Paul McCartney arr. Keith Abbs
<i>Ruth</i>	Paul Ayres
<i>This Marriage</i>	Eric Whitacre
<i>Love, thricewise* (WORLD PREMIERE)</i>	Joseph Gregorio
<i>Honeysuckle Rose</i>	Fats Waller and Andy Razaf arr. Laura Harrison
<i>I'll Be Seeing You</i>	Irving Kahal and Sammy Fain arr. Phil Mattson
<i>Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing</i>	Stevie Wonder, arr. Matt Falker

* Winner, Pacific Chorale's Young Composers Competition
(Program subject to change.)

A ROMANTIC AFFAIR TICKETS

Tickets for the John Alexander Singers' *A Romantic Affair* concert are on sale online at www.pacificchorale.org, or through the Chorale's ticket office: 714-662-2345, open 9 am–5 pm, Monday–Friday. Concert tickets are priced from \$29 to \$85. The performances are cabaret-style, with audience members seated around tables of four. Refreshments will be available for purchase in the Samueli Theater lobby, and are welcome in the theater. Premium seating is in the first three rows of tables; rear seating is in the last two rows. Student/senior discounts are available for phone orders only.

Ticket Prices

Premium: \$85
Standard: \$59
Rear: \$29

Concert sponsorships are available. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Alina Mircea-Trotz at 714-662-2345 or email Alina@pacificchorale.org.

For further press information, photos or interviews, please contact Ryan McSweeney at 714-662-2345, email Ryan@pacificchorale.org.

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ABOUT THE COMPOSER

A native of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, **Joseph Gregorio** began his study of composition as an undergraduate at Cornell University with composer Steven Stucky. Gregorio's music has twice been featured on NPR's Performance Today and has been performed in the United States and abroad by numerous soloists and ensembles. He has twice participated in the Oregon Bach Festival's Composers' Symposium, and has presented his work in an art song master class with William Bolcom and Joan Morris. His *Five Whitman Songs* were selected for workshop presentation at the 2007 San Francisco Song Festival; his *In the Presence of Redwoods* won the San Francisco Conservatory's 2007 Jim Highsmith prize for orchestral composition; his *Dona nobis pacem* won top honors in the 2002 Waging Peace Through Singing Project; and his *As Adam, Early in the Morning* tied for first place in the San Francisco Conservatory's 2005 Art Song Composition Competition and took third place in the 2006 Diana Barnhart American Song Competition. Gregorio was named the 2005-2006 composer-in-residence of the Sonoma County Chamber Singers. His choral music is published by E. C. Schirmer Music Company and Treble Clef Music Press, and has been recorded by the choirs of the St. Olaf Christmas Festival, Washington Men's Camerata, the Rutgers University Glee Club, and the Cornell University Glee Club. <http://www.josephgregoriomusic.com/>

ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR

Dr. Robert M. Istad is Director of Choral Studies at California State University, Fullerton where he conducts the University Singers and Concert Choir in addition to teaching courses in conducting, advanced interpretation and literature. He has prepared choruses for Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Carl St.Clair and the Pacific Symphony Orchestra, Sir Andrew Davis and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Nicholas McGegan and the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, as well as conductors Bramwell Tovey, Eric Whitacre, Giancarlo Guerrero, Marin Alsop, George Fenton, John Alexander, William Dehning, David Lockington and Mark Manderano. Dr. Istad received his Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, his Master of Music degree in choral conducting from California State University, Fullerton and his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral music at the University of Southern California. He studied conducting with Dr. William Dehning, John Alexander and Dr. Jon Hurty. Istad is also the Artistic Director of the Long Beach Camerata Singers and Long Beach Bach Festival, is the Assistant Conductor of the Pacific Chorale, and is in demand as an adjudicator and guest clinician throughout the region.

ABOUT THE JOHN ALEXANDER SINGERS

The **John Alexander Singers**, Pacific Chorale's professional chamber choir, is an independently contracted vocal ensemble of 24 singers. While most of these singers also serve as part of the paid core to Pacific Chorale's 140-voice ensemble, their work with the John Alexander Singers focuses on specialized repertoire appropriate for a professional chamber chorus. Pacific Chorale regularly presents the John Alexander Singers in concert venues throughout Southern California. The Singers have collaborated extensively with Musica Angelica, Southern California's premier period instrument orchestra. Other notable collaborations include performances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic on their new music "Green Umbrella" series, and performances with the Kronos Quartet, Mark Morris Dance Company, The Royal Ballet of Covent Garden, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Pacific Symphony. The group's recent recording, "Shenandoah: Songs of the American Spirit," a collection of American folksongs, hymns and spirituals, is available on the Gothic Records label.

ABOUT THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Artistic Director of Pacific Chorale since 1972, **John Alexander** has received consistent acclaim for his inspired leadership, both on the podium and as an advocate for the advancement of the arts. In his long and distinguished career, he has conducted hundreds of performances of choirs and orchestras in 27 countries around the globe. Noted as a specialist in conducting the choral/orchestral masterworks, he is also a strong proponent of American music, programming groundbreaking works by California composers and bringing twelve West Coast and world premieres to Southern California performance halls in the past thirteen years. Choruses prepared by John Alexander have performed under many of the most renowned conductors on the world stage, including Zubin Mehta, Pierre Boulez, Seiji Ozawa, Michael Tilson Thomas, Leonard Slatkin, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Gustavo Dudamel, Lukas Foss, Max Rudolf, Carl St.Clair, Gerard Schwarz, Marin Alsop, John Mauceri, John Williams, and Keith Lockhart.

ABOUT PACIFIC CHORALE

Founded in 1968, **Pacific Chorale** is internationally recognized for exceptional artistic expression, stimulating American-focused programming, and influential education programs. Pacific Chorale presents a significant performance season of its own at the Orange County Performing Arts Center and is sought regularly to perform with the nation's leading symphonies. Under the inspired guidance of Artistic Director John Alexander, Pacific Chorale has infused an Old World art form with California's hallmark innovation and cultural independence.

In addition to its long-standing partnership with Pacific Symphony, the Chorale has performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic in Disney Hall on numerous occasions. Other noted collaborations include the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, the Boston Symphony, the National Symphony, and the Long Beach, Pasadena, Riverside and San Diego symphonies. John Alexander and the Chorale have toured extensively in Europe, South America and Asia.