

Napa Valley Choral Society

Jan Lanterman, Artistic Director

Post Office Box 2774
Napa, CA 94558
(707) 261-6165
info@napavalleychorale.org

Contact: Kim Markovich
(707) 226-7729

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MARKOVICH APPOINTED TO LEAD THE NAPA VALLEY YOUTH CHORUS

Jan Lanterman, Artistic Director of the Napa Valley Choral Society, recently announced that Kim Markovich, K - 8 music teacher at Blue Oak School, will assume leadership of the Napa Valley Youth Chorus beginning with the fall 2008 season. Under Markovich's direction, the Youth Chorus will be restructured into three groups: The NAPA VALLEY CHILDREN'S CHORUS, a performing chorus open to boys and girls entering grades 3 through 5; VOICES UNLIMITED, an advanced auditioned group open to young people in grades 6 through 8; and the NAPA VALLEY MINI-SINGERS, directed by Mike Riendeau, for children entering grades K through 3.

Formerly directed by Sharon Olson, the Napa Valley Youth Chorus joined the Napa Valley Choral Society family two years ago, as part of its ongoing goal of providing opportunities for lifelong participation in choral singing. The Choral Society encompasses the Napa Valley Chorale conducted by Lanterman and Mark Teeters, Aurora Voce coordinated by Lanterman, and the former Napa Valley Youth Chorus. Future plans call for development of a senior citizens choral ensemble.

Olson founded the Napa Valley Youth Chorus (originally part of the After-School Music Program) fourteen years ago with a vision of providing the children of Napa Valley with an opportunity to experience the fine tradition of choral singing while developing their singing voices in a healthy way. "There have been many memorable moments during my years with the Youth

Chorus," notes Olson. "My greatest joy has been having members of the Youth Chorus singing with me as third and fourth graders and watching them develop their talent and mature into seasoned performers. Their commitment and dedication have inspired me. It has been my joy and privilege to conduct the NV Youth Chorus. I have very mixed emotions at this time, but I'm excited about the future of the NVYC. I know it is in very capable hands, and it will be fun for me to watch (and listen) as they continue to make a joyful noise!"

Mike Riendeau, music teacher at Phillips Charter School, will continue to lead the Napa Valley Mini-Singers, and will work with kindergarten through third grade students to prepare them to participate in the performing choir.

"All of us in the Napa Valley Choral Society family are pleased to welcome Kim Markovich as she takes over the direction of the young people's choirs," said Lanterman. "Her enthusiasm and energy to continue the legacy begun by Olson, while at the same time infusing the program with her own talents and skills is most exciting."

Markovich's groups will participate with the Napa Valley Chorale for this year's Holiday Concert featuring Dave Brubeck's "La Fiesta de la Posada," which will be performed on December 14, 2008 at First United Methodist Church. The Brubeck piece is a retelling of the story of the Posada, a processional throughout the village in search for room at the inn. "Members of the Napa Valley Chorale are eager to have the new groups join them in the performance," said Karen Frost, president of the Chorale.

For more information about enrollment or registration in the Napa Valley Children's Chorus, Voices Unlimited or the Napa Valley Mini-Singers, contact Kim Markovich at 707-226-7729 or kmarkovich@blueoakschool.org. More information about the December performance and/or about the Napa Valley Chorale may be obtained at 707-261-6165 or www.napavalleychorale.org.