AURORA CHORUS
Kathleen Hollingsworth, Guest Director
In concert with special guests
Con Brio Women’s Choir

First Congregational Church
1126 SW Park Avenue
Portland, Oregon

May 17, 2015
Greetings from the Aurora Chorus Board of Directors

We are delighted that you have joined us in welcoming Con Brio to Portland and sharing a wonderful afternoon of music with Aurora Chorus. We’re happy to be sharing the risers with these women, experiencing the double pleasure of being both audience and performer as part of the wide circle of women’s choral music.

I admit to having a favorite on the program: Bring Me Little Water, Silvy. From the first time I saw it presented by another chorus several years ago, I aspire to being able to do the “body percussion” someday: a personal challenge of coordination I’m now proud to perform!

Aurora is also growing and changing in response to some new challenges. Our artistic director, Joan Szymko, is taking a two-term leave and sabbatical to work on a significant commission for voice and orchestra about Alzheimer’s. We are happy that Joan will be back with us in January 2016, and we are looking forward to celebrating Aurora’s 25th anniversary together in our 2017 season.

Aurora’s board of directors has taken on the challenge of recruiting and hiring an interim artistic director for the fall term—an important task for our immediate future and a skill-building experience for board members. It has been more than 20 years since Aurora has done this.

The best challenges open new doors and bring new discoveries. We have had an absolutely marvelous term with Dr. Kathleen Hollingsworth, who has shared her delightful style, unique talents, and deep spirit with us this spring. We are very grateful for her leadership.

We hope you’ll be with us again in December to see the next step in this adventure and on March 6, 2016, to welcome Joan back. Perhaps now is the time to embrace a personal challenge of your own and join us as a singer. Jump in; the water’s really wonderful!

Kristan Burkert, Aurora Chorus Board President

About Today’s Concert

We all belong to an ancient identity. Stories are the rivers that take us there.—Frank Delaney

Today we celebrate water—this sacred, essential element, evocative of journeys and movement, of emotion and freedom. It is our most basic element, yet holds a universal spiritual quality: pulled by the moon, used in baptismal ceremonies, and at the center of many creation stories.

From the tiniest creek to the widest ocean, water sparks the creativity of artists and writers. Our program today captures both the mystery and the predictability of water, as in the thirst of a humble field worker in Water, as in the thirst of a humble field worker in Little Water, Silvy. From the first time I saw it presented by another chorus several years ago, I aspire to being able to do the “body percussion” someday: a personal challenge of coordination I’m now proud to perform!

Aurora Chorus has done this. The choir has had a wonderful time this term working with guest conductor Dr. Kathleen Hollingsworth while Joan Szymko, our artistic director, is taking time away from Aurora to compose a major work. Just as Dr. Hollingsworth fit right in with Aurora, her song Carry Me fits seamlessly into our program about water and rivers—an ode to trusting that Nature will hold us if we have the courage to let go.

Sit back and enjoy this journey, for as we say in Arise My Love, “the time of our singing has come.”

If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water.—Loren Eiseley

Terri Grayum

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 singing into an understanding and appreciation of healthy vocal production, choral technique, musical expression and literacy. Led by Director Joan Szymko, Aurora Chorus consists of around 100 singers from the Portland/Vancouver area, presents three full-length concerts each year, and performs at community outreach events throughout the year. Please visit us online at AuroraChorus.org, your source for future events and for information about joining the chorus.

Guest Director

Kathleen Hollingsworth has been immersed in music since her childhood. Steeped in choral music but with an inclination for jazz and all things wild, her unique and wending path has allowed her to work with musical giants Phil Mattson, Edith Copley, Dr. Joshua Haberman, and more. Currently, she is the vocal music director at Clackamas Community College and is an active clinician and adjudicator in Oregon and Washington. She is the founder and director of the Playa Choir, a choral ensemble that performs at the annual Burning Man event. She is a skilled and inspired choral director, vocalist, pianist, writer, and educator who lives to serve the music.

Dori Baunsgard

Dori Baunsgard is a Pacific Northwest native who returned to Seattle several years ago after conducting choirs and teaching music for many years in Tokyo, Japan. In Tokyo her choirs were known not only for their beautiful sound and excellent musicianship, but also for their interesting and innovative repertoire. In addition to her time in Japan, Dori worked in India for several years—her first introduction to Bollywood! She has an avid interest in multiple styles and genres of music, including world music. Dori has been the assistant conductor for Columbia Choirs and director of Con Brio since the summer of 2014 and is excited to collaborate with Joan Szymko and Aurora Chorus!

Con Brio Women’s Choir

Con Brio Women’s Choir, a member of the Columbia Choirs of Metropolitan Seattle family of choirs, is an auditioned, community-based choir for experienced female singers, college-age and above. Formed in 1998 by Steve Stevens, founder and artistic director, Con Brio blends fun and focus as choir members develop their musicality, prepare repertoire to perform throughout the year, and form lasting bonds with one another.

Singer Roster

Let the River Run

**Con Brio Women's Choir**

**Dori Baunsgard, Director**  
**Genevieve Peaslee, Accompanist**

**Something's Coming/Tonight**  
Leonard Bernstein / lyrics by Stephen Sondheim / arr. Ed Lojeski

**Caramba**  
Otilio Galíndez / arr. Alberto Grau

**Barso Re**  
A. R. Rahman / arr. Ethan Sperry  
*(Let It Rain)* from the film *Guru*

**Mattinata**  
Ruggiero Leoncavallo / arr. Rebecca Rottsolk  
*(Morning Serenade)*

**Pseudo-Yoik Lite**  
Jaakko Mäntyjärvi

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**Aurora Chorus and Con Brio Women’s Choir**

**I Dream a World**  
Joan Szymko / poem by Langston Hughes  
conducted by Joan Szymko

**Clear Water**  
Robert I. Hugh / text from "Sea Fever" by John Masefield  
and "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow / additional lyrics by Robert I. Hugh  
conducted by Dori Baunsgard

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**Aurora Chorus**

**Kathleen Hollingsworth, Guest Director**  
**Signe Lusk, Accompanist**

**Let the River Run**  
Carly Simon / arr. David Moore

**Promising Sky**  
Claudia Schmidt / arr. Joan Szymko  
soloists: *Kirsten Hays, Patti Harelik, Harmony Griffth, Terri Grayum*

**have you also learned**  
Herman Hesse, from Siddhartha  
reader: *Gayle Lovejoy*

**Listen Closely**  
Steven Walters / arr. Joan Szymko  
soloist: *Libby Clow*

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**Concert Program**

**Bring Me Little Water, Silvy**  
Huddie W. Ledbetter (Leadbelly) / arr. Moira Smiley  
*you are young, so you know everything.*  
Mary Oliver, from *West Wind*  
reader: *Ruth Friedel*

**Julia Jumps**  
Harmony Grisman / arr. Joan Szymko

**The Way It Is**  
Tina Tau  
reader: *Julie Earnest*

**Wood River**  
Connie Kaldor / arr. Willi Zwozdesky  
soloist: *Margaret Blake*

**Infinitive**  
Ursula Le Guin, from *Sixty Odd*  
reader: *Wendy Street*

**Yemaya Asesu**  
trad. Afro-Cuban / arr. Joan Szymko

**I don’t believe in magic**  
Billy Frank, Jr.  
reader: *Christine Hayward*

** Carry Me**  
Kathleen Hollingsworth / additional lyrics by Kendra Atkins-Boyce  
soloists: *Kendra Atkins-Boyce, Judi Ranton, Amanda Perl*

**Take Me to the Water**  
Rollo Dilworth / additional lyrics from trad. African American spirituals

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**Instrumentalists**

Bass: Amy Roesler  
Guitar: Owen James  
Drums: Zach Armstrong

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**Concert Program**

**Caramba**  
Darn, my love, darn! It would have been beautiful if you loved me as much as I love you. Darn, my love, darn!  
Passing this dreary winter, watching the rain that tells me so much. Oh, my love, oh. Things that we lost, I only hear in gossip between the rocks and the river. Oh, my love, oh.  
The wind in the tassels, the aroma of fresh sugarcane, and the bitterness of tangerines Oh, my love, oh.

**Barso Re**  
Rain, O clouds. Please rain! It's sweet, it's the kiss of the rain, it's sweet and warm.  
O water, flow, continue to flow. I am swimming, going ashore.

**Mattinata**  
Dawn, dressed in white, already opens the door to broad daylight; already, with her rosy fingers, she caresses the multitude of flowers! All around, creation seems stirred by a mysterious throbbing and you do not awaken; and in vain I stay here, aching, to sing. Put on your white dress, too, and open the door to your minstrel! Where you are not, sunlight is missing; Where you are love dawns.
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