

Martín Benvenuto, artistic director

Martín Benvenuto, WomenSing's Artistic Director, is one of the leading treble choir conductors in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. A native of Buenos Aires, Argentina, he has been Artistic Director for WomenSing since 2002. Active as a clinician, panelist, and guest conductor, Benvenuto is also Artistic Director for the Peninsula Women's Chorus and the Contra Costa Children's Chorus, and served on the faculty of the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir for eight years.

Recognized for his exacting technique, and a passion for drawing the finest choral tone, Benvenuto's repertoire is extensive. In addition to the historical repertoire, his choirs are dedicated to commissioning new works from composers such as Libby Larsen, Chen Yi, Stacy Garrop, Charles Griffin, Cristián Grases, Judith Shatin, Frank Ferko, Brian Holmes, and David Conte.

His choirs have earned high marks in international competitions in Argentina, South Africa, Canada, Hungary, and Spain. Of particular note are the Third Prize awarded to the PWC at the 2006 Béla Bartók International Choir Competition, one of the most prestigious in the European circuit, and the 2010 Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker award, which recognized WomenSing for programming recently-composed music that expanded the mission of the chorus and challenged the chorus's audience in new ways. Benvenuto highly values artistic collaborations: his choirs have collaborated with Veljo Tormis, Joseph Jennings, Karmina Silec and Carmina Slovenica, Charles Bruffy, California Shakespeare Theater, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, and the Golden Gate Men's Chorus.

Benvenuto has prepared choirs for organizations such as the San Francisco Opera, the Oakland East Bay Symphony, the Redwood Symphony, and the Kronos Quartet in works by Bach, Monteverdi, Britten, Mahler, Holst, Stravinsky, and Orff. Benvenuto also regularly appears as tenor soloist with leading Bay Area ensembles.

Benvenuto holds a D.M.A. in choral conducting from Boston University, where he studied with Ann Howard Jones and the late Robert Shaw. He earned his master's degree from Westminster Choir College, majoring both in Choral Conducting and Voice Performance and Pedagogy. His undergraduate degrees in choral conducting and composition are from the Universidad Católica Argentina.