

Press Release:

San José, CA – The Board of Directors of **Vivace Youth Chorus of San José** is pleased to announce the appointment of **Kristina Nakagawa** as the organization’s next Artistic Director, effective in January 2021. The appointment was announced Monday, July 20, 2020, by **Teresa Meyer-Calvert**, President of the Board of Directors, founder and retiring Artistic Director **Peggy Spool**, and Executive Director **Joshua Lanam**.

“On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am excited to welcome Kristina Nakagawa to Vivace,” wrote Meyer-Calvert. “Kristina’s extensive background in choral conducting, teaching, and performing will offer our singers exciting new opportunities. As a proud parent of a Vivace singer, she is deeply connected to our community. I look forward to the continued growth and success of our organization under her leadership.”

Upon the announcement, Nakagawa commented, “I am truly honored to be selected as the next Artistic Director of Vivace Youth Chorus. I have been an admirer of Vivace for several years as both a musician and a parent. Peggy Spool, with the Board of Directors and staff, has built an organization that is a San José treasure. Together, we have some incredible opportunities ahead of us, and we will need to be creative in today's landscape. I look forward to working with the entire Vivace community to continue to offer a musical experience that is not only at a high standard, but is also inclusive and full of joy.”

Nakagawa has been teaching, directing, and performing in Silicon Valley since 2001. She is the founding artistic director of Resounding Achord, an adult mixed-voice auditioned community choir in San José. Since 2015, she has served on the board of directors of the California Choral Directors Association, where she currently chairs the state convention at the California All-State Music Education Conference.

Prior to her appointment, Nakagawa conducted choirs at San José State University, University of California, Irvine, and West Valley College and was the choir director at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Willow Glen. She has taught K-12 vocal music, most recently at Pinewood School in Los Altos Hills, and worked in the admission and development offices at San José Choral Productions and Hillbrook School in Los Gatos. Her school choirs consistently received superior rankings at California Music Educators Association festivals and gold awards at Heritage Festivals in Anaheim. She has prepared choirs for several major works, including Faure’s *Requiem*, John Rutter's *Gloria*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Mozart’s *Requiem*, Hadyn's *Lord Nelson Mass*, and Bernstein’s *Mass*, an SJSU production that included several Vivace singers. She also worked as the musical director for several productions, including *The Wedding Singer*, *Once On This Island*, *The Pajama Game*, *Working*, and *Once Upon a Mattress*, among others.

Nakagawa holds a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from UC Irvine, a master's degree in choral conducting from San José State University, and additional training in the Kodály concept of music education from Holy Names University.

When asked about her successor, Spool responded, “She brings a wealth of experience to Vivace, having taught elementary and high school music, as the founder of Resounding Achord—an outstanding community chorus—and as a parent of a young Vivace singer. I look forward to our collaboration in the coming months as I prepare to turn over the helm and to the coming years under Ms. Nakagawa's excellent leadership!”

ABOUT VIVACE YOUTH CHORUS OF SAN JOSE

Vivace Youth Chorus provides youth with the opportunity to experience the power and poetry of song in an inclusive, co-educational, and nurturing environment that fosters community, confidence, and artistic growth, and creates awareness of our participants' cultures and shared human experience.

Vivace is a San José-based nonprofit choral music education organization with 13 youth programs. The programs balance vocal training, music literacy and theory, and performance, while providing exposure to various musical genres, including European classical music, traditional folk, world musics, jazz, and American popular music.

When founded in 2003, Artistic Director Peggy Spool and the Board were concerned with creating a quality choral music education program in the South Bay. During Spool's tenure, the organization has grown considerably, from having one director and three choirs spanning ages 6 to 13 to having six directors, six choirs for ages 6 to 18, a supplemental a cappella ensemble, a class for 4 to 5 year olds, and three summer programs.

Vivace recently performed at the 2020 California All-State Music Education Conference and embarked on an international tour to San José, Costa Rica, to perform in some of the finest venues in the country and visit school choirs in other major cities. Previous touring and festival appearances have included an Eastern Canada Tour, the "Sing-A-Mile High" Festival in Colorado, the Pacific Rim Children's Chorus Festival in Hawaii, the Pacific International Children's Choir Festival in Oregon, and the International Children's Choir Festival at Canterbury Cathedral, England.

A sought-after collaborator, Vivace regularly performs with the South Bay's finest ensembles, including Opera San José, San José Chamber Orchestra, San José Symphonic Choir, The Choral Project, Peninsula Cantare, Resounding Achord, Nova Vista Symphony, and San José Wind Symphony. Recent collaborations have included performances of Bernstein's *Mass*, Vaughan Williams' *Hodie*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Rutter's *Mass of the Children*, Bizet's *Carmen*, Puccini's *La bohème*, Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*, and *A Charlie Brown Christmas* with Grammy-nominated pianist/composer/arranger David Benoit. In addition to collaborative performances, Vivace frequently sings at civic events, such as the City of San José's Make Music Day and Experiments in Sound series.

For more information about auditions for Vivace's upcoming programs—starting on August 17—please visit www.vivaceyouthchorus.org.