Aurora Chorus
Joan Szymko, Director

Presents

Peace like a river

"I've got peace like a river,
I've got strength like a mountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got love like an ocean in my soul."

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2005
CABELL HALL, CATLIN GABEL SCHOOL
**Director's Greeting**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Aurora Chorus' fifteenth season of singing peace!

Those of you who have made it a tradition to attend Aurora's annual holiday concert know you can expect a concert program that embraces this season of darkness and light with a spirit of inclusiveness that comforts the heart and enlivens the soul. This evening we explore each verse of our title song, Peace Like a River, with a wide and wonderful variety of poetry and music. We sing songs of peace, strength, joy, and love from classical giants Beethoven and Mendelssohn, contemporary songwriters Judy Fjell and Enya, twentieth century greats Randall Thompson and Leonard Bernstein, and from the simple power of the anonymous song weavers of "traditional" song.

Thank you for making Aurora Chorus a part of your holiday celebrations. May your season be filled with a peaceful heart, strong visions for the new year, joyful reunions, and oceans of love.

Joan Szymko, Artistic Director
Aurora Chorus

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**My Aurora Story**

Tonight's concert, *Peace Like a River*, invites each of us to look at how life's many journeys and events are interwoven with the people, places, thoughts, dreams, and intentions we share each day. Aurora sings about our dreams and hopes as we search for places and groups in which we not only belong, but are acknowledged and respected. The music and readings you hear in our program tonight focus on the many aspects of love, strength, peace, and joy that embody our shared "Aurora Story."

My own Aurora Story began in 1996, when I attended an Aurora concert entitled "Life is a Dance." I happened to be practicing some very difficult steps in my own life's dance! At the concert, I heard a wide variety of music and witnessed how it evoked a spectrum of emotions in the audience and in me, from wild laughter to tears. I heard the energy and focus each individual singer gave to the music and how it echoed throughout the entire chorus. I realized I wanted to be part of Aurora.

At that time of my life, I wanted to experience a community that would accept and nurture me through its music. When I joined Aurora a short time after the concert, I cried when I heard the returning members sing "Welcome to the Circle" to all the new members. I was filled with excitement to be welcomed into Aurora, and that welcome has never changed.

The Aurora community offers a wide variety of gifts to new and returning members. These gifts include personal growth, voice and musical training, and an opportunity to be vocal and visible with other "powerful women singing peace!" But Aurora's gifts go beyond singing once a week with these women! The community within Aurora offers support and love when we experience personal hardships or blessings, need a hug, a good belly laugh, experience medical emergencies, or when we want just to be...

Now I am Board Chair after almost ten years as a singing member of Aurora. I have experienced how Aurora shares its strength, focus, music, and love with the greater community. Chorus members create a visible force that demonstrates our activism, our love of the planet, and our intention for world peace -- through the music, lyrics, and readings of our performances. Our Aurora energy and love flows from our stage, first to our audiences, and then to the larger community. Our vision includes practicing how to transform the world's energy into peace and love for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren.

As one of our concert readings states, 'Love is the willingness to give up a part of yourself you think you know, to discover a part of yourself you never knew existed...'. We invite each of you to join us in this amazing personal discovery that offers everyone 'Peace Like a River.'

Patricia Cornman, Chair
Aurora Chorus Board of Directors

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**Aurora Chorus Board of Directors**

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Jayme Armstrong, Development Director, Ex Officio
Diane Dickey, Board / ACT Liaison, Ex Officio

---

**PROGRAM COVER ART:**
Drawing by Marilyn Lindberg, additional design and conversion to computer graphic by Diana Zapata.
Aurora CHORUS
POWERFUL WOMEN SINGING PEACE

VISION & MISSION

VISION: Powerful women singing peace
MISSION: To inspire and reflect the universal yearning for peace by giving voice to women

Get a Tax Credit – Donate to Aurora

The Oregon Cultural Trust is a long-term funding plan for preserving and strengthening Oregon’s arts, heritage, and humanities. By helping cultural non-profits you can receive an Oregon state tax credit.

Contribute any amount to Aurora and/or other qualified Oregon nonprofit cultural organizations. Then contribute any amount to the Cultural Trust and take a tax credit of up to $500 for an individual or $1000 for a married couple as long as you have donated that same amount to any qualifying organization.

Visit www.culturaltrust.org for more information.

In Appreciation
Aurora Donors:
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In Honor of Jeanette Hankins:
Kate Schuyler
Katherine Gillette
Michael & Judi Jarosh
Charles & Shirley Angel

In tribute to our friend,
Karen Hennell:
J. Niemitz

*Contributions received after November 10, 2005 will be acknowledged in the next program.

Ticket sales account for only a portion of the substantial costs of producing our concerts. 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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P.O. Box 80312, Portland, OR 97280-1312

Or go to www.aurorachorus.org
Are you moved...

TO SING WITH AURORA?
Aurora Chorus welcomes singers of all skill levels from the Portland metropolitan area. We are pleased to answer your questions, or add your name to our waiting list for next term!

TO HELP...BUT MAYBE NOT TO SING?
Aurora Chorus is always looking for volunteers to join our community of strength and inspiration, and to support our vision of “POWERFUL WOMEN SINGING PEACE.” We have a place for you here!

TO LEARN ABOUT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES?
Aurora Chorus is working to expand our reach into the community, and is seeking sponsors who support our vision. Would you like to contribute to the financial health of Aurora?

PLEASE CALL 503-AURORA-1 (503-287-6721)
E-MAIL info@aurorachorus.org or VISIT www.aurorachorus.org

INSPIRED TO SING WITH AURORA CHORUS?
Aurora Chorus welcomes singers of all skill levels.
Please call: 503-287-6721
or E-mail: info@aurorachorus.org

Aurora Chorus – Spring 2006
Aurora presents

IT TAKES A VILLAGE
A special Mother's Day concert honoring our children and those who nurture them:

“It takes a whole village to raise our children.”

Sunday, May 14, 7 PM
Newmark Theatre

WWW.AURORACHORUS.ORG

Joan Szymko Artistic Director, Aurora Chorus

Joan Szymko has led choruses in the Pacific Northwest for twenty-five years. Throughout her career she has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to creating and presenting distinctive choral music, especially for women’s voices. Originally from Chicago, she received formal music training at the University of Illinois (Urbana) and the University of Washington. She led community and church choirs in Seattle from 1980-1993, and accepted an invitation to lead Aurora Chorus in the fall of 1993. This is her thirteenth season as Aurora's Artistic Director.

Szymko is emerging as a choral composer of renown. This past year her music received premieres in San Francisco, Portland, Salt Lake City and Philadelphia. She also writes chamber music, art songs, music for modern dance, and musical theater. Szymko is the recipient of grants from the Oregon Arts Commission, the Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC) and ASCAP. Her choral music is published by Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Treble Clef Music Press and Yelton Rhodes Music.

Szymko has been a resident composer with Do Jump! Movement Theater since 1995, performing her music with the company at home in Portland and on tour, including runs in Los Angeles, on Broadway, and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. She is currently performing in Do Jump! for the Holidays in Portland.

Szymko also has a passion for rhythm and has studied African hand drumming and marimba. She is a professional drum circle facilitator and proprietor of CATALYST RHYTHMS.
Aurora Chorus: Peace like a river

AURORA CHORUS KEEPS THE LIGHT OF HOPE ALIVE WITH SOLSTICE! a very special concert recorded on the winter's solstice 2003. The women of Aurora take you "deep into the the heart of winter" and back into the light - a powerful musical journey to the land of the soul. We've added bonus tracks, including some of our favorites from past winter concerts. "Aurora" means "new dawn." So, it is fitting that our second CD release celebrates the return of the light.

10th ANNIVERSARY CD!
celebrating a decade of women singing peace.
Aurora Chorus comes "Full Circle" with a tenth anniversary CD recording of chorus and audience favorites, and new favorites. Featuring two powerful premieres, works commissioned especially for Aurora's tenth Anniversary: "I AM" by music director Joan Szymko and "A Circle of Women Singing" by our very first guest artist, Betsy Rose. Add this very joyous and heartfelt celebration to your CD library or give the perfect gift!

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Learn more or donate online at www.culturaltrust.org.

I am solid as a mountain,
I am firm as the earth,
I am free.

Thich Nhat Hanh
## Translations

### Et in terra pax

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Latin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On earth be peace and goodwill to all.</td>
<td>Et in terra pax, hominibus bonae voluntatis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Mi Ha-ish (Psalm 34:13-15)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Hebrew</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whoever desires life, guard your tongue from evil, turn away from evil and do good, seek peace and pursue it.</td>
<td>Mi ha-ish he-chafeitz chayim, oheiv yamim, lir’ot tov. Netzor leshonecha meira, U’s’fatecha midabeir mirma, Sur meira va’asei tov, Bakeish shalom v’rodfeihu.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Hebe deine Augen (words by Rev. Julius Schubring) / Lift Your Eyes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>German</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lift your eyes to the mountains, from which your help comes. Your help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip, and your protector does not sleep.</td>
<td>Hebe deine Augen auf zu den Bergen von welchen dir Hülfe kommt. Deine Hülfe kommt vom Herrn, der Himmel und Erde gemacht hat. Er wird deinen Fuß nicht gleiten lassen, und der dich behütet, schläft nicht.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Ode to Joy (An die Freude) (excerpt from the poem by Friedrich von Schiller)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>German</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joy, beautiful spark of the Gods, Daughter of Elysium, We enter, fire-drunk, Heavenly, thy sanctuary. Thy magic powers re-unite What custom’s sword has divided. Beggars become Princes’ brothers Where thy gentle wing abides. Be embraced, millions! This kiss to the entire world!</td>
<td>Freude, schöner Götterfunken Tochter aus Elysium, Wir betreten feuertrunken, Himmlische, dein Heiligtum! Deine Zauber binden wieder Was die Mode streng geteilt; Alle Menschen werden Brüder, Wo dein sanfter Flügel weilt. Seid umschlungen, Millionen! Diesen Kuß der ganzen Welt!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Peace Like a River • December 17 and 18, 2005

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Aurora thanks these volunteers and those who volunteered too late for their names to appear in print, for the contribution of their hands, hearts and minds.

Aurora CHORUS
POWERFUL WOMEN SINGING PEACE

CONCERT CREDITS

Production & Stage Manager:
Jan Carpenter
Lighting: Ed Sallia
House manager: Lesley Sepetoski
Sound technician: T.C. Smith
Archive recording: Rod Eevansen

SPECIAL THANKS
Barbara Blackstone
Cynthia Cascante
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Signe Lusk
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Southeast Uplift Neighborhood Center
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Pacific Crest Community School

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Chuck Willis
Ellen Berry
Gayle Marechal
Geri Willis
Jayme Armstrong

Aurora thanks these volunteers and those who volunteered too late for their names to appear in print, for the contribution of their hands, hearts and minds.
The earth was alive
and the earth was singing.
It was singing a single
song and in that
song everyone had a voice.

Reinee Psarow
Peace Like a River • December 17 and 18, 2005

Peace Somewhere Judy Fjell, arranged by Joan Szymko

Soloists
Saturday matinee - Aria Melum
Saturday evening - Jana Tracy
Sunday evening - Lauren Eisenberg

"Wage Peace" by Judy Fjell, speaker: Marilyn Lindberg
Psalm 121 & Isaiah 9:15, arr. Szymko

"Only when peace lives within each of us" by Deng Ming Dao, speaker: Joanne Dumais
Psalm 121 & Isaiah 9:15, arr. Szymko

"Thay's Mountain" by Allan Hunt Badiner, speaker: Joyce Follinfstad
Psalm 121 & Isaiah 9:15, arr. Szymko

"My Help is in the Mountain" by Nancy Wood, speaker: Marilyn Lindberg
Psalm 121 & Isaiah 9:15, arr. Szymko

"He is like a mountain" by Julian Hahn Badiner
Psalm 121 & Isaiah 9:15, arr. Szymko

Strength Like a Mountain

Psalm 121 & Isaiah 9:15, arr. Szymko

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Aurora Chorus: Peace like a river

Jean Szumko, Director
Signe Lusk, Accompanist

like a river

LOVE LIKE AN OCEAN

"The madness of love" by Hadewijch of Antwerp (13th c.)
translation by Oliver Davies, / speaker: Judi Ranton

There Is a Garden. Leonard Bernstein
from Trouble in Tahiti

Love Will Guide Us. traditional melody / lyrics by Sally Rogers,
arr. Szymko

"Now, When the Waters Are Pressing Mightily" by Yehuda Amichai,
Translation from the Hebrew by Leon Wieseltier / speaker: Wendy Street

Alleluia. Randall Thompson

JOY LIKE A FOUNTAIN

"A Song of Joys" (excerpt) by Walt Whitman speaker: Jennifer Yocum

Ode to Joy. Ludwig van Beethoven
excerpts from
Choral Finale of the Ninth Symphony,
Friedrich Von Schiller
hymn verse by Henry Van Dyke

Soloists
Saturday matinee – Jean Wright
Saturday evening – Cynthia Cascante
Sunday evening – Niki Farley

"The earth was alive and the earth was singing" by Reinee Psarow, speaker: Eileen Stapp

Music Down in My Soul. African American Spiritual
arranged by Moses Hogan

Honolulu Chorus. apologies to G.F. Handel
lyrics by Barb Glenn and Susan Nivert

"This Ecstasy" by John Squadra, speaker: Carol Tingle

May It Be. Eithne Ni Bhraonain,
Nicky Ryan & Roma Ryan

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May It Be. Eithne Ni Bhraonain,
Nicky Ryan & Roma Ryan

May It Be. Eithne Ni Bhraonain,
Nicky Ryan & Roma Ryan
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**Aurora Chorus: Peace like a river**

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...turn away from evil, and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

- Psalm 34
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O to make the most jubilant song!
Walt Whitman

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left to right: Jenn, Barb, Judith, Lynda, Sarah and Sherry

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