



Golden Gate Boys Choir Tours Washington, DC for July 4th Festivities

June 23, 2008

The **Golden Gate Boys Choir and Bellringers** (GGBC) will tour Washington, DC in July 2008, to participate in the Pueri Cantores American Festival and perform at places of national and historic interest in addition to local churches. Performance venues include: The National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, The Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington DC VA Medical Center, the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Silver Spring, and Ben's Chili Bowl.

The GGBC singers and bellringers will participate in an unprecedented gathering of parish and school choirs for a grand celebration in Washington, D.C. on July 4th weekend. The Pueri Cantores American Festival will consist of Catholic youth choirs from across the country joining for a patriotic concert on July 4th on the National Mall and an Evening Mass in the largest Catholic Basilica in the Western Hemisphere on July 5th (Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl, Celebrant).

The dates of the GGBC tour are June 28th through July 7th. For information about the GGBC Tour or learn about sponsorship opportunities, please contact: Ashish Vazirani, GGBC Board Member and Tour Coordinator, 301.351.1856, avazirani@market-bridge.com, or Steven Meyer, Music Director, 510.887.4311, ggbcbbr@aol.com.

About the Golden Gate Boys Choir and Bellringers

The Golden Gate Boys Choir and Bellringers is a musical organization for school age boys in the San Francisco Bay Area. The GGBC provides these boys with an outstanding opportunity to develop their talent and general musical appreciation skills through a graduated and thorough course of musical study.

The GGBC teaches a wide repertoire, vocal skills and knowledge of music theory, and uses these skills in performances locally, nationally, and internationally. Members learn teamwork, independence, leadership, and cultural appreciation. They also gain self-esteem, learn how to set priorities, make responsible decisions, relate to their peers, and to present themselves in public with grace and dignity.

The GGBC owns the largest collection of handbells and chimes on the West Coast. The choir uses these instruments to teach theory and musicianship skills. When a ringer is skilled enough, he can join one of the performing ensembles.

The GGBC's top handbell choir, the "Ringmasters" has gained an international reputation for their breathtaking performances. The group has performed on international television, PBS, and on Vatican Radio (2006 winter concert tour through Italy).

Each summer the GGBC sponsors a concert tour for Performance Group Singers and Ringmaster groups. The boys have an opportunity to earn the funds required for tour through the choir's annual Benefit Drawing, and some boys pay for their entire tour cost through this annual appeal to the greater community. Since 1989, the choir's annual tours for the older singers and ringers has taken them throughout the US and Canada; to Spain, France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany and Austria; to Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, and the Philippines. Performances have included the Vatican and St. Peter's Basilica; the United Nations; the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.; the White House Ellipse, the Bundehaus in Berne, Switzerland, to name a few. During the summer of 2007, the GGBC toured New Zealand and Hawaii.

The GGBC is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. To support the GGBC, you may contribute to the Golden Gate Boys Choir online. Go to www.ggbc.org and make a secure donation via JustGive.org. Donations are used to provide sponsorship to boys who would otherwise be unable to join the choir.

For Immediate Release

Performance Schedule

- Sunday, June 29: St. Bernadette Catholic Church, Silver Spring – Mass, 11:00 AM
- Sunday, June 29: St. Bernadette Catholic Church, Silver Spring – Concert, 7:00 PM
- Monday, June 30: Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Millennium Stage – Concert, 6:00 PM
- Tuesday, July 1: Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle – Mass, 12 Noon
- Thursday, July 3: Walter Reed Army Medical Center – Concert, 11 AM
- Thursday, July 3: Ben's Chili Bowl – Mini-Concert, 1 PM
- Friday, July 4: The White House – Independence Day Parade with Pueri Cantores, 11:45 AM
- Friday, July 4: Washington DC VA Medical Center – Concert, 1:30 PM
- Saturday, July 5: National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Pueri Cantores 2008 "Festival of the Americas", 6:45 Prelude, 7:30 Mass