viva sweet love

AURORA CHORUS
Joan Szymko, Director

Central Lutheran Church
1820 NE 21st Avenue
Portland, Oregon

Sunday, June 8, 2014
4:00 and 7:30 pm
Greetings from the Aurora Chorus Board of Directors

On behalf of Aurora’s Board of Directors, I want to thank you for being here. This concert of love songs is for you. Who among us couldn’t use a few more love songs?

Soak them up and enjoy the show. Audience members: we love you!

If you have a good time today (I know you will), put our next season’s concerts on your calendar and plan to bring along a friend or twelve. Share the love and Aurora’s heart-opening music.

As a board, we also offer a love song to our departing board president, Krista Thomas. Krista led Aurora’s board for two years and helped it make some changes that strengthened the organization for the future. In particular, she helped us with budget transparency and making better use of our donor software. While this might not sound as beguiling as some of the lyrics you’ll hear from the stage today, it is a foundation of support for the singers. Securing strong financial support and providing good management is the board’s way of singing a love song to Aurora’s singers and our amazing artistic director, Joan Szymko. If that is the sort of “singing” you like to do, talk to me about an audition to join our board.

Viva sweet love, in all its forms.

Kristan Burkert, Aurora Board President

Aurora Board of Directors

Kristan Burkert, President
Krista Thomas, Treasurer
Rebecca Pepper, Secretary
Dorothy LaDouceur
Judi Ranton
Marilyn Lindberg
Bob Hall
Maria Peyer, Chorus Coordinator
Joan Szymko, Ex-officio
Lisa Fithian-Barrett, Scribe

Staff

Joan Szymko, Artistic Director
Michelle Bahr, Assistant Director and Outreach Ensemble Director
Signe Lusk, Accompanist
Bunny Marechal, Interim Administrative Manager
Kathy Hryciw, Bookkeeper

Aurora Chorus

Since 1992, Aurora Chorus has honored the strength and beauty of women’s lives through the fine art of choral singing. Aurora was founded on the belief that music can be a powerful instrument of peace 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 music 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 throughout the year. Aurora has produced three CD recordings: Full Circle, Solstice, and Baby, It’s Cold Outside. All are for sale in the lobby and through the chorus website. Please visit us online at www.AuroraChorus.org, your source for future events and for information about joining the chorus.

Save the Date...

This December, set aside time in your holiday calendar for Aurora’s winter concert, Light Is Returning. Rehearse in a relaxed, supportive environment, featuring vocal training, easy songs by rote, circle singing, and rhythm circles.

When: Monday evenings, 7:00–8:30 pm, dates to be determined. Concert date: December 20 or 21, 2014.

Where: Rehearsals will be at Portland State University. Fee: $95, includes a ticket to the December Light Is Returning concert ($20 value). Please contact join@aurorachorus.org for more information or to reserve a place.

The Aurora Experience

FALL/WINTER 2014

If you’re in the audience at today’s 4:00 concert, you’ll see our first group of Aurora Experience singers joining the full chorus to perform a piece they’ve been working on since April. Could that be you this winter? We invite singers with little or no choral experience, those who can’t commit to a full Aurora term, and Aurora alums who want to stay connected in a singing community to come sing with the Aurora Experience this fall.

Artistic Director Joan Szymko will prepare the group to perform a song on stage with the full chorus at Aurora’s December concert, Light Is Returning. Rehearse in a relaxed, supportive environment, featuring vocal training, easy songs by rote, circle singing, and rhythm circles.

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Artistic Director

Joan Szymko has conducted community choruses in the Pacific Northwest for over thirty years. When Joan came to Portland in 1993 to take on the leadership of Aurora Chorus, she brought extensive experience with women’s voices, composing and arranging skills, and a wide knowledge of peace and justice repertoire. In subsequent years Joan founded and directed Viriditas Vocal Ensemble, a select women’s choir. With Viriditas she collaborated with Do Jump! Movement Theater. As a resident composer with Do Jump! (1995-2012), she had the opportunity to perform her music with the company at their home theater in Portland and on tour from Broadway to Los Angeles. Joan recently joined the choral faculty at the Portland State University School of Music as director of the Vox Femina women’s choir.

Composing for choir is a natural outgrowth of Joan’s creativity as a conductor. As with her choral directing, Joan’s dedication to craft and artistry and her insistence on quality texts are reflected in her choral writing. She is a renowned composer with over 100 choral titles in print publication, and her music has been sung by distinguished ensembles across North America and abroad, enjoying performances at international competitions and festivals, at state and regional conferences, and at six consecutive National Conferences of the American Choral Directors Association. The ACDA recognized Joan’s lasting contribution to the choral arts by selecting her as the recipient of the prestigious 2010 Raymond W. Brock Memorial Commission.
Assistant Director

Michelle Bahr joined Aurora Chorus as Assistant Director in the fall of 2011. She holds degrees in music education and choral conducting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She directs the Aurora Outreach Ensemble, which brings Aurora’s message and music to various venues throughout the year.

Michelle enjoys working with singers of all ages and has more than 10 years of experience teaching choral music in schools as well as leading community, church, and children’s choirs. Besides choral music, she has a passion for musical theater and has experience on both sides of the stage, having filled many roles from stage manager to performer to conductor.

Currently, Michelle also works as the music teacher at the German American School of Portland and teaches private music lessons in Beaverton, where she resides with her husband, Dan, and baby girl, Abigail.

Accompanist

Signe Lusk studied piano accompanying at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and then continued her studies in Stuttgart, Germany. Upon returning to the United States, she worked for the Oregon Symphony as the Assistant Publicity Director. Signe has worked as staff pianist for the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. She was given the Outstanding Music Director Award for her work on Candide. She made her Carnegie Hall debut in 1998. She accompanied soprano Debra Wilke in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Artists Award Competition, where she was awarded first place. Signe has performed in concerts with Metropolitan Opera stars Jerome Hines, Nico Castel, and John Del Carlo, and she was pianist for National Trumpet Association winner Andre Dubelston. In addition, Signe has worked for Seattle, Portland, and Eugene opera companies. Currently, Signe is staff pianist at the First Unitarian Church. She also teaches privately.

From the Artistic Director

Nothing is mysterious, no human relation. Except love. — Susan Sontag

Aurora Chorus quite regularly explores what it means to truly love in a “big picture” humanitarian sense. We often sing of awakening the compassionate heart, but delving into the mysteries of the passionate heart? In an up close and personal way? It has been our delight over this spring to do just that. Today you will hear Aurora sing love songs that are silly and sublime, sensuous and downright sexy—the magnificence and vulnerability of intimate human love as expressed through the music of some truly great composers and songwriters.

Our concert begins with the music of three contemporary American composers: Leonard Bernstein, Eric Whitacre, and Gwyneth Walker. We then take a turn as we sing the vibrant mixed dance meters of Bulgarian song and present my setting of our concert title work, viva sweet love. Heartbreakingly beautiful, the melodies of Franz Schubert and Morten Lauridsen follow. Drown-in is one of the most often performed choral pieces in the world today. It is from Lauridsen’s choral song cycle Les Chansons des Roses (Rose Songs). Portland is now celebrating its annual Rose Festival, and so we join in the celebration with two pop hits from different eras that I’m sure many of you will recognize. After intermission, Aurora is especially excited to feature four individual singers from the chorus. I guarantee that their performances will tug on your heartstrings and tickle your funny bone. The full chorus returns to close out our program with some “hot and heavy” material. Sexy choral music? Just wait on your heartstrings and tickle your funny bone. The chorus will recognize. After intermission, Aurora is especially excited to feature four individual singers from the chorus. I guarantee that their performances will tug on your heartstrings and tickle your funny bone. The full chorus returns to close out our program with some “hot and heavy” material. Sexy choral music? Just wait and listen. And as always, there’ll be something for you to join in on and sing along!

In her autobiography, Katherine Hepburn said, “Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get—only with what you are expecting to give—which is everything.” Expect a lot of love to fill the air, because the women of Aurora will be giving you all we’ve got!

Viva sweet love!
Joan Szymko, Artistic Director

Solo Spotlight

We are thrilled to present some of our very own Aurora sisters as guest artists in today’s concert.

Lisa Kron cannot remember a time when singing wasn’t an important part of her life. She discovered the joy of choral singing in high school and continued to sing in various choral ensembles during her four years at St. Olaf College. In 2008, looking for an opportunity to sing again after several years’ hiatus, she joined Aurora Chorus and is forever grateful that she did. Today she is singing Hoagy Carmichael’s The Nearness of You, a song she first heard as a young teenager and never forgot.

Patricia Cornman-Wilcox has sung with a number of choirs through the years, including Portland State Community Choir and David York’s Summer Choir. She’s been singing with Aurora since 1996, and with the Outreach Ensemble since its inception in 2010. She recently studied at Transformational Voice Institute, and is now taking private voice lessons. Patricia has sung “with” Holly Near for decades; she heard Holly sing She Just Wants to Dance two years ago and has embodied the song because it spoke to her as both a singer and a dancer.

Gayle Lovejoy has been enthralled with choral singing since kindergarten, when her mother was her music teacher. She is old enough to have been recorded on vinyl in elementary school. She joined Aurora Chorus in 1998, a year after her dog learned how to say “Au-ro-ra”! Gayle is delighted to present Solo Love Song today, written by her friend Cassandra Sagan when she was “between soul mates.”

Terri Grayum is a Portland area teacher of holistic voice (terrigrayum.com). She’s been singing out in the world since she was a young girl, and with Aurora since 2009. She’s a versatile singer, moving with ease between many voices, from operatic to rock to folk. She’s written and recorded many songs. Terri wrote Road Trip after a long sabbatical from relationships—it’s the title track of her second CD with Gwen Thomas, and it’s been featured on the NPR show Car Talk.

Eileen Spencer Scholarship Fund

The Eileen Spencer Scholarship Fund was established in honor of Eileen Spencer, a devoted chorus member for nearly 15 years. The fund carries on Eileen’s desire to support Aurora and all the women who find empowerment through creativity and song.

The Fund assists chorus members with membership fees when financial challenges arise. Eileen would be pleased that women are still able to sing thanks to the generosity of our donors.

We invite you to support Aurora singers by making a contribution to Aurora Chorus earmarked for the “Eileen Spencer Scholarship Fund.”
### Solo Spotlight

#### Something’s Coming/Tonight
Leonard Bernstein / lyrics by Stephen Sondheim / arr. Ed Lojeski

#### Kalá Kallá
Eric Whitacre / poem by Hila Plitmann
II. from *Five Hebrew Love Songs*

#### I Will Be Earth
Gwyneth Walker / poem by May Swenson

#### Dilmano, Dilbero
trad. Bulgarian from Godetchka region as collected by Ethel Raim

#### viva sweet love
Joan Szymko / poem by e.e. cummings

#### you are longing, and what stills it
Friedrich Rückert, ‘Du Bist die Ruh’
reader: Wendy Street

#### Du Bist die Ruh
Franz Schubert / poem by Friedrich Rückert / arr. Joan Szymko

#### nothing can match you
Rainer Maria Rilke, from *Les Roses*
reader: Barbara Cervantes-Gautschi

#### Dirait-on
Morten Lauridsen / poem by Rainer Maria Rilke

#### to love at all is to be vulnerable
C. S. Lewis, from *The Four Loves*
reader: Patti Harelkin

#### The Rose
Amanda McBroom / arr. Julie Knowles

#### Honeysuckle Rose
Thomas "Fats" Waller / lyrics: Andy Razaf / arr. Kirby Shaw

#### Intermission

#### The Nearness of You
Hoagy Carmichael / lyrics: Ned Washington
solo: Lisa Kron

#### She Just Wants to Dance
Kevin Moore and Georgia Graper
solo: Patricia Cornman-Wilcox

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|---------------------| reader: Ruth Friedel |

| Fever               | John Davenport and Eddie Cooley / additional lyric by Kristan Burkert / arr. Kirby Shaw |
|---------------------| dancers: Amberlynn Lane, Zoe Lehr, Claudia Nadine, Judi Ranton, Michele White, Eun Jung Yi |

| Yes, You            | Bobby McFerrin / arr. J. David Moore |
|---------------------| solo: Tina Izen |

| Alley Cat Love Song | Paul Carey / poem by Dana Gioia |
|---------------------| |

| a fortunate accident | Louis de Bernières, from *Corelli’s Mandolin* |
|----------------------| reader: Judi Ranton |

| Home                 | Jade Castrinos and Alex Ebert / arr. Joan Szymko |

### Instrumentalists

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### Intermission

#### Du Bist die Ruh
by Friedrich Rückert
English translation by Lynn Thompson

**Du bist die Ruh**

- You are peace.
- The mild peace.
- You are longing
- And what stills it.

**Ich wehe dir**

- I consecrate to you
- Full of pleasure and pain
- As a dwelling here
- My eyes and heart.

**Kehr ein bei mir, und schliesse du still hinter dir die Pforten zu.**

- Come live with me.
- And close quietly behind you the gates.

#### Home
Jade Castrinos and Alex Ebert / arr. Joan Szymko

**Du bist die Ruh**

- You are peace.
- The mild peace.
- You are longing
- And what stills it.

**Ich wehe dir**

- I consecrate to you
- Full of pleasure and pain
- As a dwelling here
- My eyes and heart.

**Kehr ein bei mir, und schliesse du still hinter dir die Pforten zu.**

- Come live with me.
- And close quietly behind you the gates.

#### Road Trip
Terri Grayum

**Du bist die Ruh**

- You are peace.
- The mild peace.
- You are longing
- And what stills it.

**Ich wehe dir**

- I consecrate to you
- Full of pleasure and pain
- As a dwelling here
- My eyes and heart.

**Kehr ein bei mir, und schliesse du still hinter dir die Pforten zu.**

- Come live with me.
- And close quietly behind you the gates.

#### Solo Love Song
Cassandra Sagan

**Du bist die Ruh**

- You are peace.
- The mild peace.
- You are longing
- And what stills it.

**Ich wehe dir**

- I consecrate to you
- Full of pleasure and pain
- As a dwelling here
- My eyes and heart.

**Kehr ein bei mir, und schliesse du still hinter dir die Pforten zu.**

- Come live with me.
- And close quietly behind you the gates.
Du Narcisse exaucé.
Ainsi tu inventes le thème
par son propre reflet éclairé.

se caresse, dirait-on;
C’est ton intérieur qui sans cesse
tendresse touchant aux tendresses…

Abandon entouré d’abandon,
Tenderness touching tenderness…
Your oneness endlessly
Caresses itself, so they say;

Abandon surrounding abandon,
Tenderness touching tenderness…
Your oneness endlessly
Caresses itself, so they say;

Self-caressing
through its own clear reflection.
Thus you invent the theme
of Narcissus fulfilled.

Translations (continued)

Kalá Kallá
by Hila Plittmann

Kalá Kallá
Light bride

Kalá sheli
She is all mine.

U’ve kalut
And lightly

Tishak hi lit
She will kiss me!

Dilmano, Dilbero
Dilmano dillbero
kazhi mi ak sadi pipero.
Da tafiti da varze da beresh ka sakash
Pomunigo, pohutugio, pomunigo, pohutugio
Teta ka sadi pipero

Beautiful Dilmano,
tell me how you sowed green pepper
To blossom and to become fruit
To pick as much as you wish.

You push it and press it into the earth,
And that’s how you sow green peppers
To blossom and to become fruit
To pick as much as you wish.

Translations (continued)

Kalá Kallá
by Hila Plittmann

Dilmano, Dilbero
Dilmano dillbero
kazhi mi ak sadi pipero.
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Singer Roster

Aurora Outreach Ensemble
Michelle Bahr, Director
Sara Baker
Margaret Blake
Patricia Cornman-Wilcox
Lisa Fithian-Barrett
Patti Harelik
Kirsten Hays
Christine Hayward
Tina Izen
Diane Kenedy
Claudia Nadine
Jackie Rose
Michele Stember
Carol Walker

Aurora Experience Singers
Anesa Burck
Olivia Clark
Ursala Garbrecht
Jennifer Harper
Juliette Macken
Eileen Marra
Kim Martin
Anne Morin
Gail Murphy
Linda Nichenko

Nancy Novak
Raya Partenheimer
Helen Spector
Heather Stueck
Soprano 1
Michele Alderson
Phylis Auger
Margaret Blake
Kristan Burkert
Sarah Cantor
Paulla Dacklin
Terri Grayum
Kirsten Hays
Christine Hayward++
Frances Hicks
Laurel Hortsch
Wendy Howard
Static Kaeder
Lori Kovacevic
Michele Lavis-White
Zoe Lehr
Erin McGarvey
Megan McGladey
Nancy Otis**
Meredith Peake
Jud Ranton**
Wendy Street
Melia Wagner
Soprano 2
Patricia Cornman-Wilcox
Diane Dickey
Betsy Dowell***
Lynn Greenwood
Tina Izen
Lisa Kron
Dorothy LaDouceur
Elizabeth Larsen
Marlena Maestas
Bonnie McCann
Nanette Niski
Rebecca Pepper
Amanda Perl*
Maria Peyer
Debbie Pinney
Mary Anne Thygesen
Eun Jung Yi

Alto 1
Micki Barney
Joey B’Shalom
Barbara Cervantes-Gautschi
Ruth Friedel
Sacha Gilbert
Barbara Gray
Patti Harelik
Marylyn John
Diane Kenedy
Amberlynn Lane
Marilyn Lindberg
Gayle Lovejoy**
Michelle Lum*
Bunny Marechal
Peggy McComb
Jackie Rose**
Judy Soule
Jacqui Villalobos
Sara Wagner
Carol Walker*

Alto 2
Sara Baker
Colleen Cornman-Wilcox**
Lisa Fithian-Barrett
Harmony Griffith
Marya Hazila*
Jeanne Krinsley
Terri Lewis
Linda Milone
Claudia Nadine*
Gwen Porus
Michele Stember
Mary-Anne Wakefield

Concert Staff & Volunteers

Front of House: Andaesha K’treva
Stage Manager: Jon Plueard
Program: Dianne Foster with Rebecca Pepper,
Bunny Marechal, Lisa Fithian-Barrett, and
Terri Grayum

Aurora Coordinating Team
Maria Peyer, Chorus Coordinator and Chair
Terri Grayum, Attendance Manager
Chris Hayward, Scholarship Liaison
Bunny Marechal and Dianne Foster, Website
Patti Harelik and Michele Stember, Volunteer Coordinators
Gayle Lovejoy, At Large and E-lists
Megan McGladey, Membership Coordinator

Translators:
Linda Nichenko, Music Librarian
Jackie Rose, Harmonizer Chair
Micki Barney, Chorus Treasurer
Margaret Blake and Nancy Otis, Retreat Coordinators
Jennifer Zika and Lisa Fithian-Barrett, Production Coordinators

Special Thanks: Regional Arts and Culture Council, Dianne Foster—paisley arts, Portland State University Music Department, Bridgeport United Church of Christ, Central Lutheran Church, Congregation Havurah Shalom, Marylhurst College, Dorothy and Mike LaDouceur, Clinton Street Theater, Portland Art Museum Rental Sales Gallery, Wendy Street, Lois Orcutt, Rogers Repair Service, Starbucks

We would also like to thank the many volunteers who support our rehearsals, concert production, and fundraising. We couldn’t do this without you.
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We celebrate the wonderful women of Aurora...

Powerful Women Singing Peace!