



# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **El Camino College Students to Perform at Carnegie Hall**

The El Camino College chorale, concert choir and women's chorus will travel to New York this month to perform Mozart's "Solemn Vespers" at the famed Carnegie Hall, led by ECC choral director Joanna Nachef.

Nachef, who will make her third conducting appearance at Carnegie Hall, will also lead choruses from Lebanon: the American University Choir of Beirut; The Antonine University Choir, Hadath-Baabda; and Notre Dame University-Louaize Choir.

"I chose to invite three choral groups from three major universities in Lebanon. During my sabbatical, I visited Lebanon and worked with these groups and in July, I returned to Lebanon and presented a concert of "Spirituals and Gospel Music" with these singers at the Al-Bustan Festival," Nachef said.

"My desire was to bridge the American and Lebanese cultures with the universal language of music. I hope to instill in future generations the resolve to be 'Ambassadors of Harmony' with cultural collaborations, such as this, that exemplify the best form of 'soft diplomacy'."

Other South Bay choirs performing the Mozart work are the California Academy of Math & Science Choir from Carson, Los Cancioneros Master Chorale, and Voce Angelicus, from Torrance.

Nachef earned a bachelor's degree in piano performance from California State University, Dominguez Hills, and master's and doctorate degrees in music from USC. Nachef is also on the faculty of California State University Dominguez Hills, the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, and is the Artistic Director for Los Cancioneros Master Chorale. As a church musician, she served as Minister of Music at Peninsula Community Church from 1980 - 1997, and is the current choir director.

Among other honors, Nachef is the recipient of the 2005 Excellence in Arts Award for Music by the City of Torrance, and the 2008 *Daily Breeze*/Torrance Performing Arts Consortium's "Making a Difference" director's award.

In May 2008, the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C., selected Nachef to participate in the Global Peace and Security Seminar for community college faculty.

El Camino College students to perform in Carnegie Hall include: Brittany Alatorre, Christina Alvarado, Louise Bahar, Carlos Barrera Edward Benford, Haley Bill, Deborah Blair-Porter, Chris Craig, Agnes Garcia, Adrienne Fairley, Sabrina Fuster, Brianna Halpern, Jennie Harris, Elizabeth Harwell, Ben Horvat, Diana Jenki, Deceny Jones, Haley Jones, Saul Jordan, Brian Kawagoe, Candace Lee, Colleen Magera, Brian Masson, Steve McClain, Karen Mohan, Anthony Moreno, Paule Nahas, Sarah Nichols, Ashley Prewitt, Liana Rabay, Patrice Reiss, Rodney Rose, Dante Ross, Lizbeth Sanchez, Olivia Seraphim, Errin Smith, Chelsea Stager, Erin Tyson, Kimberly Villegas, Marcia Whistler, and Magaly Zamora.

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