

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SCHOLA CANTORUM TO SING CHRISTIANITY'S OLDEST KNOWN HYMN  
At its Thirtieth Anniversary Sacred Music Concert at the Old Mission**

The oldest-known Christian hymn which dates from the Second Century will be sung by The Schola Cantorum of the Pacific at the choir's thirtieth anniversary Sacred Music concert on Sunday, April 29th at Old Mission San Fernando Rey, at 3pm.

The concert will feature classics of Sacred Music including some of the most difficult to sing of the Gregorian Chants, and works by renaissance composers Josquin and Palestrina, and by J.S. Bach, Tchaikowsky, Stanford, Britten and Hovhaness.

The 30-voice choir will feature conductors and cantors of the Schola, led by choir founder Fr. Ted Ley, SM, of the Marianists. Guest organist will be Msgr. Peter Nugent. Frs. Nugent and Ley are former professors of Music at St. John's Seminary.

The oldest-known Christian hymn that has musical notation is the Oxyrhynchos Fragment dating from approximately 175AD. It is in Koine (ancient common) Greek with a melody similar to a Gregorian chant, though the melodic shape is a style considerably older. The Schola Cantorum of the Pacific is believed to be the only choir in recent centuries to incorporate it into its repertoire. Fr. Ley, a musicologist, completed his realization of the papyrus at the same time as did an American scholar whose version was published. With the two versions being nearly identical, Fr. Ley's is used by the Schola. The singable section of the papyrus is the last verse of a hymn, a doxology or 'Glory be' Trinitarian verse, itself interesting to scholars of early liturgical vocabulary.