



By Janos Gereben

Young San Jose Choir to Llangollen's Old Festival

San Jose's The Choral Project, Daniel Hughes' eight-year-old chorus group, is heading to Llangollen, Wales, the only US mixed choir to compete in the 58th annual Eisteddfod, one of the world's premier music festivals. Hughes, who may be biased, thinks that "we have an excellent chance to win the 'choir of the world' competition." That — or coming even close to the title — would be a great accomplishment.

Founded in 1946 by Harold Tudor, of the *Liverpool Daily Post*, the International Eisteddfod is the oldest such festival in the world, and it has started or boosted scores of great careers, including those of Kiri Te Kanawa, Lesley Garrett, Luciano Pavarotti, Bryn Terfel, and Dame Shirley Bassey. Recent winners of the mixed-choir category included the Northridge Singers of California State University (2003), the Quintessential Vocal Ensemble of Canada (2002), and Kammarkören Sångkraft of Sweden (2000).

To warm up for the competition (and to help with travel costs, although admission is inexpensive), The Choral Project will give a "Bon Voyage" concert on June 18, at the Campbell United Methodist Church, and on June 19, in Santa Cruz's Holy Cross Church. See www.choralproject.org.