

2004 GRAMMY Award winner: Best Classical Album
2010 GRAMMY Award winner: Best Classical Album and Best Choral Performance



Pacific Boychoir Academy
215 Ridgeway Avenue
Oakland, CA 94611
510-652-4722
PacificBoychoir.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OAKLAND STUDENTS TO PERFORM AT NATIONAL MEMORIAL FOR MANDELA

December 9, 2013 – Pacific Boychoir Academy of Oakland, CA has been invited to sing at the official memorial service for South African leader, Nelson Mandela. The invitation was made by Classical Movements, a leading artist agency based in the Washington, D.C. area, at the request of the South African Embassy to the United States. Twenty-six members of the GRAMMY Award-winning choir will leave this Tuesday and perform at the Washington National Cathedral on Wednesday, December 11, 2013.

The boys, ages 11-18, are scheduled to arrive on the Pacific Boychoir bus at the Departures area of Virgin Airlines at SFO at approximately 7:15 a.m. on Tuesday, December 10, and will be available to the press for one hour only at that time.

Pacific Boychoir's Founding Artistic Director Kevin Fox, says "it's a rare and humbling honor for us to be asked to perform at the memorial for one of history's greatest leaders."

The Pacific Boychoir is scheduled to perform twice at Mandela's memorial service: once during the prelude starting at 10 a.m., and again during the service starting at 11 a.m.

Pacific Boychoir Academy has [deep connections to South Africa](#). In 2009, the choir toured South Africa and sang at the [Grahamstown National Arts Festival](#), considered to be the biggest celebration of the arts in all of Africa and the second largest arts festival in the world after the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland. On July 18, 2009, Nelson Mandela's 91st birthday, the boys were interviewed on South African radio and dedicated their music to him. The choir learned to sing in the Zulu and Xhosa languages, and sang at the [Ihlonbe South African Choral Festival](#), which is produced by Classical Movements and is the largest international choral festival in South Africa. The boys visited Mandela's family home and performed at the Regina Mundi Church in Soweto, which was a haven and rallying point during the anti-apartheid movement. The choir [spent a week at the Drakensberg Boys Choir School](#), and has continued its relationship with the internationally acclaimed Drakensberg Boys Choir by [hosting it during its US tour](#) in 2011 and being the first to send an American student to study at the Drakensberg Boys Choir School.

The [Pacific Boychoir Academy](#) is a non-denominational educational and performance program. It consists of the only boychoir school west of the Mississippi, with students ranging from 4th to 8th grades, as well as an after-school choral program for boys from pre-school through high school. The school offers a full and rigorous academic program in addition to music education, and is the largest GRAMMY Award-winning choir school in the nation, [touring internationally every year](#).

The choir's repertoire ranges all the way from [sacred music](#) to [beatboxing](#). In the past few months alone, the choir has sung the national anthem at an Oakland A's playoff game and at the Opening Ceremony of the Bay Bridge, [Britten's War Requiem](#) with the San Francisco Symphony, and a contemporary piece at the 40th Anniversary Concert of the Kronos Quartet. Highlights of the previous year include a [tour to Brazil](#) and singing in the season premiere of [NBC's America's Got Talent](#), as well as the introduction of the [Willie L. Brown, Jr. Music Scholarship for Boys](#), funded by partners of the Willie Brown Institute with the goal of providing outstanding music education to boys from diverse social and economic backgrounds.

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Contact:

Jonathon Hampton

Associate Director of Music and Outreach

Pacific Boychoir Academy

215 Ridgeway Avenue

Oakland, CA 94611

Hampton@PacificBoychoirAcademy.org

510-550-7229