

**2001**

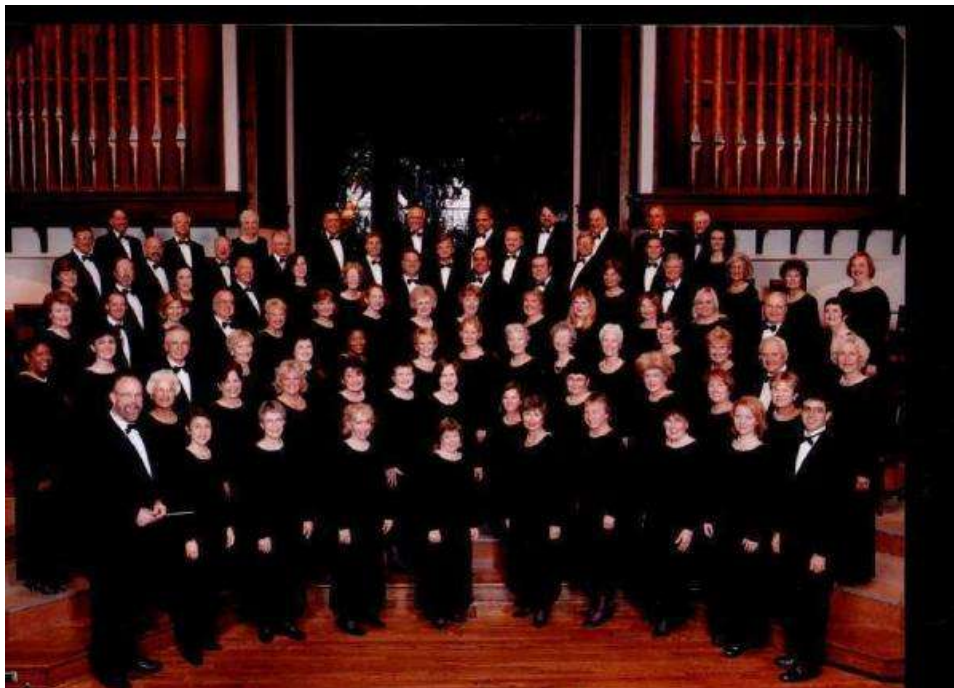
**the CHOIR OF THE MENLO PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
presented a**

**CHARITY CONCERT**

**for the benefit of the**

**Gabor Sztehlo Foundation for the Support of Children and Youth**

**on May 27, at 18<sup>h</sup> in the Lutheran Church of Bécsi kapu tér**



**The Menlo Park (California) Presbyterian Church Choir**

**gave a concert on May 27, 2001**

**with the scope of the Sunday Evening Worship**

**for the memory of Gabor Sztehlo and the 10-years activity of the  
Gabor Sztehlo Foundation for the Support of Children and Youth**

**in the Lutheran church of Bécsi kapu tér**

*Opening words*

**Ovid Young Orison III**

**Georg Friedrich Händel Praise the Lord!**

**Daniel Gawthrop Sing a Mighty Song**

**Daniel Pinkham Glory in Excelsis**

**Robert Leaf Have you heard**

**William Mathias Nativity Carol**

**Alexander Peloquin Gathering Song**

**William Walton What Cheer?**

**Russell Nagy In the Upper Room**

**André Thomas African Noel**

**Craig Courtney I Am with You**

**John Ness Beck I Need Thee Every Hour**

**Johann Cruger, arr. Mark Hayes Now Thank We All Our God**

*Preaching*

**American Melody, arr. Ron Harris Come Thou Fount**

**Robert Lowry, arr. John Rutter Beautiful River**

**Jack Schrader Order My Steps**

**Jester Hairson In Dat Great Gittin' Up Mornin'**

**Robert Ray He Never Failed Me Yet**

**Geron Davis He Brought Me Out**

**Thomas Cousins Glorious Everlasting**

**Beethoven Hallelujah**

*Benediction*

**Evening song, arr. Douglas Lawrence Oh, extend over, my Jesus,..**

**Conductor:**

**Douglas Lawrence**

**Director of the Menlo Park Chancel Choir**

*Worship service: Imre Bence Lutheran Pastor*

*The donations were collected for the*

***Gábor Sztehlo Foundation for the Support of Children and Youth***

The 128-year-old Menlo Park Presbyterian Church is located in Menlo Park, California, on the San Francisco peninsula. The Rev. Walter Gerber, senior pastor of the 5,000-member church, has served since 1974. Some 3,500 attendees are in worship for the five identical weekend services. “Our church is people—boys and girls, youth and adults. Together we are a local expression of Christ’s worldwide body of believers. We are all ministers here—to each other and to the world.”

The church has a rich choral history of some 60 years. Douglas Lawrence, Minister of Worship, has directed the Chancel Choir since 1986. The ensemble leads in worship at three Sunday morning services twelve months of the year. Over the span of one week the average choir member commits to seven hours of glorious joy and work. The result is seen as a praise offering to God and a gift to our listeners.



Douglas Lawrence has long been one of the most sought after baritones in the world. His reputation as a performer has taken him to South America's *Teatro Colon* in Buenos Aires, Argentina and the leading concert halls of Japan and Europe. In this country he has sung with every major symphony orchestra and many of our leading opera companies. He has worked extensively with conductors such as Eugene Ormandy, Seiji Ozawa, Rafael Frubeck de Burgos, Helmuth Rilling, Eduardo Mata, Sir Neville Marriner, John Nelson, Zubin Mehta, Michael Tilson Thomas, Robert Shaw, Leonard Bernstein, Hans Vonk and Simon Rattle, to name only a few.

He received both his Bachelor and Master's degrees in music from the University of Southern California. His teachers included Charles Hirt, Gwendolyn Koldofsky, William Vennard and Robert Marsteller. He has taught at El Camino College, Chapman College, Occidental College, and the University of Southern California.

Additionally, Mr. Lawrence has been a very active conductor of major choral/orchestral works of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. He is the former Artistic Director and Conductor of the Schola Cantorum, which was founded by the late Royal Stanton. Though he still sings and guest conducts frequently, Lawrence is currently concentrating on his role as Minister of Worship at the 5,000 member Menlo Park Presbyterian Church on the San Francisco Peninsula. He is personally responsible for the oversight and leadership of five duplicate weekly services. He has several associates and cares for a lay musical family of about 450.

Considered an authority on changing worship practices in the evangelical church, Mr. Lawrence is often asked to consult with churches anxious to begin a "blended" worship style. He lives with his wife Margie and their twelve-year-old daughter, Annelise, in Menlo Park, California.

### **The Gabor Sztehlo Foundation for the Support of Children and Youth**

Gabor Sztehlo (1909-1974) was a Lutheran pastor. During his whole life, he followed the true faith and helped everybody. In 1938-40, besides his holy service, he founded the Hungarian People's College Movement. In Spring 1944 he was charged to co-operate with the Calvinist "Good Shephard Association" to assist in saving Jewish children. By the Autumn 1944, it had been clear to Gabor Sztehlo that these children *could not be saved else than hiding them into hospices*. A couple of weeks was enough to him *to organize 32 children's hospices in homes of his relatives and friends in Buda and with the help of the Lutheran Church (deaconesses and the Evangelist High-School) in Pest. The homes were supported and boarded by the*

*International and the Swiss Red Cross.* Until the end of 1944, 1540 children and nurse found refuge. All of them were saved unharmed! After the war, many children were waiting for theirs in vain. Gabor Sztéhlo established a common home for the hundreds of orphans, the PAX hospice for children and babies which was a real Youth Empire. Reverend Sztéhlo tried to recover the irrecoverable, the warm parental home, with his flow of love. He was allowed to conduct this service until the nationalization of the PAX in 1951. Returning to the Church Service, he started a deaconic work: he organized hospices for handicapped children and helpless aged people, secretly visited and supplied the political deportees with board and good words or possibly saving them by the security and comfort of a hospice. He was the first Hungarian who was awarded as righteous with the Yad Vashem honour by the State of Israel (founded for non-jewish people who saved the Jews from the Holocaust).

*In 1991, a veteran team of his former saved pupils and coworkers established the Foundation Gábor Sztéhlo for Children and Youth Aid in order to return something - to others - of the great deal of welfare, care, cordiality they gained from the Denominator, including saving of life.*

*To this moral instalment, the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church Choir (California, USA) offered the donations of its concert held and cordially supported by the Congregation of the Church of Bécsi kapu Square. It is not widely known, that on the wall of this church, the first memorial table was established for Gabor Sztéhlo, and the relief above the entrance of the church was donated by an artist of us. The Foundation Gábor Sztéhlo supported 230 young people and their hospices by 7.3 million Hungarian Forint during the last 10 years, since the establishment of the Foundation...*

***NOW WE ARE TEN - the Foundation of course - we, the "Sztéhlo children" are "a little" older. Our gatherings are some 17 years old, and it was in 1991 when we decided to come out to the sunshine, and give an overt, official form to our being together - we established the Foundation as the Preisich couple suggested. Why did we come together?***

First of all to remember the days and weeks and months of the Holocaust and the years of the after-war period when Gabor Sztéhlo stood behind us and beside us and helped us grow into responsible, sensitive adults. We wish to pass on our experiences and help to the today's youth in need. Though we came to an anniversary now, you will not see here an exact diary of the past years nor columns of figures because we fear the essence might get lost behind them. What have we done during these ten years? We took over the organisation of our gatherings from the Koren couple, we visited some institutions dear to us, tried to collect our old fellows as much as possible and looked for new friends.

We did our best to make well known Gabor Sztéhlo's heroic activity, sparkling spirituality and warm personality. We published his marvellous memoir "In the Hand of God" at the third time in Hungarian and first time in English. This book is now available in the libraries all over the world. We organised an international memorial for the 50th anniversary of the Holocaust. This event took place at one of our "old" institutions whose present children inhabitants made us a ceramics picture. Every "old" participant received a part of this ceramics. Now it is time to put the parts together and complete the picture again!

We contacted a few other institutions to publish our call for applications and we asked them to help us in the evaluation. The institutions could also apply for aid for their work. We ourselves applied for different sums at different places to be able to help. The Help to Help

program of the Soros Foundation supported us with an amount of 1,500,000 Ft. The Foundation Pro Cultura Renovanda donated us a sum of 500,000 Ft. for publishing the English version of Sztihelo's book.

*And last but not least we ask you to help us continuously, as we do it right now. It was a warm feeling to be able to book the 1000 dollar donation of one of our fellows year after year, but the probably most moving donation was the first one coming from an elderly deaconess, a former co-worker of Sztihelo's: that time she sent us a sum of about one dollar.*

1998 was a mournful year for us. First our president pastor Emil Koren, then Gabor Preisich left us. The new president became Zsuzsa Merenyi. She wrote a book, a study on Sztihelo's pedagogic work and method under the title "Gabor Sztihelo, the Pedagogue of Children", which made us proud of her and him of course once more. We understood that not only the church, not only we, his "family" appreciate him, but the scientific world gave him the attention he had long deserved. We had to elect not only a new president but a new leading board as well.

During the ten years the Sztihelo Gábor Foundation donated a sum of 7,500,000 Ft, equivalent to about USD 42,000 to 230 applicants and children's Homes. Besides the financial help we try to propagate his spirit as well: all the applicants receive our leaflet "Who was Gabor Sztihelo?" and all of the Children's homes learn about his activity. At the beginning many applicants asked help to learn a profession. It was a great pleasure for us - as our original goal - to support the beginning of the life career of those growing up without parents. Coming to the present we have to face more and more human misery demanding instant solutions and threatening with a perpetuation of predicament. Let us recall only one of our cases of the recent past. We donated 5000 Ft for an applicant as an emergency aid. When the money arrived, the applicant was in jail. The prison pastor delivered him the sum with Gabor Sztihelo's book. The applicant wrote us a letter thanking for our money, our sympathy, the thoughts of Gabor Sztihelo and added that he would like to work for us when he comes out.

*Our festival concert is the fourth in its series. The first was hold by pianist Adam Fellegi in 1993 in the City Hall of Budapest; the second was the concert of Vox Hungarica with the Schutz Choir in 1998 in the Bécsi kapu tér Church and the third was the concert of the 67-member Student Orchestra of Memphis in the Deák tér Church, last summer.*

***Now we are here again to listen to the music of a 80-member choir: the choir of the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, who crossed the ocean to get acquainted with the irradiation of Gabor Sztihelo's personality and to rejoice with us. Love does not know borders as you see, not even that of continents. Uncle Gabor is watching us and is happy - not because of the celebration, he wrote "love steps in silence, doesn't think of decoration". He is happy because he sees that the chain of love -he was a main and central ring of - became longer. It embraces now continents.***