

Pacific Chorale

John Alexander, Artistic Director

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

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PACIFIC CHORALE'S ANNUAL *TIS THE SEASON!* CONCERT TO TAKE PLACE DECEMBER 20 AND 21

**Pacific Chorale welcomes guest artists Pacific Symphony
and the Southern California Children's Chorus.**

**December 20th concert is followed by annual fundraising gala event,
A Dickens Feast, taking place at The Center Club.**

Concert tickets start at \$25. Tickets to *A Dickens Feast* fundraiser are \$250.

Wednesday concert starts at 8:00 pm. Sunday concert starts at 5:30 pm.

Tickets selling fast for Sunday, December 20th!

Santa Ana, CA, December 7, 2009 – Pacific Chorale Artistic Director John Alexander and President and CEO Kelly Ruggirello are pleased to announce details for *Tis the Season!*, Pacific Chorale's much anticipated holiday concert in the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall. The concert, one of the most popular Christmas events in the region, will delight audiences with the sound of favorite carols and seasonal masterpieces sung by the 140-voice Chorale and the Southern California Children's Concert Chorus, along with the glorious sounds of Pacific Symphony and the William J. Gillespie Concert Organ, played by Lori Loftus.

***A DICKENS FEAST* FUNDRAISING GALA FOLLOWS THE DEC. 20th CONCERT**

Pacific Chorale's annual gala and major fundraising event of the year, *A Dickens Feast*, takes place following the Sunday, December 20th *Tis the Season!* performance. The *Dickens Feast* event, chaired by John and Lori Loftus, will be held at the elegant Center Club, just steps from the hall, and beautifully decorated for the season. Guests will savor a traditional seasonal dinner prepared by the Center Club's Chef Bruno, and enjoy being serenaded by a quartet of carolers from Pacific Chorale. This gala event is a fundamental contributor to Pacific Chorale's annual operating budget. Revenue from ticket sales covers only 35% of the costs required to provide the concert experiences our community has valued for decades. Each seat for the dinner is \$250, with tables of 10 for \$2,500, along with underwriting opportunities ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000.

CONCERT DETAILS AND PROGRAM

Tis the Season!

Dates: Sunday, December 20, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.
Monday, December 21, 2009 at 8 p.m.

Location: Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, Orange County Performing Arts Center
615 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Featuring: Pacific Chorale
Southern California Children's Concert Chorus
Pacific Symphony
Lori Loftus, organ
David Clemensen, piano
John Alexander, conducting

Program:	<i>Vom Himmel hoch</i>	Felix Mendelssohn
	<i>Magnificat anima mea</i>	John Rutter
	<i>What Sweeter Music</i>	John Rutter
	<i>Fantasia on Christmas Carols</i>	Ralph Vaughan Williams
	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	John Francis Wade, arr. John Rutter
	<i>Sanctus from Messe solennelle "St. Cecilia"</i>	Charles Gounod

Intermission

<i>It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year</i>	Eddie Pola and George Wyle arr. Bob Krogstad
<i>Rise Up, Shepherd</i>	arr. John Rutter
<i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i>	arr. John Rutter
<i>Patapan</i>	arr. Roger Stratton
<i>The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy</i>	arr. Stephen Hatfield
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S CONCERT CHORUS LORI LOFTUS, DIRECTOR	
<i>Jingle, Bells</i>	James Lord Pierpont, arr. David Willcocks
<i>You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch</i>	Theodor S. Geisel and Albert Hague arr. Mark Riley
<i>I'll Be Home for Christmas</i>	Kim Gannon and Walter Kent arr. Kevin Robison
<i>We Need a Little Christmas</i>	Jerry Herman, arr. Jerry Rubino
<i>The Very Best Time of Year</i>	John Rutter
<i>Hallelujah from Messiah</i>	George Frideric Handel

TIS THE SEASON! TICKETS

Single tickets for Pacific Chorale's *Tis the Season!* holiday concert as well as the rest of the 2009-2010 season are currently on sale. **Concert tickets** may be purchased now online at www.pacificchorale.org, or through the Chorale's ticket office: 714-662-2345, open 9 am–5 pm, Monday–Friday through December 18th. Concert tickets are priced from \$25 to \$89, with box seats at \$150. Specific prices are listed below:

	Box Circle:	\$150
Orchestra Rows G-R / Orchestra Terrace Center:		\$89
	Dress Circle / Orchestra Rows D-F:	\$78
	Dress Circles Boxes:	\$67
	Side Orchestra Terrace:	\$56
Promenade Circle / Orchestra Rows A-C:		\$45
Grand Tier Rows A-E / Orchestra Rows AA-CC / Choral		
	Terrace Dress:	\$35
Promenade Circle Sides / Grand Tier Rows F-G / Choral		
	Terrace Promenade:	\$25

Ticket availability for the Sunday, December 20th performance is already limited, but excellent seats are still available for Monday, December 21st.

“Flex Series” subscription packages to the remaining concerts of Pacific Chorale's season, including the John Alexander Singers' *A Romantic Affair* and Pacific Chorale's *Rachmaninov by Candlelight* as well as *Tis the Season!*, are still available through the Chorale's ticket office until December 18th. “Flex Series” subscription prices begin as low as \$48.

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.

The Pacific Chorale thanks the following major sponsors:

Tis the Season! underwriters:
The Kennedy Foundation

Season sponsors:
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The Buddy Group, website design, development and hosting

ABOUT JOHN ALEXANDER

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. This past June, Alexander was honored with the “Michael Korn Founders Award for Development of the Professional Choral Art” from Chorus America.

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.

ABOUT PACIFIC SYMPHONY

Founded in 1978, Orange County’s Pacific Symphony is the third largest orchestra in California, and the largest orchestra formed in the United States in the last 30 years. The Pacific Symphony has played a central role in the spectacular growth of the performing arts in Orange County, touching people with a rich array of musical programs and outreach activities. Every year more than 250,000 Orange County residents — from school children to senior citizens — enjoy the magic of live Pacific Symphony performances.

Under the artistic supervision of Music Director Carl St. Clair, the Pacific Symphony offers a variety of music for every taste and audience, including the great classical masterworks with the world’s most outstanding soloists, pops concerts headlined by the brightest stars in entertainment, chamber music and chamber orchestra series, Saturday morning concerts for children and parents, an annual American Composers Festival dedicated to profound American and American–influenced composers, and annual holiday performances of Handel’s *Messiah*.

ABOUT THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Founded in 1996, the Southern California Children's Chorus (SCCC) is Orange County's only chorus dedicated exclusively to meeting the educational and performance needs of children. The organization seeks to do more than introduce youth to music and singing. It strives to enrich the lives of its members through programs stressing musical aptitude, teamwork, discipline, self-confidence and personal growth. Music camps, social outings, concert tours and an annual, child-involved fundraiser are combined with weekly rehearsals and live performances to create the type of nurturing environment that enables members to mature musically and socially. The SCCC and its musical directors serve as mentors, coaches and friends to students in a variety of socioeconomic levels.

Over 300 children are enrolled in a sequential choral program consisting of seven choirs: Ensemble, Concert, Advanced, Intermediate, Apprentice, Primary and Kinder levels. Choral members perform locally throughout the year at special events and venues like the Orange County Performing Arts Center. The SCCC has provided singers for Touchstone films, MGM films, music videos, commercials, the Hollywood Bowl, symphony concerts, operas, television specials for Disney and many musical productions. The Concert Chorus has been honored to present concerts at world-renowned venues, including Westminster Abbey, the White House, the Washington National Cathedral, Carnegie Hall, the Basilica San Marco in Venice, Italy, and Australia's Sydney Opera House.

ABOUT LORI LOFTUS

Accomplished on organ, piano and harpsichord, Lori Loftus is in constant demand throughout the Southland both as an accompanist and as a keyboard adjudicator. Since 1983, Ms. Loftus has worked with John Alexander and Pacific Chorale. Ms. Loftus has also served as accompanist at California State University, Fullerton, assistant organist at the Crystal Cathedral, principal organist at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach, and the accompanist/artist at the Oregon Bach Festival, assisting Helmuth Rilling. Ms. Loftus is the founding director of the Southern California Children's Chorus.

ABOUT DAVID CLEMENSEN

David Clemensen is active as a pianist, teacher, church musician and composer. A native Californian, he holds degrees from Chapman University, CSU Fullerton, and USC. 2009-10 will be his seventh season as pianist for Pacific Chorale and the John Alexander Singers. He has taught at Biola University and Orange Coast College, and currently teaches and coaches privately in Irvine. In 1995 he won the American Orff-Schulwerk competition for his William Blake setting *The Tyger and the Lamb*. David makes his home in Irvine with his wife and son.