

For Immediate Release – April 14, 2008 – Walnut Creek, CA

Oakland Symphony Chorus and  
Contra Costa Children's Honor Chorus  
to perform with the  
California Symphony on May 4 & 6



The California Symphony's May 4th and 6th concerts will be among its most memorable ever, as many of Contra Costa County's finest vocalists appear on stage with Maestro Barry Jekowsky at the Leshner Center for the Arts.

The occasion will be a rare presentation of Carl Orff's spectacular choral masterpiece, *Carmina Burana*, to be performed by **soprano Kiera Duffy, tenor Tyler Nelson, and baritone Keith Phares**, accompanied by 110 members of the

**Oakland Symphony Chorus** (many of them area residents), 22 young singers from the **Contra Costa Children's Honor Chorus**, and the full California Symphony orchestra.

This will also be the first time the Oakland Symphony Chorus, which celebrates its 50th anniversary next year, has appeared with the Walnut Creek-based California Symphony. The all-volunteer group of gifted vocalists consists of computer professionals, homemakers, teachers, sales representatives, doctors, students, artists, retirees, and consultants who live in Oakland, San Francisco, Santa Rosa, Menlo Park, Livermore, and Marin. Music Director, Lynne Morrow, has served as an assistant conductor for both Festival Opera's 2006 production of *Don Giovanni* and the Oakland East Bay Symphony's production of *Mass* in 2005. For more information, visit [www.OaklandSymphonyChorus.org](http://www.OaklandSymphonyChorus.org).

The internationally-acclaimed *Contra Costa Children's Chorus* has performed at the Vatican in Rome, Carnegie Hall, the United Nations' 50th Anniversary, and at venues and events in such countries as Hungary and the Czech Republic. Founded in 1984, the group has grown to ten mixed and two boys' choirs and now includes an annual summer institute, opera company and theatre workshops. For more information, visit [www.ChildrensChorus.org](http://www.ChildrensChorus.org).

Kiera Duffy, who lives in New York, recently won a 2008 Sullivan Foundation grant. She was one of only 11 finalists in the Metropolitan Opera's 2007 National Council Auditions Grand Finals Concert, considered to be the most prestigious in North America, with auditions held in 45 districts and 15 regions. Tyler Nelson has been a featured soloist throughout Europe and the U.S. while touring with the University of Utah's a cappella choir. He is currently working on his doctorate in opera performance at Florida State University. A graduate of the Juilliard Opera Center, Keith Phares was a national winner of the 1998 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and a finalist in the 1999 Eleanor McCollum Competition of the Houston Grand Opera. He has performed with the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Los Angeles Philharmonic and St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, among other major companies.

The May 4 and 6 concerts will also include the world premiere of the first commission of the California Symphony's 2007-2010 Young American Composer-in-Residence, Mason Bates.

**Sponsored by Bank of America, Chevron, and KPMG, both concerts will be held at the Leshar Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. Dates and times: Sunday, May 4, 2008, at 4 pm. Tuesday, May 6, at 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$39 - \$59. Purchase online at [www.LesharArtsCenter.org](http://www.LesharArtsCenter.org) or by calling (925) 943-SHOW. For more information, visit [www.CaliforniaSymphony.org](http://www.CaliforniaSymphony.org) or call (925) 280-2490.**

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