

Day School Grades 4-8 • After-School Choirs Grades Pre K-12

2004 GRAMMY Winner: Best Classical Album • 2010 GRAMMY Winner: Best Classical Album & Best Choral Performance



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**TWO MOTHERS SHARE THE BIG STAGE WITH THEIR SONS FOR THE FIRST TIME
Pacific Boychoir Academy Joins Oakland East Bay Symphony & Chorus for Haydn Masterpiece**

February 17, 2015—OAKLAND: This Friday, Pacific Boychoir Academy joins Oakland East Bay Symphony and Chorus for an epic performance of Franz Josef Haydn's *Mass in C Major – Missa in tempore belli: Mass in the Time of War*. Though it's not the first time these musical powerhouses join forces, it is the first time that a few boys of the Pacific Boychoir will perform alongside some of their parents in a major work. At Paramount Theatre, Oakland Symphony Chorus (OSC) singer Nanci Schneidinger joins her son David, and Suzanne Reinfranck will sing with her boy Andrew.

Atop his 1796 score, Haydn nicknamed the piece *Paukenmesse* (Kettledrum Mass) because of the heavy timpani, adding that they should sound "as if one heard the enemy approaching in the distance." While ordinary teenagers may be embarrassed by their parents and perhaps consider them "the enemy," these two extraordinary choristers of Pacific Boychoir Academy (PBA) welcome the opportunity to share the stage with their mothers.

"I think it's going to be interesting, because I don't usually sing with my mom," says eighth-grader, David who is the day school's Head Boy (the chief class officer). When asked what he thinks of her voice, he adds, "It sounds a lot like mine, and I think that's where I get my sound, just from listening to her. She's a music teacher, so I learned music through her, and then we just sing at home. We sing everything – classical, pop, whatever we both know." His mother, Nanci, recalls her musical experiences at the same age. "I learned to harmonize with my older brother when I was about thirteen and have fond memories of sitting next to my mother as she sang *Yellow Bird* while she plucked the chords on the guitar."

Music didn't come quite as naturally for the Reinfrancks. "Before Andrew joined the choir school in 2009, singing was not a part of our family," says Suzanne. "After witnessing Andrew develop his voice in PBA's choral program, I was amazed by how quickly untrained voices could sound like angels and transform into professional singers. After attending a couple of his concerts, the seed was planted, and I was hooked. I discovered I had a desire to sing. I didn't think it was possible. It was Andrew who insisted I could and encouraged me to try. I enrolled in a local college choir class and took some voice lessons." A year later, when the opportunity to audition for the OSC arose, she adds, "I was nervous about the audition and was hesitant to try. Again, Andrew gave me the nudge."

A graduate of PBA, and now a freshman in high school, her son says, "I'm happy my mom will be singing with us. But I have to admit, I'm not used to performing with family members, so it might be kind of awkward for me." He jokes, "At least we will be singing different parts. I'm on alto, and my mom is a soprano."

While Andrew was an inspiration to his mother Suzanne, and Nanci was an inspiration to her son David, both parents share the same sentiment about the upcoming concert. "It is a privilege and honor to have the opportunity to sing music written by one of my favorite composers with such talented boys, and performing on stage with my son is an added bonus!" says Suzanne. Nanci adds, "My son is in his fifth and last year at this fabulous school, and it has been a life-changing experience for him. Finally I will be able to sing on the same stage as my son. It's a memory that I will cherish for many, many years."

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Friday, February 20, 2015 - 8:00pm at the Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway Avenue, Oakland, performing Franz Josef Haydn's Mass in C major (Missa in tempore belli: Mass in Time of War "Paukenmesse"). Pacific Boychoir Academy (Kevin Fox, Founding Artistic Director) with Oakland Symphony Chorus (Lynne Morrow, Chorus Director). More at PacificBoychoir.org/Paukenmesse

About Pacific Boychoir Academy

Pacific Boychoir Academy (PBA) is a Grammy Award-winning, independent choir school for boys in grades four through eight, with seven after-school choirs for boys in pre-kindergarten through high school. PBA provides a richly diverse community, focusing on excellence in music education, academics, and performance. Founded in Oakland, California in 1998 by Artistic Director Kevin Fox, PBA serves over 170 choristers a season, has released seven independent albums, tours internationally each year, and has garnered three Grammy Awards with the San Francisco Symphony. The only North American boychoir school outside of the East Coast, PBA offers unique and rigorous choral and academic programs, producing confident, engaged young men and artists. The L.A. Times calls PBA's sound quality "astonishing," while the New York Times hails PBA's ability to perform music "far beyond the reach of most children's choirs." Hear, watch, and learn more at PacificBoychoir.org