

## **Magnolia Chorale Director's Vision Illuminates Dec 2 and 3 Concerts**

By Dr. Jean-Marie Kent, Director, Magnolia Chorale

Breathe, I tell myself when I'm listening to the news. And in that moment of silence I calm myself...And then I take time to think about where we have come from...And then I think about where I would like us to be: people who listen first, who feel what others are suffering, who hope for something more.

This is why Karl Jenkins's Mass speaks so deeply to me. Thinking about where we have come from, he begins with a medieval tune that pervaded pubs and churches: "Each man shall arm himself with a coat of armor. He will be feared." From there, Jenkins takes us on a journey. In the end, he turns the tune to the major mode, and we sing with hope in a place where we would like us to be: "Better is peace than always war...Ring in the thousand years of peace."

Also on our program is Caldwell and Ivory's inspirational and moving Hope For Resolution. This powerful piece juxtaposes two musical thoughts: a European chant melody and an anti-apartheid song. The two pieces exist together, never fully meshing, but finding a harmonic space to fully exist side by side.

"Of the Father's love begotten, E're the worlds began to be...."

"Hush nation, do not cry. Our God will protect us.  
Freedom we will get it. Our God will protect us."

The Magnolia Chorale invites you to join us on this musical journey that examines our stance on war, inclusion, and forgiveness. In a season that reminds us that we are ready to birth new ideas, we sing about our love for family and friends.

We have invited Ballard High School and McClure Middle School to join us on our programs to remind us of the hope that young singers bring. With their beauty and energy, they encourage us to sing a song that unites us.