Ragazzi Boys Chorus

30th Anniversary Concert

WHEN:  
SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2018  
2:30 PM

VENUE:  
BING CONCERT HALL
Program

All Singers
Why We Sing: Greg Gilpin

Primary Groups
The Inch Worm: Frank Loesser, arr. Mac Huff
Jubilate Deo: Michael Praetorius

Ragazzi Premiere
The Sally Gardens: traditional Irish tune, arr. Benjamin Britten
Steppin’ Out With My Baby: Irving Berlin, arr. Mac Huff

Avanti
Yo Le Canto Todo El Dia: David L. Brunner
Ryan Cheung, woodblock
Amavolovolo: Traditional Zulu Dowry Song, arr. Rudolf de Beer
Ben Carlson, Djembe

Avanti and Concert Group
Panis Angelicus: César Franck, St. Thomas Aquinas
Denis Moreen, guest accompanist

Denis was Ragazzi’s accompanist for many years
and now lives in Palm Desert, where he continues to be active in choral music

Concert Group
Hotaru Koi (Ho Firefly): Japanese children’s song, arr. Rō Ogura
An die Musik: Franz Schubert
Concert Group and Choral Scholars
Jesus Christ the Apple Tree: Elizabeth Poston
Spencer Bergland and Talinn Hatti, soloists

Morning Song (Cherokee Amazing Grace): arr. James Green

Mo-Li-Hua (Jasmine Flower): Chinese folksong, arr. Hyo-Won Woo
Yanni Cheng, Lucas Fedronic, Yash Saxena, Marvin Valdez, Brian Wu, soloists
Aidan Bannon and Niko Muller, percussion

Magnificent Horses: Mongolian folksong, arr. Yang Hong Nien, arr. & adapted Jing Ling-Tam

Young Men's Ensemble
Laudamus Te: Antonio Vivaldi, arr. Jansen Verplank

The Sound of Silence: Paul Simon, arr. Mark Hayes

Young Men's Ensemble and Ragazzi Continuo
Down in the River to Pray: arr. Jansen Verplank

Ragazzi Continuo
There is Sweet Music Here: Daniel Gawthrop

Loch Lomond: arr. Jonathan Quick

Ragazzi Alumni
Betehemhu (Nigerian Christmas Song): Via Olatunji, arr. Wendell Whalum

Down in the Valley: Kentucky folk tune, arr. George Mead

Tshotsholoza (Go Forward): Traditional South African, Adapted Jeffery L. Ames

Alumni and Young Men's Ensemble
Ave Maria (Angelus Domini), Franz Biebl

Alumni, Young Men's Ensemble, Concert Group and Avanti
As Long as I Have Music: Don Besig, words by Don Besig and Nancy Price

All Singers
Wage Peace (world premiere): Mark Fish, text by Judyth Hill

Hope for Resolution: arr. Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory (revised)

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Please be considerate of others and turn off all phones, pagers, and watch alarms. Photography and recording of any kind are not permitted. Thank you.
Translations and Notes

**Jubilate Deo** (sung in Latin)
Sing joyfully to God, Alleluia

**Yo Le Canto Todo El Dia** (sung in Spanish)
So I am moving with my heart,
So I am leaving with a drum,
I sing to you all day long with affection and joy,
So I am leaving with a drum with affection and emotion.

**Amavolovolo** (sung in Zulu)
We won’t go to Kwamashu
We are scared of revolvers

Originally a song of protest, Amavolovolo is now used as a contemporary song of celebration.

**Panis Angelicus** (sung in Latin)
The bread of angels
Becomes bread for mankind,
Heavenly bread gives
An end to earthly limits
O marvelous and wondrous
gift of God will nourish
The poor, the servants, and the humble

**Hotaru Koi** (sung in Japanese)
Ho, firefly, come, there’s some water that’s bitter
Come, here’s some water that’s sweet;
Ho, firefly, ho, up this mountain path.

Firefly’s daddy struck it rich, he’s got lots of dough,
No wonder his rear end sparkles in the dark.
Ho, firefly, up this mountain path.

In the daytime hiding ’mongst the dewy blades of grass,
But when it’s night, his lantern burns bright.
E’en though we’ve flown all the way from India, zoom!
And those sparrows swarm to swallow us.

Ho, firefly, … look! see a thousand lanterns
sparkling in the dark, ho, up this mountain path.

—translation David Larson

**An die Musik** (sung in German)
You lovely art, in how many gray hours,
Where I was stricken by life
You ignited my heart for warm love,
You brought me to a better world,
Brought me to a better world!

Often a sigh, that left your harp,
A sweet, holy chord from you,
Has shown me the existence of a better time
You lovely art, I thank you for it,
You lovely art, I thank you!

**Morning Song** (sung in ancient Tëehahnahmah)
I am of the Great Spirit
It is so
Amazing Grace (sung in Cherokee)
God’s son paid for us.
Then to heaven he went
After paying for us.
But he said, when he rose.
I’ll come again
He said when he spoke.
All the earth will end
When he comes
All will see him, all over the earth
All the good people living
He will come after.
Heaven always in peace they will live

Mo-Li-Hua: Jasmine Flower (sung in Chinese)
What a beautiful jasmine flower
What a beautiful jasmine flower
Sweet-smelling, beautiful, stems full of buds
Fragrant and white, everyone praises
Let me pluck you down
Give to someone else
Jasmine flower, oh jasmine flower

Betelehemu (sung in Yoruba)
We are glad that we have a Father to trust.
We are glad that we have a Father to rely upon
Where was Jesus born?
Where was He born?
Bethlehem, the city of wonder.
That is where the Father was born for sure.
Praise, praise, praise be to Him.
We thank Thee, we thank Thee, we thank Thee for this day,
Gracious Father.
Praise, praise, praise be to Thee,
Merciful Father

Tshotsholoza (sung in Zulu and Ndebele)
Go forward, go forward on these mountains
The train is coming from South Africa
You are running away on those mountains
The train is coming from South Africa
—translation courtesy of Jeffery Ames

Ave Maria (sung in Latin)
The Angel of the Lord announced to Mary
And she conceived by the Holy Spirit
[Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you]
Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus
Behold the handmaiden of the Lord
Do to me according to your word.
[Hail Mary…]
And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us
[Hail Mary…]
Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and in the hour of our death.
**Wage Peace (poem by Judyth Hill)**

Wage peace with your breath.
Breathe in firemen and rubble,
breathe out whole buildings
and flocks of redwing blackbirds.

Breathe in terrorists and breathe out sleeping children
and freshly mown fields.
Breathe in confusion and breathe out maple trees.
Breathe in the fallen
and breathe out lifelong friendships intact.

Wage peace with your listening:
hearing sirens, pray loud.
Remember your tools:
flower seeds, clothes pins, clean rivers.

Make soup.
Play music, learn the word for thank you in three languages.
Learn to knit, and make a hat.
Think of chaos as dancing raspberries,
imagine grief as the outbreath of beauty
or the gesture of fish.
Swim for the other side.
Wage peace.

Never has the world seemed so fresh and precious.
have a cup of tea and rejoice.
Act as if armistice has already arrived.
Celebrate today.

Wage Peace was written by Judyth Hill, who lives in
Northern Colorado. She wrote it on September 11, 2001, in
reaction to the events that forever changed history in
America that day—but the poem is not a message to any
specific country. Instead, it encourages all of us as
individuals to wage peace. This phrase lies in direct contrast
to the much older and more belligerent saying, “wage war.”

The music is dedicated to the memory of Desmond Doss,
who served in the United States military in World War II as a
medic, but was also a conscientious objector; he always
traveled without a gun or any other weapon. Consequently,
he was ridiculed by other soldiers—until he singlehandedly
saved 75 of them during battle in Japan. The story of his
experience was made into the movie, “Hacksaw Ridge,”
which I saw shortly after I read Judyth’s incredible poem. At
that point, I knew I had to set that poem to music, and I
hope I have done it justice.

The music is also dedicated to Joyce Keil and Ragazzi. I
have always been inspired by this group, even before I
worked for the organization. I am eternally grateful to
Judyth for the permission to set the poem to music, and to
Ragazzi for commissioning and premiering it.

—Mark Fish, composer

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**About Ragazzi**

Now celebrating its 30th anniversary, Ragazzi Boys Chorus
provides outstanding musical education and performance
opportunities for boys and young men, ages 5 to 18. Over
200 singers, in six tiered levels—from over 100 schools and
over 30 coastside and valley communities—participate in
this internationally recognized program. Under the
leadership of artistic director and co–founder, Joyce Keil,
Ragazzi Boys Chorus performs a wide range of traditional
and contemporary works for both the treble and changed
voice. The chorus concertizes regularly throughout the San
Francisco Bay Area. Ragazzi participated in the San
Francisco Symphony’s recording of Stravinsky’s Perséphone,
which was included in the Symphony’s Grammy award for
best classical album. The chorus also produces its own
discography. Ragazzi made its Carnegie Hall debut in 2014
and tours throughout the world to widen chorus members’
musical and cultural horizons, and deepen Ragazzi’s
reputation for performance excellence.
Ragazzi turned 30 last fall, but we waited until today to have the party! What we bring to you is the current expression of 30 years of dedication to music education and choral excellence. And a smidge more, with our alumni chamber ensemble, Ragazzi Continuo, and our 65-man strong Alumni Chorus. If you’ve ever wondered what a chorus of 270 might look like on the Bing stage, this is it!

In 1987 Ragazzi began as a group of seven boys and one faculty member, rehearsing in a living room, with a budget of $0. Today our main program accounts for over 200 boys, with ancillary programs contributing another 30, or so. We’ve grown our long-time home in Redwood City by straddling Clinton Street, and we’re opening a satellite location this fall. We serve boys from Millbrae to Gilroy and Fremont to Half Moon Bay. We serve audiences of all stripes—from the Bay Area when we’re home, and across the country and the world when we tour. We’ve sung in Carnegie Hall, Havana, New Orleans, Cape Town, Helsinki, Seoul, Coeur d’Alene, Vancouver, Sydney, St. Petersburg, London, Minneapolis, Montréal, Eugene, Rome, Disneyland, Rutland, Auckland—and many other lands. It’s a long list, but then, we’ve been at it for quite some time.

As Ragazzi has grown, many things have changed, including rehearsal sites, camp locations, and personnel, but there have been two very important constants. One is our founder and Artistic Director, Joyce Keil, who has enabled Ragazzi to enrich so many lives. The other is the boy choir tradition. If we could take a Concert Group boy from 1993 and put him in that same group today, he’d quickly feel right at home. The culture of goal-oriented musical excellence, teamwork, leadership, personal and artistic responsibility, and camaraderie might have been refined and honed over the decades, but for a Ragazzi boy, it’s as familiar as his own selfie (or for our time-displaced chorister, “reflection in the mirror”).

Our entire core program is on display for you today, from our seven- and eight-year-old beginners to our graduating seniors, about to embark on new academic and musical journeys. You’ll see the progress these boys and young men make in just a few short years. Really, we have them for such a short time, especially when you consider that we have as few as five seasons before their voices change and we turn to their younger brethren to supply that ineffable boy treble sound. Fortunately, we also have our guys, our changed voiced singers, from age 13 to 40-something—all trained by the very same person! We’ll see (and hear) just what these gentlemen can do.

Keep your hankies handy and hang on to your socks!

—David M. Jones, Executive Director
Ragazzi Boys Chorus
Performers

Primary Level
Ronan Bissonette
CJ Born
Trevor Cho
Dante Chung
Hunter Coleman
Logan Crawford
Anders D'hooghe Linden
Maris D'hooghe Linden
Nick Damon
Aarav Das
Jack Day
Alex Dujmovic
Monroe Duquette
Ronin Fanelli
Kui Fine
Brody Friedeberg
Christopher Gibbons
Anthony Gonzalez
Ollie Gullick
Keshav Gupta
August Hannestaed
William Harms
Bryant Ho
Brandon Hoover
Jonah Hsu
Cooper Jacobs
Cyrus Kapadia
Nolan Kim
Benjamin Kinley
Jonnie Kitt
Saarung Krishnamurthy
Daniel Kudzelka
Marco Kwok
Caleb Lawson
Kobe Lee
Elliot Lee
Ethan Leonard
Isaac Liu
Michael Long
TJ Louie
Kyan Mayenkar
Smaran Narayanan
Jackson Oliver
Fedya Panchenko
Jasper Parkkinen
Max Reeves
Hersh Saxena
Arthur Scholom
Cairo Simmons
Noah Siva
Trevor Snow
Max Soparkar
Julian Sorger
Tango Spurling
Connor Statton
Arthur Styer
Kiran Subramanian
Lukas Szeszkowski
Grey Taner
Luke Tanner
Adi Twomey
Iker Vahamaki
Abraham Villeda
Eshu Vinnakota
Justin Vives
Rui Wang
Ashton Wang
Brenden Yu
Wesley Zhang
Nathan Cheung
Ryan Cole
Christopher Culwell
Daniel Dittrich
Steven Dominguez
Lorenzo Farano
Eli Hart
Dashiell Holmes
Cedar Hopewell
Aditya Iyer
Ben Kiernan
Olivier Kondo
William Lampe
Leo Leckey
Alex Makarenko
Felix Maxwell
Albert Peng
Diego Ramirez
Jake Reed
Finn Reese
Ben Rutherford
Rhys Salma
Armaan Sharma
Nikhil Srinivasan
Henry Styer
Matt Tanner
Lazar Twigg
Tom Vosganian
Hessong Williamson
Sam Dickey
Keaton Farrell
Henry Liu
Jesse Lopez
Nicholas Manning
Paolo Marasco
Carter May
Matteo Navarro
Christopher Neuman
Adrian Panecz
John Phillips
Leon Qin
Peter Reeves
Paul Sapilewski
Zachary Sayyah
Declan Twomey
Adrian Vahamaki
Lukas Widen
Thomas Williams

Concert Group
Misha Aganin
Spencer Bergland
Jimmy Carlson
Yanni Cheng
Reid Cole
Todd Crandell
Lucas Fedronic
Quinn Goldberg
Thomas Harrick
Talinn Hatti
Finn Heinzen
Roydon Ho
Brij Howard-Sarin
Nicholas Hu
Miles Kaludzinski
Jackson Kay
Amit Krishnan

Avanti

Ian Bass
Ben Bouie
Simon Braun
Ben Carlson
Ryan Cheung
Danny Cox
Manny Cox

Ragazzi Premiere
Ethan Altamirano
Isaac Altamirano
Andrew Altorfer
Charlie Ball
Calvin Blanford

*†‡§
Jerry Li***
Luca Lit†
Liam Lowitz
Joshua McCormick
Nick McKee††
Lincoln Mendenhall
Johnathan Mo
Niko Muller
Yash Saxena
James Thomas***
Marvin Valdez
George Wehner
Brian Wu†
Ethan Zettler-Bray

*Head Chorister
**Assistant Head Chorister
§Student Conductor
††Team Captain
†Section Leader
***Assistant Section Leader

Young Men's Ensemble
Aidan Bannon*
Charles Berman
Andreas Brey
Benjamin Bruxvoort
William Buxton†
Tanson Chan†
Armani Choy
Max Cordoba
Alex Cox
Ethan Yang Feng*
Cole Gannon
Jason Grodem
Ian Henry*
Ryan Ho
Nicholas Jiang*
Lucca Jones
Brady Kiesling
Luke Kovscek*
Andrew Kraft*
Kyle Matthys
Joshua Navarro
Jan Olshansky
Sean Parkis*
Russell Peck
J. William Peironnet V
Charles Pellegrin
John Pellegrin
Jack Pine
Partha Rao**
David Replicon
Michael Sacco*
Everett Schafer*
Cameron Smith
Owen Stephenson
Nathan Tan
Blake Thomas
Charlie Trainor
Benjamin Vogel*
Andre Wang
Wyatt Waters
Jesse Wilen*
Joseph Williams
Quinn Wilson†
Alexander Wu*
Wiley Yu
*Choral Scholar
*Section Leader

Alumni
Alec Addicott
Ted Allen
Byron Becker
Stephen Breen
Daniel Brenzel
William Brogan
Jesse Buddington**
Austin Chan
Liam Clancy
Karl Clayter
John Cleveland
Andrew Cohen
Derek Daniels
Charles Duyk**
Matthias Fallon†
Mark Fedronic
Gabriel Floresca-Igtañloc
Patrick Frantz
Justin Fung
Julian Garcia-Mendez
Justin Grodem
John Harrison
Adam Heerwagen
Calvin Johnson
Rick Jones
Collin Lee**
Bruce Lengacher*
Lucas Loaiza
Zander MacQuitty**
Zachary Mamins
John Martin**
Ted McIntosh**
Ryan McLeod
Christopher McMillan**
Xavier McNally
John Melis
Denis Moreen*
Jack Mosbacher
Peter O'Shea
Carlo Olmos
Jeff Phillips
Tyler Polen
McKinley Polen
Justin Privitera
Jeremy Ragent**
Ravi Raval
Francis Reynolds
Colston Rienhoff
Ian Rosenfield
Peter Sherman**
Zachary Snarr†
Michael Stahl**
Aidan Stevens
John Sullivan
Jansen Verplank**
Thomas Wade**
Jeremy Weinglass
Matt Weinglass
Jeromy Wells
Jordan Wells
Nathan Wilen**
Henry Wilen
Daniel Wilson
Patrick Wong
Michael Wu
Justin Yu

Instrumentalists
Maggie Eggert, flute
Jason Lewis, drums
Josh Thurston-Milgrom, bass
Justin Privitera,
Jeremy Ragent,
French Horn
Denis Moreen,
guest accompanist

Chris Griffin, stage manager
Michael Stahl, music
arrangement assistance
Joyce Keil, Artistic Director and co-founder of Ragazzi, has served as panelist, adjudicator, and guest conductor for music teachers and choirs throughout the Western United States. An experienced teacher, she has served on the faculties of the College of Holy Names, Notre Dame de Namur University, and Lick-Wilmerding High School in San Francisco. Ms. Keil has prepared choirs for San Francisco Opera and San Francisco Symphony. She is the founder of the choral program and Advanced Placement Music Theory curriculum at Crystal Springs Uplands School. Ms. Keil has served as the Western Division Chair of the Boychoir Committee for the American Choral Directors Association, and has sat on the College Board for Advanced Placement Music Exams. She holds a B.A. from Occidental College, where she studied with Howard Swan, known as the “Dean of Choral Music”. She holds M.A.s from the New School for Social Research and California State University Northridge, where she studied with John Alexander.

Kent Jue, Associate Artistic Director, Executive Director-Designate, and Director of Avanti, is an experienced choral conductor, music educator, and facilitator for lifelong learning in music. An inspiring adjudicator, guest clinician, workshop presenter and mentor, Kent is known for building high-level musicianship skills through his engaging style and rapport with students. He has a passion for uncovering the full artistic and expressive potential for individual choristers in an ensemble setting. As the Associate Artistic Director, Kent conducts Avanti and oversees the program’s training department. In summer of 2018, he will assume the role of Ragazzi’s Executive Director. He has toured extensively with the Ragazzi program and has led his choruses to numerous festivals. An avid collaborator, Kent has prepared his ensembles for performances with organizations including San Francisco Symphony, West Bay Opera, Symphony Silicon Valley, and the Redwood Symphony. Kent has also conducted youth choruses at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and performed and recorded with the Golden Gate Men’s Chorus and the Gay Men’s Choruses of San Francisco and Boston. Kent earned his Master of Music Education, Kodaly Emphasis degree from Holy Names University, Bachelor of Music, Music Education degree from University of the Pacific, and completed his Orff-Schulwerk certification. Kent is the outgoing Director of Choral Programs at the San Francisco Friends School.

Jesse Buddington, Director of Ragazzi’s Young Men’s Ensemble, began singing at the age of six with Ragazzi Boys Chorus. Jesse earned a degree in vocal music from UC Santa Cruz, with an emphasis on early music. He regularly performs in operatic roles as both a tenor and countertenor and currently sings with Ragazzi’s alumni ensemble, Ragazzi Continuo. Jesse maintains a private voice studio and has taught workshops in vocal sight-reading and early vocal techniques. When he isn’t singing or talking about singing, Jesse oversees the music licensing operations of Loudr.fm.

Nancy Whitecar, Assistant Director of Young Men’s Ensemble and Accompanist, is a professional musician and music educator with
over 25 years of experience. She teaches general music classes at The Music School at the Sunnyvale Presbyterian church, and accompanies for instrumentalists and choirs throughout the Bay Area. Nancy has directed children's and youth choirs, and taught piano to students of all ages in her private piano studio. She served as accompanist and assistant director of the BeckRidge Chorale in Southeast Michigan for over 20 years, and as Associate Director of Music at the First United Methodist Church in Plymouth, Michigan. Nancy is a member of the Music Teachers National Association, and the California Association of Professional Music Teachers. She graduated from the University of Illinois, and holds a Piano Teacher Certificate from Schoolcraft College in Michigan.

Kaori Nakano DeNoia, Director of Ragazzi Premiere and Assai, and Accompanist, graduated from Japan’s Kyoto Horikawa Music High School, where she studied vocal performance. She earned her BA from Kobe College and graduated from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music with an MA in vocal performance, having studied with Herman Leroux and received a first place prize in the American Art Song Competition. She received preschool and teaching credentials from San Francisco State University, studied pipe organ with Wyatt Insko, and has Kodály training from Holy Names University. Kaori has served as a choir director, pianist and organist for many organizations, including the San Francisco Girls Chorus, A.P. Giannini Middle School choir, Christ United Presbyterian Church, and her own Kirakiraboshi Children’s Choir in Japantown. She teaches over 1,000 K-5th grade students in the Millbrae School District.

Peter Bassford, Assistant Director of Ragazzi Premiere and Accompanist, began to study piano at age 8. At San Francisco State University, he focused his music study on piano and took degrees in Piano Performance and Music Education. Peter worked for Bank of America while pursuing music through church work as an organist and choir director and through community theater both as an actor/singer and music director. Peter taught music in the Burlingame public schools for fifteen years. As well as his work with Ragazzi, he is organist at First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame.

John Collaros, Primary Director, has directed elementary and middle school choirs in Arizona, New Mexico, and the Bay Area for over a decade. He is a graduate of New Mexico State University with a Bachelors Degree in Choral Music Education and a Masters Degree in Education, Curriculum and Instruction. While at NMSU, John sang with the Dona Ana Lyric Opera, the University Singers, and was selected as the guest student conductor for the Jack Ward Choral Invitational Festival. John has taught middle school choirs in Tempe, AZ and Las Cruces, NM. His choirs have participated in competitions at Disney Magic Music Days and constantly received superior ratings at regional festivals and state competitions. He has also served as a state officer for the New Mexico National Choral Directors Association. He has adjudicated elementary and middle school choral festivals, and directed several musical theater productions and summer camp programs. John currently is a Music Specialist with the Burlingame School District, directing elementary and middle school choirs and teaching K-2 general music.

Maggie Eggert, Primary Director and Flutist, grew up in the Midwest. She received the John Phillips Sousa Award for superior musicianship in high school and went on to obtain a bachelor’s in music education from the University of Wisconsin, where she studied under Paul Doebler (West Point and Julliard). She holds a master's degree in music education from Vandercook College of Music, where she studied choral, general, and instrumental music. She holds an Orff Level I and II certification and continues to advance her music education studies with workshops and classes in the Bay Area. Maggie is on faculty at the Nueva School
has been teaching young flute students for over 12 years. She performs with local community groups and other professional musicians whenever she can.

Nathan Wilen, Primary Director, teaches 5th grade choir in the San Mateo-Foster City School District, and teaches private voice lessons. He is a veteran of the Ragazzi program himself, having been a chorister from age 8 to 18. He has enjoyed passing on Ragazzi traditions as a regular counselor at Ragazzi’s summer camp and leads weekly sectional rehearsals for the Young Men’s Ensemble. Nathan graduated from Chapman University with a B.M. in Music with a vocal emphasis. He performed regularly in the Chapman Opera program and also performed and toured with Chapman’s University Choir and University Singers. He performs with Ragazzi Continuo and appears as a professional soloist and chorister around the Bay area. He is the tenor section leader of the Chancel Choir and the Oratorio Society at First Congregational Church, Palo Alto.

Carol Panofsky, Music Theory Director and Accompanist, directs Ragazzi Boys Chorus’ theory program, which serves to teach choristers to read music and to understand the theoretical foundation of the music they are singing. Carol can be heard in performances of the Albany Consort, the Santa Cruz Chamber Players, and the Santa Cruz County Symphony, Carmel Bach Festival, Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra, Magnificat, and Ragazzi. She received a Master of Music in the Performance of Early Music from the New England Conservatory of Music. Carol performs and teaches early music, modern oboe, and piano, and has been on the faculties at the Music School of the University of Idaho and at U.C. Santa Cruz.

Othello Jefferson, Rehearsal Assistant and Accompanist, holds a Bachelor of Music in Voice from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and a music teaching credential from San Francisco State University. An award-winning Choir Director at San Francisco’s Lowell High School, he is currently the Choir Director at Redwood City’s Sequoia High School. He is Minister of Music for the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Western Episcopal District and San Francisco. Othello received a Gospel Music Award from San Francisco’s Academy of Gospel and a Negro Spirituals Heritage Keepers Award from the Friends of Negro Spirituals in Oakland, and has completed the first level of the American Guild of Organist’s examinations for professional certification (Service Playing Certificate).

Ihang Lin, Rehearsal Assistant and Accompanist, a winner of the American Protégé concerto competition, was invited to make her Carnegie Hall debut in 2012, performing solo piano works by Maurice Ravel. Dr. Lin received a special recognition award at the San Antonio Piano Competition and First Prize in the Aaron Richmond Piano Competition. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Taipei National University of the Arts, a Master of Music from New England Conservatory, and Doctor of Musical Arts from Boston University. A Ragazzi Boys Chorus accompanist since 2014, Dr. Lin is also the rehearsal pianist at Opera San Jose, where she has participated in numerous productions.

Marilyn Wells, Accompanist, graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor’s degree in choral education. She taught high school music and humanities in Tempe before moving to the Bay Area in 1984. Marilyn created and implemented the music curriculum for a magnet school in the area, teaching all grades from K-8, and has taught elementary music at the Ocean Shore School for the past 15 years. She has also directed adult and children’s choirs including a swing choir of college students and has a private piano studio. Marilyn’s three sons all joined Ragazzi and she has accompanied the various groups as her boys moved through the program. Her other passion is quilting and sewing. To the delight of many, she has generously donated her handiwork for many Ragazzi auctions.