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***** MEDIA ALERT *****

Cabrillo College Symphonic Chorus Returns From Tour of Cuba

Singers Share Cultural Exchange and Performance With Grammy-Nominated Choruses

APTOS – The Cabrillo Symphonic Chorus has returned from Cuba after a wonderful 9-day tour and cultural exchange through multiple provinces and the capital city of Havana. The ensemble (whose members range from age 8 to age 75) performed for large audiences and had memorable musical exchanges in Cienfuegos, Santa Clara, Matanzas, and Havana, where they learned about the various Cuban rhythms by singing, drumming and dancing with local musicians. Performing in front of audiences as large as 3,000, concerts were collaborative, arranged through Director Cheryl Anderson’s connections with the American Association of Choral Directors after President Obama adjusted travel regulations to Cuba last summer.

“Cubans have an incredible sensibility for music,” Anderson shared, “The standing ovations were a wonderful experience, and I will always cherish these moments. Music gives us all a way to reach the soul of the people and to get closer to the spiritual world of everyone.”

With the help of their hosts, Cabrillo Symphonic Chorus members delved into the culture and traditions of Cuba, gaining new perspective and deeper understanding of the country.

"What we discovered was that there has never been a divide between the *people* of Cuba and the U.S." said chorale member, Dinah Philips, "I told those we met , 'El gente de los Estados Unidos y Cuba son hermanos' (the people of the U.S. and Cuba are brothers), and it's true - this trip was a cultural connection where we found common ground - from singer to singer, musician to musician."

The Cabrillo Symphonic Chorus will perform during the weekend of Friday, March 18 – Sunday, March 20, with the Monterey Symphony. Tickets can be purchased at cabrillovapa.com.

About Cabrillo College

Cabrillo College is a leading California community college serving Santa Cruz County with locations in Aptos and Watsonville. It is ranked #1 in transfers to UC Santa Cruz. Founded in 1959, the college offers over 100 academic and career technical education programs that serve multiple educational goals such as A.A. and A.S. degrees, certificates of achievement, skills certificates, transfer to 4-year institutions or for lifelong learning and personal enrichment. Cabrillo College is a dynamic, diverse and responsive educational community that is dedicated to helping all students achieve their academic, career, and personal development goals.