

Art, Community, & Education



Children's Chorus Earns Top Honors

Cantabella Children's Chorus received top honors at the prestigious Eighth Golden Gate International Children's and Youth Choral Festival held July 14 – 18, 2009, in the San Francisco Bay Area. The singers were awarded First Place in the Historical Category for their performance of Purcell's "Sound the Trumpet," and three other art songs by Morley and Brahms. They received the Second Place award in the Folk Song Category. And in the Youth Vocal Solo Category, Cantabella member Joanna Xu was awarded Third Place.

Choirs from China, Taiwan, Denmark, Finland, Colorado, Mississippi, Mill Valley, San Mateo, Piedmont and Livermore gathered to sing together, perform for one another, encourage one another, and to build and engage in international friendships. The week's schedule was a busy one with daily morning rehearsals for the combined choirs of nearly 350 singers with world renowned composers/conductors, including Bob Chilcott of England and Pekka Kostiainen of Finland; afternoon individual rehearsals and competitions; and evening performances at some of the lovely churches in the area. The choristers enjoyed lunch at Jack London Square and a bay cruise one afternoon. The festival closed with an inspiring concert at Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall.

Cantabella Children's Chorus will be accepting new singers in grades K-10 through the month of August. Classes will begin on September 1 in Livermore and on September 2 in Pleasanton. Please check the website at Cantabella.org for information and registration forms and call (925) 292-2663 to schedule an audition.

Photo by Denis Roland