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For Immediate Release

WOMENSING WRAPS UP 2012-13 SEASON WITH TWO CONCERTS

“SOUTHERN EXPOSURE” TRAVELS THE GLOBE TO CELEBRATE NATURE, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

**SUNDAY, JUNE 2 AT 4 P.M. AT THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF BERKELEY AND WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5 AT 8 P.M. AT THE
LAFAYETTE/ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

For its final concert of the 2012-13 season, WomenSing, the adventurous East Bay women’s chorus, surveys the globe and finds fresh sounds to delight our audience. Nature, family, and community are celebrated. “In some ways,” points out Artistic Director Martín Benvenuto, “this concert, which we call “Southern Exposure,” is our belated Mother’s Day gift to the East Bay.”

For many, the highpoint will be the world premiere of a composition by Julia Seeholzer, the winner of WomenSing’s 2012 Youth Inspiring Youth competition (run in collaboration with River of Words, a project of the Center for Environmental Literacy at St. Mary’s College in Moraga). Julia is a young Southern California composer who recently graduated summa cum laude from the Berklee College of Music in Boston. Her composition is a setting for women’s and chorus of a River of Words poem in Spanish by two 9-year-old poets from Watsonville. *Hay un Rio Oscuro* (There is a dark river) describes the children’s fascination with a water puddle that is filthy with gasoline and a red candy wrapper. “But although it’s sad and filthy/It carries the shadow of my face/The tattered clouds/And in white and black/The whole sky”. For the performance, WomenSing will be joined by the Contra Costa Children’s Chorus Honors Ensemble.

Ms. Seeholzer’s composition is just one example of the vibrant and diverse musical colors that Benvenuto has programmed. There will be fresh takes on folk music with arrangements for chorus of lullabies from Spain and beloved English and Appalachian folksongs. *Aires de Quisqueya* revels in the rhythmic music of the Caribbean and the island of Santo Domingo. *Msilale Wanawake* (Women Wake Up) is inspired by a Swahili proverb that calls on women to rid themselves of societal barriers and gender bias.

From the “classics,” WomenSing performs Benjamin Britten’s *Missa Brevis in D*. This exquisite “small mass,” is characterized by the composer’s brilliant technical invention

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and imaginative insight both in his writing for voice and the equally magnificent organ part. The performance is part of a worldwide celebration of the centenary of the noted British composer's birth.

For those who want to know more about Ms. Seeholzer and her music, she will give a pre-concert talk one-hour before each concert. Among the subjects covered will be her experience as a native English speaker setting a poem in Spanish. The audience at the Sunday afternoon concert in Berkeley is invited to join WomenSing for a post-concert reception honoring the composer.

Tickets are \$30 for premium seats, \$25 for general admission, \$20 for seniors, and \$10 for students/youth 18 and under. Advance tickets are available up to 24 hours prior to each concert at www.womensing.org, or by phone at 925-974-9169. Tickets will also be available at the door.

About WomenSing:

Founded in 1965, WomenSing is an active, auditioned chorus of nearly 50 singers, renowned for its vibrant and beautifully blended sound. The repertoire includes both the traditional and the unexpected, featuring great landmarks of the women's chorus repertoire, seldom performed works, new music, commissions from nationally recognized composers, and familiar music from all eras. The innovative Youth Inspiring Youth – Commissioning Emerging Composers project pairs young poets with young composers. The project has led to nine world premieres. WomenSing performances include collaborations with major performing groups such as San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, Jubilate Orchestra, California Shakespeare Theatre, Dimensions Dance Theater of Oakland, Piedmont East Bay Children's Choirs, and Contra Costa Children's Chorus and the finest Bay Area musicians. WomenSing has been invited to appear at the Ninth International Choral Festival in Missoula, Montana and will perform at the festival this July.

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CALENDAR EDITOR PLEASE LIST:

WOMENSING'S JUNE CONCERTS TRAVEL THE GLOBE TO CELEBRATE NATURE, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

WHAT: WomenSing, the adventurous East Bay women's chorus, surveys the globe and finds fresh sounds to delight our audience. Nature, family, and community are celebrated. One highlight will be the world premiere of a work for women's chorus by a young California composer. Benjamin Britten's exquisite "Missa Brevis" will also be performed as part of worldwide celebration of the centenary of this noted British composer's birth.

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WHEN/WHERE:

Sunday, June 2, 2013
4:00 p.m.
First Congregational Church of Berkeley
2345 Channing Way
Berkeley, CA

Wednesday, June 5, 2013
8:00 p.m.
Lafayette/Orinda Presbyterian Church
49 Knox Drive
Lafayette, CA

COST: \$30 premium seats
\$25 General admission
\$20 seniors
\$10 students/youth 18 and under

TICKETS: On Line: www.womensing.org
By Phone: 925-974-9169
Tickets will be available at the door