

For Immediate Release:

Travel “Around the World at Christmas” from the comfort of your CD player!

Richmond, BC – Richmond Orchestra & Chorus Association is thrilled to announce the release of our first CD entitled “Around the World at Christmas”, which was recorded live in December 2005 during our “World Christmas” concerts in Richmond and Tsawwassen. The CD features the Richmond Chorus and WorldFest Ensemble led by Ed Henderson.

Brigid Coult, Richmond Chorus director, says this CD is the culmination of a number of Christmas dreams. “I’d known of Ed Henderson’s arrangements and the work of WorldFest Ensemble for some years, so dream number one was to be able to offer that program with them”, said Coult. “I was excited when the generosity of the BC Arts Council, through the BC Choral Federation, made that dream a possibility last season.

Dream two was realized when the right combination of a good sound engineer, the willingness of the musicians to allow their performances to stand, and the excitement of the Chorus with this program suddenly brought that dream within reach.

“The Chorus always loves doing a variety of music, but this program stood out for us as a whirlwind tour of Christmas traditional music, full of energy and colour” said Coult. “The inevitable question “when can we do that again?” is partially answered by this CD, which allows the listener a taste of a wonderful concert experience.”

The CD has 17 tracks of Christmas music from 12 countries and three continents, from Canada to the Ukraine, South America and parts in between. Truly a global celebration of the most wonderful time of the year!

“Around the World at Christmas” retails for \$20 and is available at Noteworthy Music, 6760 No. 3 Road, Richmond, or from the Richmond Orchestra & Chorus, 604-276-2747 or www.roca.ca.

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The Richmond Orchestra & Chorus

The Richmond Orchestra & Chorus Association has been entertaining Richmond audiences since 1986. Guided by our dedicated conductors Chris Robertson and Brigid Coult, the Orchestra & Chorus are committed to providing an opportunity in the Richmond community for amateur musicians to share the joy of music in practice and performance. Our talented instrumentalists and singers look forward to performing a variety of music throughout the season: from the beauty of the classics, through seasonal traditions and the uplifting passion of sacred and spiritual, to the delights of folk, jazz, modern and show tunes. Members range in age from high school students to seniors; they come from all walks of life, and welcome the opportunity to share their love of music with a wider audience.

Brigid Coult, Chorus Conductor

Brigid Coult trained and worked in England until coming to Canada in 1982. She has been directing Richmond Chorus since 1994, and in her hands the Chorus has grown both in numbers and musicianship. Currently she is Director of Music at St Mary's Kerrisdale Anglican Church, and she has also served on diocesan and national church committees. She still sings at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver, when she has time, sometimes leading the music at Compline services, and she has been a member of Canada's award-winning women's choir, ELEKTRA.

Ms. Coult was President of the British Columbia Choral Federation for 13 years, and is now a member of the President's Advisory Council, as well as chairing the Willan Council and running the annual Choral Directorship Course; she has served with the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors (ACCC) as National Youth Choir liaison and as President, and she is currently on the Board of ChoralNet. She was involved in the planning and execution of the World Symposium on Choral Music (III) held here in Vancouver in 1993, the World of Children's Choirs – 2001, and the recent ACCC /BCCF ChorPodium conference, held in Victoria in 2006. She teaches voice and piano locally, and has served as an adjudicator and choral clinician for festivals throughout BC.

Worldfest Ensemble

Formerly of the Juno award winning Ancient Cultures, the members of The Worldfest Ensemble are: Sal Ferreras, Joseph Pepe Danza, Rene Hugo Sanchez, Rene Worst and leader Edward Henderson.

This dynamic group of musicians, as an ensemble, have made two CDs: THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS (as Ancient Cultures), and A WORLD CHRISTMAS (with the Vancouver Chamber Choir) and as individuals have performed on, or produced many other CDs.

the Worldfest ensemble instrumentation:

The five members of The Worldfest Ensemble play instruments from around the globe including: kena, zampona, rondador, dizi, shakuhachi, ocarina, silver flute, eagle flute, classical guitar, 12 string guitar, tiple, charango, cuatro, acoustic and electric bass, djembe, udu, didgeridoo, congas, bombo, marimba, vibes, crotales, glockenspiel, chimes, and more...

the Worldfest ensemble biographies:

René Antonio Hugo Sanchez, born in Apurimac, Peru, he learned to play mandolin and recite poetry at age of 5 and started touring at age of 8. Later, he collected around 100 Andean instruments and learned to play all of them. After graduating at Cusco Institute of Music, René was invited to do an international tour, which brought him to Canada. In Canada, he studied at

the Vancouver Community College Music Program. René has 6 recordings and 3 books of poetry performed in more than 200 schools in B.C. and other festivals in and out of Canada. In 1996, the Peruvian Consulate in Canada honoured René as cultural ambassador of Peru. In 2003, he and his partner won the first place in the Regina Film Festival. In 2004, René was nominated Artist of the Year in the Latino American community. He participated in 2004 Vancouver International Storytelling Festival and the play "In the Time of Miracles" (Enderby, 2004).

Joseph "Pepe" Danza has been active in the performing arts for over twenty years as a composer, musical director, arranger, performer, producer, recording artist and teacher. Since 1990 he has been a member of the Juno nominated world music ensemble Asza, who represented Canada in the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. He also performs and produces for Corazon Latino, a Spanish music duo nominated for a West Coast Music Award. Joseph performs regularly with jazz-funk supergroup Soulstream and is Musical Director and Resident Composer for the multi-disciplinary ensemble Vancouver Moving Theatre, with which he has toured world-wide. He has performed and composed for ethno-fusion ensembles on four continents.

In 1998 Joseph won a Leo Award nomination for his contribution to the music for the documentary film A Place Called Chiapas and a Jessie Award nomination for his score of the theatre production The Good Person of Szechuan. He can also be heard playing percussion on the Canadian film Kissed. He is currently leading percussion workshops around Canada and the USA. He is also Artistic Director for Vancouver's first Sacred Music Festival and is excited about an upcoming CD and tour with Asza. Joseph is fluent in Spanish, English and Portuguese and conversant in Italian, French and Japanese.

Sal Ferreras, percussionist first and foremost but also producer, teacher and obsessive-compulsive world-rhythm nomad, he has collaborated in almost every musical genre on the Canadian music scene. Some of the highlights of the last few years have been his very successful appointments as: Artistic Director of International Talent and Commonwealth Drum Festival at the equally successful 15th Commonwealth Games Arts and Cultural Festival in Victoria and Artistic Director of the Commonwealth Performer's Midsummer's Night Gala for H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth 2. August 1996 saw Sal coordinating the largest foreign gathering of AfroCuban musicians as part of the Banff Centre's highly acclaimed Afrocubanismo '96 Festival. For the past eleven years he has served as the Music Director of the extremely successful Writer's Cabaret at the Vancouver International Writer's Festival. He currently performs with his multinational Southern Cross Quintet, his Latin percussion trio Sancocho and is principal percussionist of the CBC Vancouver Orchestra. In addition he tours and performs with the international percussion group Musaïc and the Vancouver New Music Ensemble. He holds positions in percussion and world music instruction at the music schools of the University of British Columbia, the University of Victoria, Vancouver Community College and is director of Simon Fraser University's World Percussion Intensive.

Rene Worst has been a professional bassist since 1972 and is in demand as a performer, producer and clinician. He has performed and/or recorded with such luminaries as: Chet Baker, David Bowie, Joe Pass and Jennifer Scott to name a few. He was the original bassist with Ancient Cultures on their recording with the Vancouver Chamber Choir (The Miracle of Christmas) and presently records and tours with Brazilian/Jazz Ensemble Novo Tempo.

Ed Henderson has years of experience and success in film, theater, concerts and recording as producer, arranger/orchestrator, composer, guitarist and music director. His success has been noted with many awards: a Juno for El Camino Real (Ancient Cultures), a Jesse for outstanding musical direction of "When the Rains Come", a Dora for outstanding music direction for PumpBoys and Dinettes as well as an award from the Cannes Festival for the outstanding commercial he composed, "Stamp Out Cold Feet". Recently, Ed was nominated for a Jesse for his scoring of the play Travels with My Aunt, has just been nominated for another Jessie for his

scoring of the play Elizabeth Rex, and as Best Producer for the West Coast Music Awards for his production of "Endless" by Silk Road an album which did take the honors as Best World Music Album also a nomination at that years Junos as Best World album.

Ed recently produced the score for Storyeum, which included composing music for and conducting The Vancouver Symphony. He is a member of the group Tangissimo who performed to sell out audiences recently at Music In the Morning in Vancouver. Ed was Assistant Conductor of Showboat, presented in the Ford Centre for the Performing Arts in Vancouver and Music Director/Producer for Jeff Hyslop's self titled CD and one man show Feet First. His symphonic concert arrangements have been performed across the country by: Tom Jackson, Victor Young, Jane Lewis, Diane Stapley, Riki Turofsky, Hamilton's Bach Elgar Choir and the members of Tapestry Music Theatre and many others. He has worked with many more of Canada's finest performers including Brent Carver, Ann Mortifee, Leon Bibb, Sharon, Lois and Bram, Ron Small, Deborah Cox, Laura Smith, Patricia Conroy, Susan Gilmore, Frank Mackay, and Michael Burgess. Recently Ed has been touring Canada performing with Chilliwack, the band his brother Bill formed in the 60's. He has created music for several healing/meditation recordings, for the BC Cancer Clinic, featuring Lis Smith.