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February 2012

***Song Gathering:  
The Fifth Annual Festival of New Music for Treble Voices***

Under the artistic direction of Martín Benvenuto, some of the Bay Area's finest women's and children's choirs come together to spotlight new music being written for treble voices. San Francisco's Volti shares the stage with the Peninsula Women's Chorus, Ancora and Ensemble from the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir, Bella Voce, and Musae.

A highlight of the program will be the premiere of *Song-Gatherings*, co-commissioned by participating choirs especially for this festival. Composer Eric Tuan, currently a student at Stanford and a graduate of the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir program, sets texts by the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore, in the poet's own English translations.

Peninsula Women's Chorus and Ensemble will also join to sing the dramatic *Urok*, by Slovenian composer Lozje Lebic. The singers cast the spell "Urok" as they chant, using sticks and stones to enhance the magic. They command "Urok" to take the evil or disease out of the innermost part of the body, the bone marrow, then out of the bone, the flesh and, finally, out through the hair, and send it "nine elbows deep into the ground."

The idea for the festival sprang from the realization that several of the most nationally- and internationally-acclaimed treble choirs, all leaders in commissioning and performing new music, reside in the Bay Area. As a professional choir dedicated to new music, Volti initiated the Festival of New Music for Treble Voices in 2007 to support performances of this innovative repertoire. Martín Benvenuto succeeded Robert Geary as the Festival's artistic director in 2011.

Saturday March 10, 4 pm  
All Saints Episcopal Church  
555 Waverley Street, Palo Alto

Ticket prices:

\$20 General Admission, \$15 for Seniors (65 & over), FREE for Students (21 & under, with ID)

[www.VoltiSF.org/tickets](http://www.VoltiSF.org/tickets)  
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## About Volti

Volti's twenty professional singers, under the direction of founder and Artistic Director Robert Geary, are dedicated to the discovery, creation, and performance of new vocal music. The ensemble's mission is to foster and showcase contemporary American music and composers, and to introduce contemporary vocal music from around the world to local audiences. The group has commissioned more than 70 new works, by emerging as well as established composers.

Hailed by San Francisco Classical Voice as "possibly the finest collection of chamber singers in the country," Volti boasts a 32-year track record of some of the most sophisticated vocal performances in the nation. Composers seek opportunities to partner with these stellar musicians, who are known for their sheer technical brilliance as well as their vibrant, passionate sound. Nationally recognized as a pioneer in new vocal music, Volti is the first and only ensemble to have won the ASCAP/Chorus America Award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music six times, a testament to the fresh perspective and new voices the group brings to life.

Art is redefined in every generation by the best and the brightest, artists who are paying attention to the world around them. Volti seeks composers who explore timely issues of the modern human experience. At a typical Volti concert you might hear music addressing such topics as social justice, responsible citizenship, different conceptions of God/spirit, political strife, class distinctions, even Internet culture. Volti explores the nexus between poetry and sound, the translation of inspiration to creation, the evocative power of an artist compelled to express this thing, at this time, in this way. At its best, it's the aural equivalent of a sunspot – an explosion of energy, a flash of brilliance, a glimpse of some eternal truth seen in a new and breathtaking way.

Volti presents intelligent music for listeners who want both cerebral and emotional stimulation and fulfillment – a visit to a modern art museum for your ears. We hope that our audiences come away feeling enriched, enlightened, moved, and challenged to think deeply.

For more information, visit [VoltiSF.org](http://VoltiSF.org)  
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