

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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MONUMENTAL CONCERT OF BEETHOVEN'S NINTH TO FEATURE NEARLY 400 MUSICIANS
Pacific Boychoir Sings Alongside 200 Choristers Under the Baton of Gustavo Dudamel

September 22, 2015 – OAKLAND CALIFORNIA – In collaboration with Cal Performances, Oakland's GRAMMY-winning Pacific Boychoir Academy (PBA) performs Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125*, Friday September 25, 2015 at the Hearst Greek Theatre along with the San Francisco Girls Chorus, the University of California Chamber Chorus, and the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela (SBSOV), under the direction of all-star conductor Gustavo Dudamel. "I hear he's great and energetic," says 11-year Moses of PBA. About the challenge of the music he says, "It is so vocally demanding, because we have to sing a high A for about a page and a half, but we're going to sing it well!"

Having been prepared by Chorus Director Kevin Fox, the massive vocal ensemble of 200 is poised for an epic performances with Dudamel (also maestro of the Los Angeles Philharmonic) and the 180-member SBSOV; the flagship orchestra of the National System of Youth and Children's Orchestras and Choirs of Venezuela were trained under El Sistema's Orchestral Academic Program.

In this, Austrian composer Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) last and largest work, the choir sings the familiar *Ode to Joy*. A call for universal brotherhood, the vocal movement rounds out the work in a multitude of dynamic variations.

"I've got it! I've got it! Let us sing the song of the immortal Schiller!" shouted Beethoven as he burst from his workroom one afternoon in October 1823. "This joyful announcement," Dr. Richard E. Rodda writes, "meant that the path to the completion of the Ninth Symphony—after a gestation of more than three decades—was finally clear." 200 revisions later, Friedrich Schiller's poem *An die Freude* ("Ode to Joy") would become what is now a staple in the choral community, familiar to audiences worldwide.

Beethoven's Ninth premiered in Vienna at the same time as his *Missa Solmenis*, which Pacific Boychoir performed earlier this year with the San Francisco Symphony and Chorus, one of seven orchestras PBA has performed with in as many months. American critic Irving Kolodin wrote, "The Ninth owes to the *Missa Solemnis* the philosophical framework, the ideological atmosphere, the psychological climate in which it breathes and has its existence." This production of the Ninth will rival others as one of the Bay Areas largest and perhaps most captivating performances of the year.

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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 scholars 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