



2004 Grammy award winner: Best Classical Album  
2010 Grammy nominee: Best Classical Album, Best Choral Performance

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May 23, 2010

Dear PBA families and friends,

As the school year approaches its end, it is my great pleasure to look back with you at the PBA's achievements during the past year, and to look ahead to our exciting future. This year our school and choirs grew bigger than ever, and continue to grow apace as our community becomes ever more vibrant and diverse. Our boys appeared on national television and in a popular musical, to great acclaim. Their concerts have been magical. In particular, the PBA's recent performances of Rachmaninoff's Vespers were breathtakingly moving and majestic, and also became a venue for international solidarity and healing. This has been a very special year of musical accolades for the PBA. We will never forget our sense of pride and exhilaration as we watched Mr. Fox walk up to the Grammy stage to accept Grammy awards for Best Classical Album and Best Choral Performance for the recording of Mahler's 8th with the San Francisco Symphony.

Yet, even in a year of highlights as wonderful as these, there is one achievement that is the source of our greatest joy and pride, and that is the new home of the Pacific Boychoir Academy - 215 Ridgeway in Oakland! After over a decade of a vagabond existence, with staff and families having to uproot themselves repeatedly as the PBA was forced to move from one shared location to another, we finally have a place where all our boys will be able to sing together for many years to come. The location - in north Oakland along the Highway 24 corridor, very convenient for driving and for public transportation - is ideal for our community. The campus is safe, secure, with well-lit classrooms and a small auditorium in which the choirs can perform. The neighborhood is charming and residential, just a couple of blocks away from the thriving and child friendly Piedmont Avenue area of stores, theaters, and restaurants. We are sure that this new location will benefit each and every boy and family at the PBA.

It is exciting to be setting off with you on the Road to Ridgeway! We are very pleased that the PBA has an excellent new site that is nearly ready for operations. Still, any move does involve costs, and the Board of Directors is working hard to take care of the increased rental costs of the new space as well as the costs involved in preparing the building for move-in. But we cannot do this alone. On behalf of the Board I am asking all friends and families of the PBA to donate generously and help us on our journey along the Road to Ridgeway.

We know that ours is a hands-on, do-it-yourself community, and we are looking forward to community parties to paint, hammer, trim, and do what is necessary to make 215 Ridgeway a comfortable and well appointed home for the PBA. But some things just do cost money, and we are appealing to you today for financial donations. Here are some of the ways in which your donations will help.

Moving in: Professional movers for pianos and equipment, tuning pianos after the move, soundproofing the walls, basic furniture for our increased number of classrooms and rehearsal rooms, outdoor signage, outdoor sports equipment, outdoor furniture for snack and meal times.

Settling down: Wiring and equipment for audio-visual presentations in class and rehearsal rooms, systems for phone and intercom, alarm system.

Opening the doors wide: Scholarships! The PBA is delighted to settle down in a site that is near

Oakland public schools and easily accessible by public transport. Please help us bring the unique gifts of the PBA to all boys who love to sing.

We will be sending you donation cards as well as links for online donations, and will keep you informed about the results of this fund raising effort. Please consider giving generously to the organization that does so much to enrich the lives of our boys.

It is the PBA's unchanging mission to give its choristers an outstanding musical, educational, and developmental experience. We are grateful for the support and loyalty that you have shown to the PBA over the years - indeed, many choristers and their families have been part of the PBA longer than other choristers have been alive! We are especially grateful for your patience in moving with us from site to site. We know that you share our joy that after this summer the PBA will be in a wonderful location with its long-term options secure. Please do not stint in your support. It is your warm-hearted generosity that binds our community together, and it is your support that will make the PBA at 215 Ridgeway an extraordinary place for boys to sing, grow, and flourish.

Thank you for joining us on the Road to Ridgeway! Sincerely,

Ani Adhikari  
President, Board of Directors  
Pacific Boychoir Academy

