

# Valley Concert Chorale

## News Release

Media Contact Only:

Heidi Massie

VCC Publicist

(925) 519-5158

[hmassie@yahoo.com](mailto:hmassie@yahoo.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 29, 2011

Photo attached

### ***“Of Sax and Spirituals” Opens Valley Concert Chorale’s 48<sup>th</sup> Season*** ***Swedish Soprano Saxophonist Anders Paulsson to Perform World Premiere***

Livermore, Calif. – The Valley Concert Chorale, the Tri-Valley’s premier chorus, will offer the region a unique opportunity to experience the music of internationally-known Swedish soprano saxophonist and composer, Anders Paulsson who will share his new arrangements of favorite American spirituals as he accompanies the Chorale in its season opener. Joining the Chorale is the Las Positas College Chamber Choir and San Francisco Concert Chorale. Performance details are as follows:

#### ***...Of Sax and Spirituals***

- **Sunday, October 23, 2011; 3 pm**  
**Mertes Center for the Arts, Las Positas College, Livermore**

The Chorale’s Artistic Director John Emory Bush met Paulsson in Copenhagen three years ago at the International Federation of Choral Music Festival and explains his excitement about having this talented musician perform for the season’s opening performance.

“We are so excited about this opportunity to share Anders Paulsson’s incredible talent with the local community. He will accompany the chorale as we perform his new arrangements of several well-known American spirituals, including the **world-premiere** of his arrangement of ***O When the Saints Come Marching In***. After meeting Paulsson and hearing his music, I knew we needed to bring him to the Tri-Valley, and he enthusiastically accepted the invitation.”

Paulsson’s artistry is referred to as classic beauty of tone combined with a rich jazz personality, and he’s been called “a champion of the soprano saxophone” by Music Journal USA. The soprano saxophone is a rare and exotic voice in the classical world and Anders Paulsson is one of the first pioneers commissioning new music for it from living composers.

The melodic sounds of the soprano saxophone became well-known thanks in part to the pop music of Kenny G in the 1990s, and Paulsson has taken that sound and adapted it to compositions for choral music set to beloved spirituals like *Swing Low Sweet Chariot*, *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen* and *Deep River* for the October performance.

“Paulsson’s choral arrangements of the spirituals, which he will accompany, provide rich and complex harmonies, creating a completely new experience for the audience, as if hearing the songs for the first time,” adds Bush. “These beautiful arrangements will move you, maybe to tears, as the choristers that are preparing for the program will agree. This is something not to miss, a rare concert experience that you will not forget. It’s truly a treat for the choral groups to perform and I promise it will be the same for the audiences.”

### **Tickets**

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased in advance by visiting the Chorale’s website at [www.valleyconcertchorale.org](http://www.valleyconcertchorale.org), or by calling the Chorale’s information number at (925) 866-4003 to order tickets. Tickets may also be purchased through Las Positas College website <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/performingarts/index.php>

For more information about the Valley Concert Chorale performances, ticket purchases and auditions, visit [www.valleyconcertchorale.org](http://www.valleyconcertchorale.org) or call the general information line at (925) 866-4003.

### **Additional performance**

Saturday, October 22, 2011 8:00 PM  
Mission Dolores  
3321 Sixteenth Street, San Francisco

For tickets, visit [www.sfconcertchorale.org](http://www.sfconcertchorale.org)

### **About Anders Paulsson**

After studies with Jean-Marie Londeix, Joseph Allard and Bob Mintzer, he made his Carnegie Hall debut in 1992, with the premiere of a new work written for him by American composer David Conte. Anders has performed hundreds of concerts as a soloist in over 20 countries.

Recent career highlights include a live broadcast on Swedish Radio of *Anders Eliasson Concerto* with the Norrland Opera Symphony Orchestra; Mei-Ann Chen conductor, recitals with mezzo Anne Sofie von Otter in Wigmore Hall London and Concertgebouw Amsterdam, recitals with organist Andrew Canning in Kitakyushu, Japan and Svetlanov Hall Moscow, *Sven-David Sandström 4 Pieces* with Swedish Wind Orchestra and a concert tour with string orchestra Musica Vitae in Spain starting in Palau di Musica i Valencia.

His performance as a soloist with the Stockholm Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, *B Tommy Andersson Reflections*, is evidence that it is possible to bring the classical soprano saxophone to the highest musical level. For more information, visit <http://anderspaulsson.se/>

**About Valley Concert Chorale**

The Valley Concert Chorale, now in its 48th season, is the Tri-Valley's premier chorus. Under the direction of John Emory Bush, the Chorale has offered a variety of musical performances to serve the diverse musical tastes of its audiences.

Valley Concert Chorale's mission is to engage audiences in the transforming power of music by sharing their passion and joy in live performance. They are dedicated to excellence in singing choral music of all genres, nurturing the next generation of singers, and supporting musical endeavors in the Tri-Valley community.

The Chorale's educational outreach program Music in the Schools, presents original musical performances at Tri-Valley primary school assemblies to celebrate the joy of music and singing with area students. Individuals and corporations are invited to provide financial contributions of any amount. For information, call Pam Grove at 925-462-4205.

The all-volunteer, non-profit chorale receives financial support from grants, ticket sales, membership dues, fundraisers and donations.

**About the Director**

John Emory Bush has been the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Valley Concert Chorale since 1998. He holds a Master's degree from the Juilliard School of Music and is also trained as a pianist, organist and harpist. In addition, he is the Music Director and Conductor of the San Francisco Concert Chorale and former Director of Music for St. Matthew's Cathedral in Dallas, Texas. Mr. Bush was recently appointed Principal Organist at First United Methodist Church, McKinney, Texas. For the past twelve years, Mr. Bush has divided his time between the Bay Area and Dallas, contributing to both musical communities.

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