

**PALM BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Musical Collaboration Depicts Americans' Collective Journey Since 9/11**

(Lake Worth – March 18) The students wrote the poems, and the professor set the poetry to original music, naming it an oratorio, a vocal and instrumental concert that tells a sacred story. The most well known oratorio is Handel's "Messiah." Palm Beach Community College music professor Allen Webber's "American Journey" tells a secular, but still sacred, story about what Americans have experienced since 9/11.

"Our students' words served as an inspiration to depict the journey that represents our gradual process of recognizing what our values and goals are, especially in light of recent shattering events," Prof. Webber explained, "and how we draw strength from others who are taking the same journey with us."

With such song titles as "How Can a Man Have Peace?", "Song of Freedom," and "That Tuesday Morning: A Grateful Tribute to the Heroes on 9/11 Flight 93," the oratorio promises to be moving. Prof. Webber began the Sunfest Endowed Chair project in 2002, holding a poetry contest for students. A committee chose poems by students Lisa Allen MacMullen, Tuesday Gilliam, Lorianne Cabrera, Gregory Mason and Robert Myers. Prof. Webber added a poem of his own, "We Are Your Music," to express how his students inspire him. The oratorio's themes are American heroes, the struggle for peace, the quest for excellence and strength through diversity. The music features a variety of styles from reggae to Broadway with influences from jazz and serious concert music.

PBCC's Concert Chorus and Concert Band, vocal jazz ensemble The Troubadours and selected soloists will perform "American Journey" on Apr. 13 at 8 p.m. at the Eisey Campus Theatre at PBCC in Palm Beach Gardens, 3160 PGA Blvd., and on Apr. 27 at 8 p.m. at the Duncan Theatre, PBCC in Lake Worth, 4200 Congress Ave. The Gardens concert is \$5, and the Lake Worth concert is free. For more information, contact Prof. Allen Webber at (561) 868-3267. For tickets to the Palm Beach Gardens concert, call (561) 207-5900.

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