

Pacific Chorale

John Alexander, Artistic Director

Kelly Ruggirello, President & CEO • Kimberly Dwan Bernatz, Chairman

For Press Information:

tel: 714-662-2345

fax: 714-662-2395

ryan@pacificchorale.org

www.pacificchorale.org

3621 South Harbor Blvd, Suite 220

Santa Ana, CA 92704

PACIFIC CHORALE ANNOUNCES CHORAL FESTIVAL, YOUNG COMPOSERS COMPETITION IN 2009–2010

**Choral Festival on August 23, 2009, sponsored by The Shanbrom Family Foundation,
to feature up to 500 choristers, with conductor John Alexander and organist Frederick Swann**

**Young Composers Competition winning entries to be performed
by the John Alexander Singers in February 2010**

Santa Ana, CA, May 20, 2009 – Pacific Chorale’s President and CEO Kelly Ruggirello today announced details on the Chorale’s upcoming Choral Festival and Young Composers Competition initiatives during the 2009–2010 season. Both initiatives will carry forward elements of the Chorale’s successful 2008 NEA-sponsored American Masterpieces Choral Festival, and are dedicated to furthering Pacific Chorale’s mission of educating and enriching the community through the performance, creation and preservation of choral music.

ABOUT PACIFIC CHORALE’S YOUNG COMPOSERS COMPETITION

During the 2009–2010 season, Pacific Chorale is sponsoring a competition for young composers (under age 35) writing in the choral music field. Aspiring composers are encouraged to submit a three- to five-minute work for mixed chorus on the subject of love for the 24-voice John Alexander Singers. The winning composer or composers will receive a cash prize, and their pieces will receive premieres at the Orange County Performing Arts Center on February 12 and 13, 2010, with the composers in attendance.

The application submission postmark deadline is October 1, 2009. Application guidelines and forms are available online at the Chorale’s website, www.pacificchorale.org, or can be requested by calling Katherine Yang at (714) 662-2345 or sending an email inquiry to katherine@pacificchorale.org.

The inaugural Young Composers Competition was part of Pacific Chorale’s 2008 “Celebrate America” initiative, a year-long celebration of American choral music through performances, workshops and educational activities. The winning composers, Michael Eglin and Zachary Wadsworth, had their works performed during the course of the three-day American Masterpieces Choral Festival in April 2008.

ABOUT PACIFIC CHORALE’S CHORAL FESTIVAL

On Sunday, August 23, 2009, members of Orange County’s choral community will join Pacific Chorale and Artistic Director John Alexander in a free public performance of great choral treasures in the Orange County Performing Arts Center’s Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall at Segerstrom Center for the Arts. Joining the assembled singers will be eminent organist Frederick Swann at the C.B. Fisk Opus 130 William J. Gillespie Concert Organ. Rehearsals will take place at the Performing Arts Center on Friday, August 21st and Saturday, August 22nd. The performance will take place at 5 p.m. August 23rd, and will be free and open to the public. Pacific Chorale’s Choral Festival is generously sponsored by The Shanbrom Family Foundation.

Singer registration for the Festival is available online at www.pacificchorale.org, or by calling Katherine Yang at (714) 662-2345. A registration fee of \$60 includes sheet music and a commemorative archival recording of the concert. Registration is limited to the first 100 paid responses in each section of the choir (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass).

Repertoire for the Choral Festival has been selected from masterworks of the choral literature, and is designed as a showcase of “Great Choral Treasures.” In addition to the Festival Chorus’s performance, Dr. Swann will also be featured at the organ in several solo works.

FESTIVAL REPERTOIRE (subject to change)

Beethoven	Hallelujah <i>from</i> The Mount of Olives, Op. 85
J. S. Bach	Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring, BWV 147
	Tocatta and Fugue in D minor (organ solo)
Fauré	Introit and Kyrie <i>from</i> Requiem, Op. 48
Mendelssohn	He watching over Israel <i>from</i> Elijah
	And then shall your light break forth <i>from</i> Elijah
Widor	Tocatta (organ solo)
arr. Mulholland	Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Hogan	I Got a Home in-a Dat Rock
arr. Wilhousky	Battle Hymn of the Republic

Additional support for Pacific Chorale’s Choral Festival has been provided by The Capital Group Companies and the Orange County Performing Arts Center. The Festival is part of the Performing Arts Center’s *Free at the Center*.

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.

Pacific Chorale has a membership of 140 professional and volunteer singers. Ensembles of various sizes are selected from the membership according to the needs of the repertoire. 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.

ABOUT JOHN ALEXANDER

Artistic Director of Pacific Chorale since 1972, John Alexander is one of America’s most respected choral conductors. His inspired leadership both on the podium and as an advocate for the advancement of the choral art has garnered national and international admiration and acclaim. In his long and distinguished career Alexander has conducted hundreds of choral and orchestral performances 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 Esa-Pekka Salonen, Seiji Ozawa, Leonard Slatkin, Zubin Mehta, Pierre Boulez, Lukas Foss, Keith Lockhart, John Mauceri, Michael Tilson Thomas, Gustavo Dudamel, Carl St.Clair, Marin Alsop, John Williams, Gerard Schwarz and Max Rudolf.

ABOUT FREDERICK SWANN

Frederick Swann is the immediate past President (2002-2008) of the American Guild of Organists, an organization of over 20,000 members in chapters throughout the United States and several foreign countries. He is Organist Emeritus of the Crystal Cathedral and of the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles, and Organ Artist-in-residence at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Palm Desert. Mr. Swann is also University Organist and Artist Teacher of Organ at the University of Redlands, and Organist for the Mark Thallander Foundation choral festivals held in various parts of the country each season. Mr. Swann is sought after as a leader of organ and church music workshops and has been retained frequently as a consultant for new pipe organs, including some of the largest and most prominent in the country. His many recordings, past and present, have assisted in making his name one of the best known throughout the music world.