

## **Community Impact Statement – The Choral Project for the Winter’s Gift: Comfort and Joy Concert**

Each December, Winter’s Gifts, the long-standing collaboration between The Choral Project and the San José Chamber Orchestra, returns as a beloved Santa Clara tradition. While the theme shifts each season to reflect the music and mood (this year’s offering was Winter’s Gifts: “Comfort & Joy,” the heart of the experience remains the same: an hour rooted in warmth, reflection, and shared humanity.

The concert weaves together choir, orchestra, and soloists, with music from around the world, creating an experience that is festive, thoughtful, and deeply moving. Its wide appeal lies in that balance of offering moments of lightness & celebration alongside quieter spaces for contemplation. For many patrons, it is a rare opportunity to enjoy music of this scale and quality close to home, without traveling beyond the South Bay. A patron shared, “It was fantastic! This was my first time attending and I will definitely be back!”

Thoughtful accessibility is part of what makes this concert program feel welcoming. Complimentary trolley service before and after the performance allows patrons with mobility challenges to fully participate, even as the surrounding campus has evolved. These details ensure the concert remains inclusive and community-centered.

Over nearly three decades, a loyal audience has grown around Winter’s Gifts. Families return year after year, bringing children and grandchildren, creating traditions that span generations. One young man shared, “My annual holiday gift to my grandmother was simply time together. After attending once, this concert became the experience she now requests every year.” In moments like these, Winter’s Gifts becomes memory.

We are deeply thankful for the support of the City of Santa Clara this year and for its commitment to accessible culture and family connection through longstanding traditions like Winter’s Gifts. By making experiences like Winter’s Gifts possible, the City helps ensure that music is not only preserved, but passed on—inviting young listeners into moments of wonder, curiosity, and joy. These shared experiences create a natural pipeline where the love of art is discovered early, nurtured over time, and carried forward across generations. In this way, Santa Clara affirms that the arts are not just events, but living traditions that continue to shape and connect its community. One young student, Ana age 11, stated after seeing her first concert, “I want to be a singer.” That says it all!