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YOUNG WOMEN'S CHORAL PROJECTS OF SAN FRANCISCO ANNOUNCES DR. MARTÍN BENVENUTO AS INTERIM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SAN FRANCISCO (April 21, 2022) – The Board of **Young Women's Choral Projects of San Francisco** (YWCP) announced today that **Dr. Martín Benvenuto** will serve as the Interim Artistic Director and Head of Staff for the 2022-23 season. Dr. Benvenuto will fill the position following YWCP Founding Director, **Dr. Susan McMane**, who will retire in July 2022 after 10 years at the helm.

"Dr. Benvenuto is one of the Bay Area's finest conductors, and is a person of great integrity and excellent musical skills," says **Dr. McMane**, "He has a passion for finding great repertoire and commissioning new works, in addition to impressive work with treble choirs. We are thrilled to have him join YWCP."

Dr. Benvenuto brings a strong academic background and extensive choral experience to YWCP. A native of Buenos Aires, Dr. Benvenuto holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting from Boston University, a Master's degree in voice and conducting from Westminster Choir College, and an undergraduate degree in music with honors from the Universidad Católica. Dr. Benvenuto is the Founder and Artistic Director of 21v, a Bay Area professional ensemble of soprano and alto voices of all gender identities with a focus on music of the 21st century of the Americas. He has served as Artistic Director of the Peninsula Women's Chorus, WomenSing, and the Contra Costa Children's Chorus, and was on the faculty of the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir. Dr. Benvenuto recently served in an interim position at iSing (Silicon Valley) where he conducted their top young women's chorus.

"YWCP has solidified its reputation as a prestigious choral organization thanks to the foundation that Dr. McMane has built through her passion for transforming the lives of young women through music," says **Martha Daetwyler, President of the YWCP Board of Directors**. "We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Benvenuto to lead YWCP through this transition as we head into the next 10 years of growth, continuing to impact the lives of hundreds of young singers through exceptional artistry in choral performance.

"As a treble choir specialist, it is exciting to build upon the solid foundation of excellence and community that Susan McMane created to transform the lives of young women," says **Dr. Benvenuto**. "One of the silver linings of the COVID-19 pandemic has been a renewed awareness

of choral music's power to remind us of the essential. Choral music engages us in something unique that is greater than the sum of its parts. And that requires discipline, creativity, integrity, commitment, and spiritual and physical strength, values of course that we carry on into our daily lives. I look forward to bringing my passion and energy to the organization, and to connect with each and every singer through the unique power of music.”

On **Thursday, June 23, 2022**, Dr. McMane will lead the Young Women’s Chorus in a farewell concert, [Au Revoir](#). Her final San Francisco performance will serve as the tour send-off concert before she joins Young Womens’ Chorus on their summer tour, followed by her subsequent retirement.

About the Young Women's Choral Projects of San Francisco

The Young Women’s Choral Projects of San Francisco, led by Artistic and Executive Director Susan McMane, is recognized as a world-class choral organization for young women. Founded in 2012, YWCP includes six levels of choral experience for young women ages 4-18 from across the San Francisco Bay Area. YWCP’s mission is to transform the lives of young women through exceptional artistry in choral performance and bring the expressive power of their music to the community, the nation, and the world. Through YWCP, participants of diverse backgrounds find their voices as singers, artists and women in a nurturing environment that empowers them to achieve artistic and personal excellence. The collaborative experience of high-quality music education and choral performance foster the development of each individual young woman and teach her important life skills. Learn more at www.ywcp.org.

About the Young Women’s Chorus

The Young Women’s Chorus is YWCP’s premiere performing ensemble. Comprised of singers who exhibit excellent vocal technique and exceptional musicianship skills, YWC sings challenging choral music for women’s voices, emphasizing classical compositions from all eras, including world music, jazz and Broadway selections. Led by YWCP Artistic Director, Dr. Susan McMane, YWC presents an annual concert series in the San Francisco Bay Area, tours annually nationally or internationally, and appears with renowned guest artists.

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