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**SAN FRANCISCO CHORAL ARTISTS**  
**Magen Solomon, Artistic Director**

present

***Poetry on Musical Wings***

***“I love hearing spoken words, and think it is hard to trump that kind of expressiveness. Music’s job is to take that quality and magnify it.”***

– composer Daniel Galbreath, one of the 2012 New Voices Project competition laureates

**Saturday June 9, 2012, at 8 PM:**

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave, **Palo Alto**, CA 94306

**Sunday June 10, 2012, at 4 PM:**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 114 Montecito Ave, **Oakland**, CA 94610

**Saturday June 16, 2012, at 8 PM:**

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O’Farrell St (at Franklin), **San Francisco**, CA 94109

**TICKETS:** \$12-\$25 Advance Purchase; \$15-\$30 At the door.

<http://www.sfca.org/tickets>

(415) 494-8149

San Francisco, May 11, 2012 — **recently awarded the Chorus America/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming**, San Francisco Choral Artists and Artistic Director Magen Solomon close their 2011-2012 season with performances that showcase one of the most powerful and unique aspects of choral music: words. The 24-voice chamber chorus explores how more than 20 different composers give musical wings to sonnets, odes, riddles, and rhymes. **Please turn to page 3 for an overview of the program.**

**The wings can be light and airy**, as in Katherine Saxon’s *Speed and Perfection*, Paul

Chihara's *Under the Greenwood Tree*, or Jerry Mueller's *The Sun Rising*. **The wings can be strong and powerful**, as in Russell Burnham's *Though the World Change*, Allen Shearer's *Listen. Put on Morning*, or Randall Thompson's *The Light of Stars*. **Or the wings can be like those of a beautiful swan**, as in Henry Leslie's *Charm me asleep*, or Johannes Brahms' *Nun stehn die Rosen*.

Eager to support young talent, Magen Solomon founded the The New Voices Project competition for composers age 30 and under in 2005. "I wanted to encourage young composers to write for choir, and to help them learn –early– how to do it well," she says. SFCA's Composer-Not-in-Residence Matt Van Brink won the annual competition in 2006. This year's winners are Katherine Saxon of UC Santa Barbara and Daniel Galbreath of the University of Wyoming.

Daniel Galbreath illuminates the connection with Sara Teasdale's poem *There Will Come Soft Rains*:

"Back in junior high school, an instructor assigned Ray Bradbury's short story *There Will Come Soft Rains*, which centers on the Teasdale poem. The story has a quite unsettling sense of post-apocalyptic serenity, which is intensely felt in the Teasdale poem as well. The simply-worded couplets and nature-based imagery are at odds with the direction the text ultimately goes, especially in the last few stanzas when the cause of human beings' fate—and nature's utter lack of concern—are exposed. It creates a great deal of tension. I use some jazzier harmonies and off-kilter rhythms to underscore the blithe irony of the text, and of the natural elements in that text which are used to create the poem's didactic message."

For *Speed and Perfection*, Katherine Saxon used text by award winning San Francisco Bay Area poet Jane Hirschfield:

How quickly the season of apricots is over- // a single night's wind is enough.  
I kneel on the ground, lifting one, then the next. // Eating those I can, before the bruises appear.  
(*Speed and Perfection*, from *Given Sugar, Given Salt*, copyright 2001 by Jane Hirschfield.)

Saxon gives wings to this poem in several ways, most notably by imitating the sound of the wind.

Nationally-recognized **San Francisco Choral Artists** regularly champion the work of living composers and are known for their eclectic programming. The Choral Artists specialize in both vibrant new music and choral masterpieces of the last 600 years. They have premiered or commissioned over 175 choral works, performed at American Choral Directors Association and Chorus America conferences, and released four CDs. The ensemble has been acclaimed "... amongst the foremost unaccompanied singing groups ... on this or any other coast" (artssf.com) and is sought after for guest appearances and collaborations. San Francisco Choral Artists has been described by composer Kirke Mechem as "a Bay Area treasure." The Choral Artists have partnered to bring new music to young people through programs at the UC Berkeley New Music Project, SF Conservatory of Music, St. Mary's College of California, SF School of the Arts, De Anza College, and the San Joaquin Office of Education. Additional musical collaborations have been with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, The Alexander String Quartet, Veretski Pass, The Whole Noyse, Composers Inc., and Sonos Handbell Ensemble.

**Magen Solomon**, Artistic Director, avidly cultivates engagements with living composers to bridge the gulf between composer, performer, and audience. Under her leadership, SFCA established the Composer-in-Residence program in 1999, the Bi-annual Composer's Invitational in 2001, and the "New Voices Project" Competition to encourage young composers in 2005. In 2010, she added the Composer-Not-in-Residence Program. Bay Area audiences, composers, singers, and students are fortunate to enjoy the fruits of her unique programming, her commitment to finding delightful new music, and her talent for presenting concerts of consistently professional quality. An innovative teacher and musician, Ms. Solomon has been a guest conductor and adjudicator for festivals in the US and Asia, and has prepared choruses for Michael Tilson Thomas, Kent Nagano, Nicolas McGegan, Christoph von Dohnányi, Helmuth Rilling, and Michael Morgan. She is Chair for Community Choirs for ACDA's Western Division, Artistic Director of the Stockton Chorale & Master Chorale, and a past director of the Oakland Symphony Chorus. Ms. Solomon is also editor of the New Voices in Research Column of the Choral Journal, and her edition of Johannes Eccard's *Neuwe deutsche Lieder* (1578) is published by A-R Editions.

**Program** (in alphabetical order of composer, not program order)

\* = world premiere

O, my Luv'e's like a red, red rose	Paul Ayres (b. 1970)
Nun stehn die Rosen	Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Sonnet 19: Though the world change*	Russell Burnham (b.1948)
Under the Greenwood Tree*	Paul Chihara (b.1938)
As Torrents in Summer	Edward Elgar (1857-1934)
There Will Come Soft Rains*	Daniel Galbreath (b.1988)
Large Crow	Patricia Julien (b. 1963)
The Divine Image	Frank La Rocca (b. 1951)
Charm me asleep	Henry Leslie (1822-1896)
Shall I compare thee [from "O mistress mine"]	Nils Lindberg, arr. (b. 1933)
O Rosa Bella	Carleton Macy (b. 1944)
Elegy in a City Railyard	Christopher Marshall (b. 1956)
The Sun Rising*	Jerry Mueller (b. 1938)
Speed and Perfection	Katherine Saxon (b. 1981)
After Spring Sunset	Peter Schickele (b. 1935)
Die Rose stand im Tau	Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
Listen. Put on Morning*	Allen Shearer (b. 1943)
Bodega Cemetery	Benjamin Taylor (b. 1977)
The Light of Stars	Randall Thompson (1899-1984)
Among the Redwoods*	Matt Van Brink (b.1978)

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