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HOW OFTEN DO YOU GET TO TAKE FLIGHT FOR \$0?

**Pasadena Master Chorale presents TAKING FLIGHT
on a "Listen First, Then Pay" basis.**

Reserve tickets for \$0, then make a contribution to PMC after the concert

**TAKING FLIGHT, which will present music by composers from Palestrina to
Eric Whitacre, is part of the Pasadena Arts Council's AxS Festival
exploring the theme of "Curiosity"**

CALENDAR SUMMARY

**Pasadena Master Chorale presents TAKING FLIGHT, an exploration of one of
humankind's most enduring dreams and the music inspired by it. On the
program are works ranging from Hildegard of Bingen, Josquin des Prez,
and Giovanni da Palestrina to Randall Thompson, Eric Whitacre and Don
McLean, plus "Curiosity," – a work inspired by the Mars Rover by PMC
composer-in-residence Reena Esmail**

Saturday, September 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 21 at 4 p.m.

Altadena Community Church

943 East Altadena Drive

Altadena, CA. 91001

**Tickets available for \$0. Visit <https://pmctakingflight.eventbrite.com>
(Contributions to PMC are welcome after the concert)**

For more information, visit www.pasadenamasterchorale.org

626-208-0009

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PASADENA, Calif. Most of us are used to paying a lot more than \$0 for a ticket to take flight, but music lovers will be able to do just that when Pasadena Master Chorale (PMC) presents "Taking Flight" – an exploration of music inspired by

the many facets of flight – on Saturday, September 20 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, September 21 at 4 p.m., at Altadena Community Church in Altadena, California.

“We opened our 2013-2014 season the same way, with what we call our ‘Listen First, Then Pay’ program,” says PMC’s founder and Artistic Director Jeffrey Bernstein. “It was a huge success, very popular with our audience, so I have a feeling ‘Listen First, Then Pay’ is on its way to becoming a beloved PMC tradition.”

Bernstein continues, “Obviously it’s fun to purchase a ticket for \$0. Yet, at the end of the evening, every member of PMC was nearly in tears – happy tears because we were so overwhelmed, so touched by the extraordinary generosity our patrons showed us.”

Pasadena Master Chorale is presenting “Taking Flight” as part of the Pasadena Arts Council’s AxS Festival, a two-week citywide celebration of art and science from September 19 to October 5. The festival will include exhibitions, performances, educational activities and a Conversation Series examining the topic of “Curiosity” and where our innate inquisitiveness can lead us.

“One of humankind’s oldest and most enduring dreams is to fly,” Bernstein explains. “Taking Flight will explore music inspired by actual flight, yes, but we will also perform works that reflect our desire for personal transformation, to soar beyond what confines us.”

On the program are choral pieces by composers ranging from Hildegard of Bingen (*O Virtus Sapientiae*), Josquin des Prez (*Ave Maria*) and Giovanni da Palestrina (*Sanctus* from “Missa Sine Nomine”) to Eric Whitacre (*Cloudburst*, *Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine*), Randall Thompson (*Choose Something Like A Star*) and Don McLean (*Vincent*). The Chorale will also present an encore performance of composer-in-residence Reena Esmail’s *Curiosity*, inspired by the Mars Rover of the same name and first performed by PMC last March.

Esmail recalls that past performance with a smile. In response to *Curiosity*, an audience member wrote her the following haiku:

I find your music
Curiously refreshing.

Like Altoids, the mint.

“We had a ‘talkback’ session after the performances,” recalls Esmail, who has been commissioned by PMC – thanks to a grant from the City of Pasadena – to compose a large-scale, multi-movement work on Pasadena themes, in which *Curiosity* will form one movement. “It was fascinating to hear the range of experiences and takeaways people had from the same piece. It was also gratifying for me to work with musicians who are so invested in my work.”

But perhaps the most exciting ‘perk,’ Esmail confesses, was getting to know scientists like Stephanie Smith, the Twitter voice of *Curiosity*, at Pasadena’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory/NASA. “I’ve always had a love for math and science, which is what drew me to the topic of *Curiosity* in the first place,” she says.

Also joining PMC for Taking Flight are pianist Crystal Rivette and instrumental students from La Salle High School, who will play the percussion parts in Whitacre’s *Cloudburst*.

To reserve \$0 tickets for “Taking Flight,” visit <https://pmctakingflight.eventbrite.com>.

PMC programs are supported in part by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, the City of Pasadena, the Pasadena Community Foundation, Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts and the Capital Group Companies.

For more information about the Pasadena Master Chorale visit www.pasadenamasterchorale.org or call 626.208.0009. Altadena Community Church is located at 943 East Altadena Drive in Altadena, CA. 91001.

ABOUT THE PASADENA MASTER CHORALE

Founded in 2009, the Pasadena Master Chorale is one of Pasadena's most vibrant arts organizations. A volunteer choir with professional standards, PMC presents well-loved and affordable concerts of the highest quality to the greater Pasadena community. Specializing in the pinnacles of choral music spanning five centuries, PMC has thrilled audiences with recent performances of Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Brahms's *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, a folksong program entitled *Songs of the World*, and a Renaissance program entitled *The Golden Age*. PMC is also committed to engaging Pasadena's young choral singers and fostering

their love of the choral art. Through partnerships with four PUSD schools, PMC offers performance opportunities to dozens of Pasadena students each year, including a vocal competition and a mentoring program that pairs student singers with experienced chorale members. From a first season of 3 concerts in 2008-2009, PMC has grown rapidly, presenting 11 performances of 7 programs in its third season (2010-2011). A non-profit organization, the Pasadena Master Chorale is the proud recipient of a grant from the Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts.

ABOUT JEFFREY BERNSTEIN

Known for his ability to inspire musicians and audiences alike, Jeffrey Bernstein is one of Southern California's pre-eminent choral conductors, and his choirs are numbered among the finest ensembles in the region. During the twenty-year span of his career Bernstein has conducted over 35 major works and led choirs on over a dozen tours of three continents. He has conducted Bach's *St. John Passion* with Sanford Sylvan in Boston, Haydn's *Creation* with the Arad Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus in Romania, Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with Suzanna Guzmán at the Pasadena Playhouse, Dvorak's *Czech Suite* with the Naples Philharmonic in Florida, and over a dozen other orchestral performances at the Harvard Business School. In 2012 he conducted the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra in an acclaimed program he created for young people entitled "Mozart the Wonder Boy". In 2013 Bernstein became the first American to conduct the annual performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in Naruto, Japan. Recently he was awarded a Yale School of Music Alumni Ventures grant.

In 2009 Bernstein founded the Pasadena Master Chorale and serves now as its artistic director. He is also artistic director of the Los Angeles Daiku. Previously Bernstein served as artistic director of the Hollywood Master Chorale and assistant conductor of the Pasadena Symphony and POPS. From 1997 to 2008 Bernstein was director of choral music at Occidental College in Los Angeles, where he rejuvenated a century-old Glee Club tradition and taught classes in music theory, counterpoint, composing and arranging, 20th-century music, and the American musical theater. Bernstein began his career in the theater, working first as a lighting designer and subsequently serving as a musical director and conductor. He led over 25 professional productions and served as associate musical director for the national touring company of *CATS*.

Bernstein has composed numerous concert works, and his music has been performed across this country and in Europe, Japan and Australia. In 2012 he composed *Fukushima Requiem* and conducted performances of the work in Los Angeles and in Naruto, Japan. In 2013 he composed *Dreams of Japan* for the Tokushima Symphony and premiered the work with them in Japan. His commissions include *Circumnavigation of the World* for Occidental College, *Chomolungma* for the Governor's School of North Carolina, *Phoenix* for UCLA bassoonist Melson Varsovia, *Pablo Neruda in Love* for The Hotchkiss School in Connecticut and over a dozen a cappella choral works and arrangements. His choral arrangements are featured in the 2002 film *Slackers*. Active as a pianist, Bernstein works at the Pasadena Waldorf School providing improvised piano accompaniment for all the school's eurythmy classes. In 2012 Bernstein released *Piano Journals*, an album of solo piano improvisations.

Bernstein grew up in the Northeast, spent his childhood in Vermont and lived in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts before moving to California in 1996. He holds music degrees from UCLA, Yale and Harvard, where he also served as acting associate director of choral activities and assistant conductor of the world-famous Harvard Glee Club. Bernstein has sung with the Harvard Glee Club, the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, Musica Angelica and the Los Angeles Master Chorale under such conductors as Seiji Ozawa, Roger Norrington, and Simon Rattle. Choirs under Bernstein's direction have sung for Gustavo Dudamel, Zubin Mehta, Jorge Mester, and Esa-Pekka Salonen. Bernstein studied conducting with Jorge Mester and Jameson Marvin and composition with Peter Lieberson, James Yannatos, Jacob Druckman, Roger Bourland and David Lefkowitz. He makes his home in Altadena, California with his wife, daughter and two step sons.