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Renowned Boys Choir of Harlem Returns to San Luis Obispo

SAN LUIS OBISPO - "Irresistible," "unforgettable," "inspirational," and "thrilling" are some critical raves for the Boys Choir of Harlem, making their triumphant return engagement to the Christopher Cohan Center on Thursday, February 20, at 8:30 p.m. (Please note special curtain time.)

Cal Poly Arts presents the BCH, whom the New York Daily News called "...one of the finest of its kind, splendidly disciplined in tone quality, precision, balance, and intonation." The Kansas City Star reported, "It was as if one single voice had developed the ability to sing chords."

The Boys Choir of Harlem just celebrated the 34th Anniversary of its 1968 founding by Walter J. Turnbull and has become internationally recognized for its virtuoso performances and innovations in the thousand-year-old art of the boy choir.

The BCH is known for the breadth of its repertoire, which ranges from staples of the European canon such as Haydn, Bach, and Mozart through more modern composers such as Ginastera and Poulenc, to contemporary works from such artists as Bernstein and Hailstork.

African-American spirituals, gospels, jazz, pop, and hip-hop are choreographed to give the Choir a magnetic stage presence that has won critical and popular acclaim.

The San Luis Obispo program will include Mozart's "Coronation Mass," spirituals and gospel selections, jazz medleys, Broadway favorites, and special musical tribute to Martin Luther King.

The Choir averages 100 engagements in over 24 states annually and four

Asian tours have included performances in Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

The group makes frequent television appearances and recently released two CD's, recorded with stars such as Kathleen Battle and Florence Quivar. BCH music was also featured on the soundtrack of the film, "Glory."

BCH, Inc.'s accomplishments include the 1997 debut of The Girls Choir of Harlem at New York's Alice Tully Hall, which was the lead story that following morning in The New York Times. The concert was also featured on CBS' "60 Minutes."

BCH has an ongoing campaign to replicate its program across the country, which is supported by the Kellogg Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. Other honors include President Clinton's 1997 bestowal of the National Medal of Arts upon Dr. Turnbull and The Boys Choir of Harlem.

Tickets for the performance range from \$32 - \$44, with student discounts available, and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call 805/756-2787; to order by fax: 805/756-6088.

This performance is sponsored by La Cuesta Inn.

Co-presented by KCBX FM 90.1.

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