

# Valley Concert Chorale News Release

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Photos attached

## ***Get the “Royal Treatment” with Valley Concert Chorale’s Benefit Event Music of William and Kate’s Royal Wedding, Queen’s Coronation; Wedding Ceremony and Reception; Raffle and More***

Livermore, Calif. – Not invited to Prince William and Kate’s royal wedding last year? Can’t make the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebration this year? You can get a taste of these regal events at Valley Concert Chorale’s March 10<sup>th</sup> benefit event titled “Of Coronations and Weddings.” Performance details are as follows:

### ***Of Coronations and Weddings***

- **Saturday, March 10, 7 pm**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**4<sup>th</sup> and L Streets, Livermore**

“This event is no ordinary choral concert,” says Bobby Jensen, chorale member and event chairperson. “Since we are singing music from royal weddings, including Hubert Parry’s *I Was Glad*, the processional that Prince William and Kate chose for their wedding, we wanted to give our audience, rather our ‘wedding guests’, the experience of being at a real wedding.”

The first half of the program will be held in the church which will be decorated to suggest a wedding, and guests will be ushered to their seats. Once guests are seated, the “wedding party” will process and sing with the rest of the chorale.

The wedding portion of the program will also feature a new commission by John Rutter *This is the Day*, and Parry’s *Jerusalem*, a long-time British favorite. “Since Parry is one of Prince Charles’ favorite composers, we thought it fitting that we sing his music,” explains John Emory Bush, VCC’s Artistic Director and Conductor.

In recognition of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Queen Elizabeth’s coronation, being celebrated this June as Her Majesty’s Diamond Jubilee, the coronation portion of the choral program will feature

Handel's *Zadok the Priest*, a piece that has been sung at every royal coronation since that of King George II in 1727.

### **Wedding reception immediately following**

All guests are invited to a reception in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the conclusion of first half of the choral program.

“The reception will feature tasty treats that are normally found at a wedding reception including wedding cake, finger sandwiches and other goodies,” explains Jensen. “Guests will be seated at tables and entertained by the chorale with music by The Beatles and Elton John, also performed at royal weddings and coronations.”

### **Raffle and Auction**

During the reception, guests will have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for various prizes, some of which will be available for bidding as well. “We have some wonderful items including weekend getaways, dinners, art, and a basket of authentic coronation jubilee items imported from Great Britain,” says Jensen. “One very special item is a hand-crafted wedding bouquet made from 17 flower brooches of pearl, rhinestones and silver.”

### **Ladies' Hat Contest**

Many of the women of the chorale will be donning wedding hats or “fascinators”, the type of elaborate hats worn at the recent royal wedding. Female guests are encouraged to join in the fun and wear hats for which there will be a Best Hat prize awarded during the reception.

### **Tickets: Seating is limited**

Tickets are \$35. Seating is limited so advance purchase is strongly suggested. Advance tickets may be ordered 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 Brown Paper Tickets online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).

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.

### **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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