Our 1st Annual
International Women’s Day Celebration

The Rising of the Women
Is the Rising of Us All

AURORA CHORUS
Joan Szymko, Director
In concert with special guest
ANNE WEISS

First Congregational Church
1126 SW Park Avenue
Portland, Oregon

March 8, 2014
Greetings from Joan Szymko and the Board of Directors

Good evening, and welcome to our first annual International Women’s Day concert and event! Worldwide, the empowerment of women benefits children, families, and entire communities. When women rise, communities thrive. Tonight Aurora celebrates women’s empowerment with choral settings of voices from the past, women such as Abigail Adams, Virginia Woolf, and the South African women who first challenged apartheid. We also look to the future as we sing the words of Malala Yousafzai, the 16-year-old Pakistani girl who has taken a lead role in fighting for the right of every girl to receive an education. Aurora will give the world premiere performance of Joan Szymko’s “I Am Malala.”

We hope you will join us each year as we grow this event that celebrates women’s empowerment and beauty of women’s lives through the fine art of musical expression. Led by nationally renowned choral composer Joan Szymko (www.joanszymko.com), Aurora Chorus consists of around 100 singers from locally, globally, and in the hearts of all who listen and all who sing. In an atmosphere of personal growth and cooperation, Aurora is proud to provide both novice and experienced singers with an unparalleled opportunity to expand and transform a love of choral singing into an understanding and appreciation of healthy vocal production, choral technique, and musical expression. Led by nationally renowned choral composer Joan Szymko (www.joanszymko.com), Aurora Chorus consists of around 100 singers from the Portland/Vancouver area, presents several concerts each year, and performs at community outreach events that celebrates women’s empowerment and and for information or to reserve your place. Please contact Krista Thomas, Board Chair

The Aurora Experience

New Singing Opportunity for Spring 2014

You love to sing but have no choral background. Or maybe it’s been years since you last sang in a chorus. Or you used to be in Aurora and miss the singing and the community.

Then the Aurora Experience is for you! Artistic Director Joan Szymko will lead a small ensemble of entry-level singers and Aurora alums, preparing the group to perform a song on stage with the full chorus at Aurora’s June concert, viva sweet love. In addition to serious preparation there will be some serious fun! Easy songs by rote, circle singing, and rhythm circles.

When: Monday evenings, 7:00–8:30 pm, April 21–June 2. Concert date: June 8, 2014.

Where: Rehearsals will be at PSU.

Fee: $95, includes a ticket to the June viva sweet love concert ($20 value).

Please contact join@aurorachorus.org for more information or to reserve your place.

Thanks to a Longtime Supporter

On behalf of the chorus, I would like to take this opportunity to thank longtime Aurora supporter Paloma Clothing. Locally owned and operated for two decades, Paloma, in the Hillsdale Town Center, provides women with comfortable and stylish apparel in natural fibers. When I needed a special outfit on short notice, I walked into Paloma and said, “Order me.” The amazing women in the store quickly found several special outfits in just my size. I ended up with a lovely linen jacket that I can wear for dress-up, for business, or with jeans. When you visit the boutique you can rest assured that the staff will go out of their way to provide excellent customer service to you as well.

For as long as I’ve been with Aurora, Paloma has supported the chorus by purchasing ads in our concert programs. For this concert, Paloma owners Kim Osgood and Mike Roach have increased their support by providing director Joan Szymko’s concert apparel. The next time you visit Paloma, let them know that you have seen their ad in an Aurora program and thank them for their support.

Krista Thomas

Save the Date...

You won’t want to miss Aurora’s June concert, viva sweet love.

June 8, 2014, 4:00 pm & 7:30 pm

…springtime is lovetime and viva sweet love

—e.e. cummings

Come delight in the sounds and shimmering colors of springtime and romantic love as Aurora Chorus sings the music of Morten Lauridsen, Eric Whitacre, Joan Szymko, and many more, including a special “bouquet of roses” celebrating Portland’s annual Rose Festival.

Visit us online at www.AuroraChorus.org for all the details.

International Women’s Day

International Women’s Day has been observed and celebrated worldwide since the early 1900s, when it was closely aligned with the working women’s movement and the campaign for women’s suffrage. It has grown to become a global day dedicated to women’s rights and world peace, embraced by the United Nations and many governments. It is an official holiday in nearly 30 countries and is widely observed in many others.

The UN theme for International Women’s Day 2014 is “Equality for women is progress for all.”
Guest Artist Anne Weiss Performs

The Rising of the Women
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AURORA CHORUS WITH SPECIAL GUEST ANNE WEISS

As a Woman
Joan Szymko, text: Virginia Woolf
trio: Claudia Nadine, Lisa Kron, Lori Kovacevic

Samos Tejedoras
Rhiannon, text: Monica Lozano

Remember the Ladies
Carol Barnett, text: Abigail Adams

Bread and Roses
Mimi Fariña, text: James Oppenheim, arr. Joan Szymko

I Am Woman
Ray Burton, text: Helen Reddy, arr. Peg Vance
Featuring the Aurora Outreach Ensemble

Malibongwe!
(Let Women Be Praised)
Traditional South African Freedom Songs,
arr. Joan Szymko

I Am Malala
Joan Szymko, text: Joan Szymko,
world premiere adapted from quotes by Malala Yousafzai
speaker: Annie Herring

For the Mothers
Betsy Rose, arr. Joan Szymko

Woman Am 1
anon., arr. Joan Szymko

Miriam
Laura Beckson, arr. Joan Szymko
violin: Shelley Mathewson

When Every Woman
Karen MacKay, arr. Joan Szymko

Mae Frances
Bernice Johnson Reagan
solo: Anne Weiss

Guest Artist Anne Weiss Performs

Aurora Outreach Ensemble

Michelle Bahr, Director
Elaine Ball
Margaret Blake
Patricia Cormann-Wilcox

Lisa Fithian-Barrett
Terri Grayum
Harmony Griffith
Christine Hayward

Patti Harelkin
Kirsten Hays
Tina Izen
Diane Kenedy

Claudia Nadine
Jackie Rose
Michele Stender
Carol Walker
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The FREEDOM TO MARRY will be on the ballot this year in OREGON!

[LOVE OREGON UNITED FOR MARRIAGE](http://oregonunited.org/Register)