Deep peace of the running wave to you. Deep peace of the flowing air to you. Deep peace of the quiet earth to you. Deep peace of the shining stars to you. Deep peace of the gentle night to you.

Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.

Deep peace to you.
Board greeting

Good Evening!

Welcome to Aurora’s eleventh season of exceptional choral music! To those of you who are hearing Aurora for the first time, I extend a special welcome. The performance tonight will help you understand what makes Aurora so unique! And to those of you who are returning audience members, a warm WELCOME BACK, for without your continued support, Aurora would not be the success that it is.

This season promises to be exciting both artistically and organizationally. Aurora’s first Board of Directors is working on new vision and mission statements and will be developing an organizational business plan, the goal of which is to elevate Aurora’s visibility and outreach in the community. Amid all of this activity, Aurora will continue to perform at the level of excellence and joy you have come to expect!

Thank you and once again, WELCOME to tonight’s performance!

Sarah Stebbins, Ph.D.
Chair, Aurora Chorus Board of Directors

Director’s Greeting

“When despair for the world grows in me and I wake in the night at the least sound in fear of what my life and children’s lives may be, I go lie down where the wood drake rests his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds. I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief. I come into the presence of still water. And I feel above me the day blind stars waiting with their light. For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.”

— Wendell Berry

To “rest in the grace of the world,” to find respite from despair for the world, to make a joyful noise — these are Aurora’s humble hopes for you this holiday season.

It is so very important to remember, to know deeply that every moment offers the opportunity for change, personal and global. We do not have to accept the “inevitability” of war. We can believe in the possibility of peace. We begin in our daily lives: at work, at home, in rehearsal.

Tonight we breathe together and sing out loud:
Dona nobis pacem — grant us peace;
Lo yisa goi el goi cherev — nation will not lift up sword against nation;
Et in terra pax — and on earth peace;
Imani — faith.

Faith in each other, in our peace filled yearnings and a deep abiding faith in the Mystery of breath, of being, of singing. We are indeed, each and every one of us, instruments of peace.

Deep peace to you,

Joan Szymko, director
Aurora Chorus

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*Qualified candidates may get information at 503.AURORA.1
About Aurora Chorus

Since 1992 Aurora Chorus has combined a love of fine choral singing with the desire to create community in an atmosphere of inclusiveness and respect. Aurora demonstrates the power of women assembled and the beauty and power of music to heal, to inspire and to reflect a universal yearning for peace.

Aurora Chorus welcomes singers at all skill levels and maintains a membership of over 100 singers. Led by director Joan Szymko (SHIM-koh), Aurora has become a source of strength and inspiration in our community through finely crafted, heartfelt performances of music as rich and diverse as the lives of the women who sing.

RECENT PERFORMANCES INCLUDE:
“Celebrate Our Community” 9/11 commemoration, Pioneer Courthouse Square (September 2002)
“Full Circle” Tenth Anniversary Concert (May 2002), Habitat for Humanity Dedication of Homes, (Fall 2001)

Membership & Event Information

Want to sing with Aurora or plan ahead to hear our next concert? Register to join or add your name to our list to receive up-to-date information about future performances. Sign up in the lobby! For more information call 503-AURORA-1 or visit www.AuroraChorus.org

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*We are very appreciative of the substantial bequest made to Aurora by Ms. Nancy C. Giles.

Ticket sales account for only a portion of the substantial costs of producing our programs. We gratefully acknowledge all who have contributed goods and services that enable our programs to be realized. Please add your support by sending a tax deductible contribution to:

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About the Director

Joan Szymko has over twenty years of experience as a choral conductor, composer, teacher and performer in the Pacific Northwest, directing choruses in Seattle and Portland. She became the director of the 100+ voices of Aurora Chorus in the fall of 1993. In 1994 she formed Viriditas, a select women's chamber ensemble which is featured on the compact disc recording of her compositions, Openings (1998). She has also composed for the stage, most notably as resident composer with Do Jump! Movement Theater from 1995-2001, performing her music with the company at home in Portland and on tour — including runs on Broadway, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. (2000) and at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles (2001).

Most recently, Szymko presented “Choral Conspiracy,” a program of new works made possible by a grant from the Regional Arts & Culture Council. In 2001, Joan was awarded an individual Artist Fellowship by the Oregon Arts Commission for her work as a choral composer. Her compositions have been performed by distinguished choruses across the country, including The American Boychoir, St. Olaf's, Seattle Girls Choir and Vox Femina Los Angeles.

Her choral music is published by Santa Barbara Music Publishing and Treble Clef Music Press. For more information, visit her Web site at www.szymko.com
The Geraldine Murray Irish Dancers

Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania of Irish parentage, Geraldine Murray has been involved with Irish dancing and Irish music for over 30 years and is certified by "An Comisún le Rinci Gaelacha," the Irish dance commission in Dublin, Ireland to teach Irish Step Dancing. Geraldine is the only person in the state of Oregon with this distinction. She is the director of The Murray School of Irish Dancing which maintains a reputation as Portland's top Irish dancing school.

Choreographing dance and directing music for locally produced Irish plays, Geraldine is also an active collaborator; most recently, with African dance choreographer Bobby Fouther in a joint project that debuted during 2001's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration at Jefferson High school. Geraldine has lectured extensively on the history of Irish dancing at Portland State University and through the Oregon Historical Society. She has performed musically and danced with The Chieftains and as the opening act for the Grammy award winning Shawn Colvin.

The Murray School's preeminent performance troupe, The Murray Irish Dancers, perform throughout the year performing during St. Patrick's Day celebrations, the Portland Rose Festival and various other festivals throughout the Oregon & Washington area. They've also danced for countless community centers, weddings, parties, pub openings, fund raisers and in the Murray School's annual sold-out performance in June at the Newmark Theater. They have also performed with Eileen Ivers, fiddler from Riverdance (the premier Irish band), The Chieftains and with The Trinity Irish Dancers.

The dancers in this evening's performance have all just returned from Phoenix, Arizona after competing at the Western Regional Irish Dance Championships with many placing in top ten spots and some qualifying for the World Championships in Killarney, Ireland over Easter 2003.

Instrumentalists

Carl Thor is a founding member of the Vancouver Celtic and folk group, Talisman Carl also plays in the Portland Megaband and for folk dancing groups. He has performed as a soloist, and competed in the 1997 National Hammered Dulcimer Championship in Winfield, Kansas. Carl teaches hammered dulcimer and is also a composer, arranger, and sound engineer. (www.TalismanMusic.com).

Judy A. Rose currently teaches vocal music at Franklin High School, is a board member of the Oregon Music Educators Association, and is the accompanist at Ainsworth United Church of Christ. She formerly served as Band/Choir director at Lincoln High School. Judy enjoys composing music, and is pleased to again be accompanying her favorite women's chorus.

Monty Cowles and Sylvia Hackathorn are both members of the world music and dance troupe DuMonde. With two musicians and three dancers, DuMonde presents a distinctly American fusion of world music and dance.

Abby Seemann is a freelance musician who performs throughout the Portland metropolitan area. She also is a member of the Pacific Crest Wind Symphony, and Rondo, a Trio of Flutes. Abby is delighted to again be invited to perform Joan's music.
Deep Peace
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2002 | 4pm & 7pm

From the Reaches of Darkness
DUET: Joan Szymko and Joanna Dumais
Joan Szymko
lyrics by Elly Worden

Winter
John Krumm

Travelers’ Prayer
traditional tune
arr. by John Renbourn
lyrics by A. Carmichael

A Prayer for Peace
SPEAKER: Ann Wilson
Marcia Falk

Dona nobis pacem
Clemens non papa (1510-1556)

Et in terra pax
And on earth, peace
PREMIERE

The Peace of Wild Things
SPEAKER: Margot Faegre
Wendell Berry

Deep Peace

Red and Green

THE MURRAY IRISH DANCERS
DANCERS
Cameron Allard
Jasmine Anderson
Caitlin Jeck
Maren Jensen
Jeremy O’Connell
Alexandra Owensby

MUSICIANS
Geraldine Murray
Sylvia Hackathorn
Danny O’Hionlan
Cory Novotny
Aurora Chorus WOMEN IN HARMONY FOR PEACE

JOAN SZYMKO, Director

Reel á Bouche
French-Canadian Liltting Piece
setting by Malcolm Dalglish

A long time I have lived with you
Nancy Wood

Auld Lang Syne
SOLOIST: Bonnie Singer (4pm)
Mairi Burns (7pm)

Auld Lang Syne
Traditional Scottish tune
lyrics by Robert Burns
arr. Kate Campbell

We All Come from the Goddess
Zsuzsanna Budepest
arr. by Szymko

The Christians and the Pagans
SOLOIST: Jenna Scott
Judi Ranton

The Christians and the Pagans
Dar Williams
arr. Williams and Szymko

Deck the Halls (in 7/8)
traditional, arr. James McKeIvy

I Feel Like A Morning Star
traditional tune adapted by
Matty Thomas, arr. Szymko

For So the Children Come
SOCKET: Mary King

For So the Children Come
Sister Sophia Lyon Fahs

We Are...
(no. 5 from the song suite Lessons)
Ysaye M. Barnwell

Wage Peace
SOCKET: Robin Sutherland

Wage Peace
Mary Oliver

Let Peace Fill the Earth/
Vine and Fig Tree
Ray Mackeever, based on a
prayer by Rabbi Nachman / trad.

Song of Peace (Finlandia)
Jean Sibelius
lyrics by L. Stone
Text

FROM THE REACHES OF DARKNESS
ELLY WORDEN

Sun lying low in the autumn sky
Peering at the earth through hooded eye
Veils of darkness at eventide spread
Over earth’s slumbering garden beds

Ne'er despise Mother Kali as she swallows her young
Their seed is in them, curled in her tongue
Below, in the bowels of earth, she'll teach
Their quickened lives, for light to reach

Solstice comes, pivoting the night
From the reaches of darkness, calls up the light
Giving forth her children from the composted depth
Kali holds them to her heart until the next step

Now, Maya quivers and breathes a long sigh
Push upward my children, the sun’s climbing high
Kali leads them to surface, to new life, in spring
Listen carefully, and you’ll hear them sing.

Kali: the goddess of destruction-rebirth
Maya: the earth

Translations

DONA NOBIS PACEM
Dona nobis pacem Grant us peace

ET IN TERRA Pax
Gloria in excelsis Deo Glory to God in the highest
et in terra pac hominibus And on earth, peace
bonae voluntatis to all those of good will.

AULD LANG SYNE
(OLD SCOTTISH TEXT, ADAPTED BY ROBERT BURNS CA. 1785)
A MODERN ENGLISH TRANSCRIPTION
We two have run about the hillsides
And pulled the fine daisies.
But we've wandered many a weary foot
Since old times past.
Should old friends be forgotten and never
brought to mind — and old times past?
We two have waded in the stream
From noon to dinnertime,
But broad seas have roared between us
Since old times past.
For old time's sake my dear, for old times;
we'll have a cup of kindness yet for old times.

VINE AND FIG TREE
HEBREW
Lo yisa goi el goi cherev
Nation will not lift up sword against nation
Lo yilmedu od milchama
They will not learn war anymore

I FEEL LIKE A MORNING STAR
“Kwanzaa,” Swahili for “first fruits of harvest,”
was the name chosen by Dr. Maulana Karenga
for the non-religious African-American Holiday he
started in 1966. Celebrated for seven days from
December 26th through January 1st, Kwanzaa
honors our heritage and the importance of family
and community. At the core of Kwanzaa are seven
principles called the Nguzo Saba. On each day a
principle is recited and a candle is lit.

Nguzo Saba – the seven principles of Kwanzaa
1. Umoja – Unity
2. Kujichagulia – Self-determination
3. Ujima – Collective work and responsibility
4. Ujamaa – Cooperative economics
5. Nia – Purpose
6. Kuumba – Creativity
7. Imani – Faith

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