CONCORD COMMUNITY OF CHOIRS PRESENTS

L-O-V-E
WILL GUIDE US

AURORA CHORUS
WOMEN IN HARMONY FOR PEACE
Joan Simcoe, director

WITH SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST
RONNIE GILBERT
CONCORD COMMUNITY OF CHOIRS
A Community of Choirs dedicated to affirming Peace through Music
by Anne Rutherford

Aurora shines amid a constellation of choral groups which form Concord Community of Choirs. Our multi-dimensional, multi-voiced organization includes:

CONCORD CHOIR, a semi-professional, mixed-voice choral ensemble founded by Director David York in 1986.

AURORA, a women’s chorus open to singers of all levels of ability, founded by David York in 1992 and currently directed by Joan Simcoe.

SATORI MEN’S CHORUS, open to singers of all levels of ability, founded by David York in 1993 and currently directed by Bernard Kwiram.

CHRYSLIS CHILDREN’S CHORUSES, founded in 1993 by Mia Savage. Concert Choir, an auditioned chorus of treble voices age 10-15, directed by David York and Celebration Singers, for children age 9-14, regardless of experience, directed by Laura Frizzell.

VIRIDITAS VOCAL ENSEMBLE, an auditioned women’s chorus founded by Director Joan Simcoe in 1994.

Over three hundred people gather each week in these various choral configurations to sing for peace. As we do, we build community that encompasses our organization, our families, and that we seek to extend in the world in which we live. The Concord Council is a group of people who have been working with founder David York to envision a new organizational model that expresses our values and meets our operational needs. Many chorus members and Concord staff are participating with us in this great adventure. The Concord Council works in collaboration with our Artistic Council, composed of the directors of each of our choirs. We are fortunate to have their talent and energy imbuing our rehearsals and performances with artistry and social conscience.

The Concord Council salutes the hundreds of people involved in our organizational community, and in particular the family members who support us in our commitment. Tonight’s concert is the fruit of the work of many people – those you will see on stage, those at the doors and in the lobby, and many of you seated in the audience. Mother Teresa has said, “In this world, you cannot do great things; you can only do small things, with great love.” Tonight’s concert and our organization overall is the culmination of a myriad of efforts, some great, some small, and all essential to form the whole. We thank you for your involvement, and welcome you into our community this evening.

Oh, and we’re going to sing some, too.

CONCORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Anne Rutherford, President .......... Aurora
Denise Andersen ............ Concord Choir
Chris Blount ............. Concord Choir
Hari Dass Khalsa .......... satori
Gail Murphy ............ Viriditas
Allyn Shipley .......... Aurora
Gwen Shusterman ......... Chrysalis parent
Cheri Smith .......... Aurora
Kristen Van Kranenburgh ...... Viriditas

CONCORD ARTISTIC COUNCIL
David York, Chair ............ Director: Concord;
Joan Simcoe .......... Director: Aurora;
Bernard Kwiram .......... Director: satori
Laura Frizzell .......... Director Chrysalis

AUDITIONS FOR SINGERS

CONCORD CHOIR
David York, Director
A semi-professional chamber choir of mixed voices. Experienced singers in all voice parts are encouraged to apply. Rehearsals for the 1995-96 season will be on Thursday evenings.

Criteria of selection in priority order:
• Accuracy of Intonation
• Tone Quality
• Music Reading Ability
• Stylistic Flexibility

Preliminary auditions will be held throughout May. Selected singers will be called back in June for a group audition. Call by May 26, 1995, to schedule an audition and interview.

VIRIDITAS VOCAL ENSEMBLE
Joan Simcoe, Director
A select chamber ensemble of women’s voices. Experienced singers with music reading skills and open minds are encouraged to apply. Rehearsals for the 1995-96 season will be on Wednesday evenings. Dues are $25 per month. Call by May 26, 1995, to schedule an audition in June.

CHRYSLIS CONCERT CHOIR
David York, Director
A select choir of singers 10 to 15 years of age. Rehearsals for the 1995-96 season will be on Thursday afternoons, 4:30-5:45. Dues are $25 per month. Call by May 26, 1995, to schedule an audition in June.

AUDITIONS
Leave a message at 721-0262 to schedule an audition.

CHOIR INFORMATION
Leave a message at 721-0262 or write to individual choir at: PO Box 2636 Portland, OR 97208-2636
RONNIE GILBERT

Ronnie Gilbert has had a long and colorful career. In the fifties her joyous contralto and vibrant personality enriched the celebrated singing group THE WEavers. Ronnie, Pete Seeger, Lee Hays, and Fred Hellerman made records that sold in the millions, bringing folk singing into the music mainstream for the first time. Their hits included Goodnight Irene, Tzena Tzena, Kisses Sweeter Than Wine and Wimoweh. Suddenly, in the hysteria of the McCarthy era, The Weavers were branded “subversives” by the UnAmerican hunters for their well-known background of progressive social activism.

Blacklisted from radio and TV, the quartet’s meteoric rise to mainstream stardom was aborted. Nevertheless, they found a devoted and eager audience in colleges and concert halls around the country, and The Weavers continued to tour and record for ten more years before they disbanded. The story of The Weavers is told in the world renowned documentary about their last concert, The Weavers: Wasn’t That a Time!

In 1963, Ronnie was raising her daughter Lisa and beginning to build a solo singing career when she met Joseph Chaikin, then a young actor/director with a fledgling experimental theater group, the Open Theatre. She joined the group, and that association changed the direction of her working life from music to theater, a path she followed for most of the next 20 years. In the course of a long and varied career in theater she participated in the creation of many innovative dramatic and musical theater works with Chaikin, Meredith Monk, Elizabeth Swados, Peter Brook and others. She has acted and directed plays in the mountains of British Columbia and appeared on Broadway; performed Sam Shepard and Chaikin’s solo Tongues and Savage/Love and Beckett’s Happy Days; and played a variety of roles, from Medea’s nurse to the singing and dancing Mrs. Fezziwig in a version of A Christmas Carol.

She has worked in feature films and documentaries as actor or narrator, and appears in several noted documentaries about people she has been associated with. In the seventies Ronnie earned an M.A. in Clinical Psychology and worked for some time as a therapist and counselor.

Now her concert career is once again flourishing. In addition to year-around solo performances, there have been national concert tours with singer Holly Near, with HARP (Holly Near, Arlo Guthrie, Ronnie, Pete Seeger) and with Si Kahn, and in Australia with Judy Small, as well as appearances with Tom Paxton and Odetta. Critics acclaimed her as an artist “whose singing makes everything she has a hand in come alive” and as “one of the greatest women’s voices to be heard today.” A one-hour TV special of a solo concert is shown on PBS stations around the country.

Ronnie’s most recent album Love Will Find A Way, the first issue on her own label, Abbe Alice Music. The Spirit Is Free is available on Redwood Records, as are Lifeline (a live album with Holly Near), HARP, and Singing with You (with Ms. Near). Together Again (with The Weavers) on the Loom label and The Best of The Weavers on MGM, are also available, and Vanguard Records has reissued several other Weavers albums on CD.

Ronnie’s current major project is a one-woman musical theater piece on the life of the legendary American labor agitator Mother Jones.

After 40 years, Ronnie Gilbert’s exuberant presence continues to delight and inspire.
RONNIE GILBERT PORTRAITS MARY HARRIS "MOTHER" JONES.

CREDITS:

THE SPIRIT OF AURORA by Jeanne Giles

Why do women join Aurora? Why do women want so much to participate that they willingly spend months on a waiting list? Part of the answer may be that women are yearning for community. In this age of closed and locked doors, the demise of the corner store and growth of mail order shopping, we don’t see one another every day anymore. There is no butcher counter where we meet three times a week, no green grocer where we buy the day’s vegetables.

Aurora is a stopping point in every member’s week, a touchstone day when we can count on seeing the same faces and feel that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. Aurora has become a community where each woman is invited to open her heart and mind as she sings. The music we share often describes our desires for the communities we are part of: our families, neighborhoods, groups, the world.

Choral singing is the process of blending separate, individual voices together to form one new distinct voice. We sing for our own pleasure and the satisfaction we derive comes from that blending process, not only the end result that you hear during our performances.

Singing in a non-competitive environment such as Aurora inspires and accelerates the growth of each woman’s voice. A sense of freedom and confidence in herself comes with this opportunity. The generosity of spirit within the group is overwhelming and comforting.

We are a circle of women: daughters, sisters, wives, partners, girlfriends, and moms. We are younger, older and of different backgrounds. Aurora’s voice is the voice of experience, an amalgam of each member’s life and individual passion. We invite you to join our circle and hope you enjoy our performance as much as we enjoy performing for you.
JOAN SIMCOE
Director Joan Simcoe has worked in the Northwest as a teacher, conductor, church musician and composer for 13 years; most notably as Artistic Director of the Seattle Women's Ensemble (1981-1991). She joined the Concord Community of Choirs in the fall of 1993 by becoming the music director of Aurora Chorus. She is also the founding director of Concord's newest addition: Viriditas Vocal Ensemble. Joan’s numerous choral compositions and vocal arrangements for women's voices have been performed by many GALA and Sister Singers Network choruses across the country. Also included among her compositions are chamber works, sacred anthems, music for modern dance and two full-length musicals.

Joan was recently commissioned by the Pacific Northwest Women's Choral Alliance to compose a new work for festival chorus for their tour, Under One Sky. The Portland premiere is May 6, 1995 and features the Portland Lesbian Choir, Seattle Women's Ensemble, Sacred Earth Singers (Seattle) and A Vancouver Women's Chorus (BC).

Joan’s current writing project is a collaboration with DO JUMP Movement Theatre director Robin Lane (artistic director and choreographer of Aurora’s December production, Dreamers). Joan wrote the music and will be performing along with members of Viriditas in the premiere of Lane’s latest aerial piece, Come On In, which is currently playing weekends through May 21 at the Echo Theatre in southeast Portland.

Piper Gallucci has been interpreting professionally since 1983. The daughter of deaf parents, she grew up using sign language and in 1979 completed an interpreting program. Piper began interpreting for the Portland Lesbian Choir in 1988. Her goal when interpreting music is not only to translate the words and intent of the song, but also to express its rhythm, emotion and beauty. Currently, Piper works at the Washington School for the Deaf.
**PROGRAM NOTES**

**by Joan Simcoe**

**Dobar Vecer** is a traditional Croatian *koleda* song sung by *koledari* who go from house to house bearing wishes of health and prosperity for the coming new year. Director Joan Simcoe learned this song last fall at a vocal workshop given by jazz artist Rhiannon. Rhiannon had recently returned from war-torn former Yugoslavia as a member of a touring group of women artists who felt compelled to bear witness to the tragedy there.

The Serbo-Croatian text translates:

- **Good evening good people**
- **May we all be healthy in this new year**
- **May it be joyful, may we all be healthy**
- **Good evening to you**
- **The master of the house**
- **The new year has arrived**
- **May your field bear fruitfully**
- **And give forth wheat**
- **May we all be healthy**
- **May the mountainsides be fruitful to you**
- **And give forth that red wine**
- **To the girls we give a nice red wreath**
- **To the lads we give a bušpanom**
- **May we all be healthy**

Joan Simcoe set the words **Ja Sam Tvoj Svjedok** (*I am your witness*) as a testament to the power of song as remembrance. Tonight Aurora invites you to stand beside the innocents, the women and children, victims of wars past and present.

Miriam, an important figure in Passover celebrations, was an inspiration to those Israelites who looked to her for courage as they escaped the slavery of Egypt. The song **Miriam** reminds us that looking back on the darkness of the past helps us make the courageous choices that lead to the future.

**Heart to Heart** is a contemporary, upbeat look at a tenet of Buddhist philosophy, "peace through heart to heart dialogue." Twelve hundred people lived this message on The Great Peace March as they walked from L.A. to Washington, D.C. for "love and for life" in 1986. Holly Near wrote *The Great Peace March* especially for these brave people.

**Union Maid**, written in 1941, is Woody Guthrie’s tribute to the heroic women who resisted the intimidation of company thugs during an oil workers’ strike in Oklahoma City. He dedicated it to a Southern tenant farmers’ union organizer who had been brutalized because of her activism. Many folks made up new verses during the 1970s wave of feminism. Our third verse is one of the most popular revisions. Guthrie borrowed the traditional tune "Redwing." Don’t get too comfortable singing along, however, as Joan Simcoe’s arrangement will offer quite a few surprises.

In 1911, half of the workers in the woolen mills of Lawrence, Massachusetts, were women and children. When the company punished all workers because of recently passed child labor laws, more than twenty thousand men, women and children stayed out on strike for ten weeks, eventually winning concessions from management.

**Bread and Roses** was inspired by a banner from that strike which read: "We want bread and roses, too!"
LOVE WILL GUIDE US

AURORA CHORUS

SOPRANO I
Heather
Marilyn Ayers
Lynn Buechler
Barbara Cabot
Chris Christensen
Anne Doll
Bae Emison
Christine Hayward
Michele Hoefi
Jeanie Langston
Jo Lyndon
Marc Edwards
Karen Erde
Carleen Erickson
Maria Hazilla
Kathy Hulegaard
Lee Johannes
Marylyn John
Static Koeder
Kristine Kelleraus
Susan Knight-Allen
Inge McNeese
Linda Meier
Linda Milone
Carole Most
Sue Pickgrove
Melanie Plaut
Wendy Rankin
Barbara Reader
Elizabeth Robb
Marti Roberts-Pillow
Allyn Shipley
Maria Simon
Carol (GJ) Timper
Maureen Tolonen
Carol Wolf

SOPRANO II
Jean Aaslon
Priscilla Bernard*
Christine Brown
Linda Danenger
Diane Dickey
Kayo Eio
Susan Freidler
Jeanne Giles
Anne-Sophie Houdek
Margaret Imle
Twila Johnson
Judith Komishane
Patti Kreipe
Kerry Lefever
Jan Lustig
Anne Mansfield*
Max McMillen*
Sandy McQueen
Ellen Morrison
Vicky Nust
Georgia Pinkel
Gayle Preston
Catherine Rolling-Freedman
Joan Seprs
Eileen Spencer
Cheryl Summerlin
Robin Sutherland
Twyla Wallace
Carleen Wroblesky
ALTO I
Judy Brodkey
Karen Chase
Nancy Chesler
Gaia Davies*
Lois Dikes
Maura Doherty
Ann Dudley
Joanna Dumas-Clark
Kathleen Fisher
Karla Fitzwater
Judi Franklin
Peggy Friedl-Yee
Cathy Garrett
Jennifer Gates
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Janet Plass
Lily Roselyn
Anne Rutherford
Marcy Satalich
Kate Schuyler
Judy Simonsen
Judi Soloway
Kate Strieby
Martha Wagner
Carol Walker
Deborah Walker
Fran Weick
Liza Whitmarsh
Lorraine Wrazen
Joni Young
Adele Zimmerman
ALTO II
Joan Andrews
Jessie Baumgardt*
Randi Besser-Rapaport

CREDITS

MARKETING/PUBLICITY
Heather, chair
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Jeanne Henry
Linda Larsen-Wheatley
Kerry Lefever
Allyn Shipley
Cheri Smith

OUTREACH
Kathleen Fisher
Georgia Pinkel
Wendy Rankin
Ellen Roberts

PROGRAM
Coordinator – Ellen Morrison
Design/Production – Cheri Smith
Editing – Joan Simcoe, Martha Wagner, David York
Illustration – Meg Ferguson
Writing – Jeanne Giles, Joan Simcoe, Anne Rutherford, David York

REHEARSAL MANAGER
Toni Shemarya

RETREAT
Joan Logan

SEASON LEADERS
Soprano I: Ellen Roberts
Soprano II: Eileen Spencer
Alto I: Kate Schuyler
Alto II: Susan Knight-Allen, Carol Wolf

TICKETS
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Chris Brown
Anne Doll
Kerry Lefever
Linda Meier
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Susan Melchert

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Robin Lane

STAGE MANAGER
Greg Thelen

VIDEO RECORDING
Dee Packard
AURORA CHORUS: WOMEN IN HARMONY FOR PEACE
JOAN SIMCOE, DIRECTOR
WITH SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST RONNIE GILBERT

SONG FOR JUDITH
Liza Whitmarsh, soloist

SHOOTING STAR

GIVE YOURSELF TO LOVE

ALLELUIA

DOBAR VEČER

JA SAM TVOJ SVJEDOK
I am Your Witness

MIRIAM

ON THE TURNING AWAY
Marie Ludwig, soloist

LOVE WILL GUIDE US

ON CHILDREN

HEART TO HEART

GREAT PEACE MARCH
Jenna Scott, soloist

INTERMISSION

SELECTIONS FROM
MOTHER JONES: THE MOST DANGEROUS WOMAN IN AMERICA

UNION MAID

BREAD AND ROSES

MUSIC IN MY MOTHER'S HOUSE

LOVE WILL FIND A WAY

RIDY COLLINS
arranged by Joan Simcoe

Chris Williamson
arrangement by The Flirtations

Kate Wolf
arranged by Kate Campbell

Randall Thompson
traditional Croatian

Joan Simcoe

Laura Berkson

David Gilmore
words by David Gilmore & A. Moore
arranged by Joan Simcoe

traditional
words by Sally Rogers
arranged by Joan Simcoe

Ysaye M. Barnwell
words by Kahlil Gibran

Wayne Green & Brian Potter

Holly Near
arranged by Dennis Coleman

Caroline Kohlsaat & Martha Coleman
words by James Oppenheim
arranged by Joan Simcoe

Stuart Stotts
arranged by J. David Moore

John Bucchino
arranged Joan Simcoe

Ronne Gilbert
piano accompanist,
Janet Hood

AURORA CHORUS

RONNIE GILBERT
piano accompanist,
Janet Hood

AURORA CHORUS

BREAD AND ROSES

MUSIC IN MY MOTHER'S HOUSE

LOVE WILL FIND A WAY

CAROLINE KOHLSAAT & MARTHA COLEMAN
words by James Oppenheim
arranged by Joan Simcoe

STUART STOTTS
arranged by J. David Moore

JOHN BUCCHINO
arranged Joan Simcoe

NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY PLEASE
IN CONCORD - THE SEASON FINALE
by Jeanne Giles and David York

Mark your calendars now for the Concord Community of Choirs Season Finale on Saturday, May 20, 7:00 p.m. at the Chiles Center on the University of Portland Campus. Entitled In Concord, the concert will feature individual performances by each choir and music by the entire assembly of singers in the Concord Family. Instrumentalists Fear No Music will appear with Concord Choir in a premiere written by composer David York and poet Judith Barrington.

All tickets are just $5 and can be purchased tonight in the lobby, through any choir member, at Artichoke Music, In Other Words Bookstore, New Renaissance Bookshop, or Classical Millennium.

Tickets remaining will be available at the door on the day of the concert.

Our shared mission is Peace Through Music and each singer adds his or her unique inflection to the expression of this mission. The voice of each choir has a different tone, but we all find common ground in our dedication to music as a catalyst for nurturing community, for expanding the freedom of our individual self-expression, and for unleashing the power of the human spirit.

Each of our choirs is a community in itself, and together we make up yet a larger community. As a listener, you become a part of it too. United, we reach out to the world around us to become one singing, breathing being in song.

Come be a part of this world and celebrate Peace Through Music with the Concord Community of Choirs.

ALL WORKS OF LOVE ARE WORKS OF PEACE
Mother Teresa
CONTRIBUTIONS

Ticket sales account for only a portion of the substantial costs for producing a program. We gratefully acknowledge all who have donated goods and services that enable our programs to be realized.

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—Morihei Ueshiba, the founder of Aikido

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