

Press Release....*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**Schola Cantorum presents "Heaven's Lullaby:"**

**A Tribute to Royal Stanton**

Saturday, November 5, at 8:00 PM

Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 6, at 3:00 PM

First Congregational Church of Palo Alto

MOUNTAIN VIEW (October 13, 2011)

Schola Cantorum presents special concerts in Sunnyvale and Palo Alto on November 5 and 6 to honor its founder, Royal Stanton. "Heaven's Lullaby", music for chorus and orchestra, features Faure's *Requiem*, a profoundly tender and poignant work in its original orchestration, and Cherubini's *Requiem*, marked by rhythmic intensity and dramatic impact.

When Schola founder Royal Stanton came to Los Altos Hills in the early nineteen sixties to serve as the chairman of the Fine Arts Department at the newly opened Foothill College, he recognized immediately that something was missing. Silicon Valley had no major choral group serving the community.

In 1964, he began auditioning community members and soon enough had assembled a chorus of over 100 talented singers. He was not surprised at the depth of talent he found, he was only surprised that such a vocal ensemble, one dedicated to the choral arts, had not before been organized. He went on to lead Schola as its conductor and artistic director for 18 years. Thanks to Royal's early efforts, Schola Cantorum continues today as a vibrant nonprofit organization now in its 48th year.

Who was Royal? Royal Waltz Stanton (1917-1995) was a nationally known choral conductor and teacher. Born in Santa Monica and educated at UCLA, Stanton directed music at the high school and college levels. Before being recruited by Foothill College, he founded Schola Cantorum Long Beach, a symphonic choir with which Marilyn Horne performed. Upon coming north, he pioneered innovative ways to reach out to the broader singing community by establishing the popular Summer Sings. He launched the annual Messiah Sing-Along, the longest running in California, which takes place each December at the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts. Both programs continue to this day.

Royal would be proud of the legacy he left. A remarkable number of current singers boast they got their start under Royal. Deborah Anderson, of Los Gatos, remembers him fondly, "He was talented, handsome, and charismatic. He touched people's lives through his vision and strong presence. I remember vividly how he conducted us at rehearsals, always urging us to meet his standards of choral artistry."

Another singer from the Stanton era, John Ehrman, of Sunnyvale, observes, "I have been with Schola for 46 years and I am continually impressed with the new talent we attract. Our singers achieve a high level of choral excellence each season."

Today, Schola's music director, Gregory Wait, embodies many of the artistic qualities Royal brought to the group. The recipient of the Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching in the Music Department at Stanford, Maestro Wait also holds the Arts Leadership Award by the Arts Council Silicon Valley for his tireless work in the support of the choral arts. Says Schola Executive Director Mary Powell, "Greg is in his 22<sup>nd</sup> year with us. We can truly say that the legacy Royal started is being continued by Greg in an extraordinary way. The singers love him, and so do our audiences. No one could better do justice to the memory of Royal Stanton than Greg Wait."

The Royal Stanton Memorial Concert is funded by the Hurlbut-Johnson Foundation. Tickets for may be purchased online in advance or at the door starting one hour before the concert. Visit [www.scholacantorum.org](http://www.scholacantorum.org) or contact Mary Powell, Executive Director for Schola Cantorum at [mary@scholacantorum.org](mailto:mary@scholacantorum.org) or 650-254-1700. Schola Cantorum is located at 2218 Old Middlefield Way, Suite G, Mountain View, CA 94043.

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