THE POWER OF WOMEN ASSEMBLED

AURORA
MAY 2, 1993

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Shakespeare’s Songs

Shakespeare often used songs in his plays — to create a mood, portray a character, or further the action of the play. Generally the singer is a relatively minor character, since in Elizabethan times it was not considered good manners for nobility to sing in public, and most of Shakespeare’s main characters are kings, queens, dukes, etc. In most cases we don’t know if the songs were actually folk or popular songs of the time, or if they were created specifically for the play. The original music is generally lost, but the words are frequently reset by modern composers. Aurora is singing two songs from comedies, “Under the Greenwood Tree” from As You Like It, and “Sigh No More Ladies” from Much Ado About Nothing; and one from the tragedy, Hamlet: “Ophelia’s Song.”

“Sigh No More Ladies” is also a lighthearted song, though perhaps with a hint of irony to our ears. It doesn’t have too much to do with the plot, and some have hypothesized that perhaps it was intended to showcase a talented vocalist in the company. The song’s philosophy is that good humor and common sense are the only antidotes to the irresponsibility of men.

“Under the Greenwood Tree” is the first song in the play, and serves to set the scene: City dwellers have come to the country, where they play out a comedy of love and mistaken identity. The song also nicely states the underlying theme of the play: The healing power of nature. Basically, it says “Forget ambition; come to the country, sing with the birds, sit in the sun — your only enemy is bad weather.

“Ophelia’s Song” occurs in a very different context. Hamlet is, of course, a tragedy, in which nearly everybody dies by the end. At this point in the play, Ophelia’s true love, Hamlet has just been banished to England, for killing (accidentally) Ophelia’s father, Polonius. Hamlet thought he was killing his uncle (the king), who had murdered Hamlet’s father (the old king) and married Hamlet’s mother (the queen). In the scene where Ophelia sings, we are meant to see that she had gone mad from all this trauma. There were several clues to her insanity: her hair is down, and she is singing in public — both considered signs of madness in a woman of her station. In addition, much of what she says and sings doesn’t seem to make much sense, but of course, there is truth in her madness. She is singing to the queen, mourning both for Hamlet’s disappearance, and for Polonius’ death. “Cockle hat and staff,” and “sandal shoon” [shoes] were typical attire for a pilgrim of that time, probably a reference to Hamlet’s wandering status.

— Melanie Plaut

Editor’s Note...

Lyrics such as, “Men were deceivers ever, from “Sigh No More Ladies,” and “Men! are fools that wish to die!” from “Hey Nonny No!” may seem at face value sexist. Aurora Chorus has chosen to sing the lyrics as printed. We hope concert goers are not offended by the phrases, and can enjoy them in their historic context.

Nigra Sum

Pablo Casals

English version by Kenneth Sterne

I am black.
I am black, but comely,
O ye daughters of Jerusalem:
The King hath rejoiced in me,
The King hath brought me into His very own chambers.

I am black,
I am black, but comely,
O ye daughters of Jerusalem:
The King hath rejoiced in me,
The King hath brought me into His very own chambers.

He spake unto me:
Rise up, my fair one,
and come away,
rise up, my fair one,
raise, my love.
Lo, for the winter is past and gone,
and the rain is over and gone,
lo, the winter, lo the winter’s gone,
the rain, the rain is over,
is over and gone,
lo, winter’s past and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth,
on the earth, the flowers appear
on the earth, on our earth,
and the time of renewal is come.
Alleluia.

Program Notes...

...continued on next page
Namasté

This song won an International Peace award in 1984. The text is from Sanskrit (East Indian) and was translated by Christine Kolb, who also wrote the music. It premiered in Warsaw, Poland.

— Jennifer Gates

Listen
Margaret Vance, Composer
Judith Barrington, Poet
Commissioned for Aurora Chorus

Margaret Vance, former University of Portland Music Department Head, was delighted to put one of her favorite poems to music for our concert today. The piece, commissioned and written specifically for Aurora Chorus complements the poem’s message of attuned awareness to our surroundings, mother nature and the wonders of the natural beauty of the world which are everlasting. One must only stop and HEAR as one LISTENS . . .

Margaret, unable to be with us today due to scheduling conflicts, will be thinking of us tonight as she travels through Israel, Greece and Turkey. When I asked her for a summary of the experience of writing the music of “Listen” for Aurora, she paused and said, “Aurora members will be challenged and grow musically by performing this piece. The message of the poem requires constant change and variety and was a pleasure to write.”

We are also with her in spirit and send our appreciation and wishes for safe travel.

— Susan Glasser

About Judith Barrington...
Judith Barrington was born in 1944 in Brighton, England. She lived in Spain from 1964 to 1966 and moved to Portland, Oregon in 1976. She has been a freelance writer, contributing columns on women’s issues to newspapers nationwide, and book reviews to the feminist and mainstream media. She has taught Women’s Studies at Portland State University, and currently teaches creative writing at Marylhurst College and at the Northwest Writing Institute at Lewis and Clark College. For part of each year, she teaches in the Arts in Education program. She is the founder of Flight of the Mind, a week-long summer writing workshop for women in the Oregon Cascades, at which she has taught the poetry section for the past five years. Her first book of poems, Trying to be an Honest Woman was published in 1985 by The Eighth Mountain Press.

The Power of Women Assembled
David York, Composer
Judy Sibelman, Poet
Premiere Performance

Inspired by the spirit of community that she experienced at the 1992 Aurora retreat, Judy Sibelman, founding member, section leader and Steering Committee member, composed this poem during the precious quiet times that every mother of two can appreciate. Her heartfelt words encompass the message of Aurora’s mission of women united in voice affirming peace through music. Her words eloquently speak for each Aurora member and for every group of women assembled locally as well as globally.

— Susan Glasser

About David York...
David York, Aurora Director, brings to each chorus member his loving gift’s and talents as a musician, caring teacher and composer. In addition to “The Power of Women Assembled,” David has composed “Mother of Us All,” in collaboration with Judith
Barrington which is currently being professionally recorded and is due to be released on Compact Disc and Cassette Tape this Fall. Last summer his composition, “The Quiet of a Candle” for men’s chorus and oboe was selected by blind audition from over 250 compositions to be performed at the National Convention of Gay and Lesbian Associations of Choruses in Denver.

Of great excitement and note, David has just been selected by the “Stand Up for Portland” committee to compose the theme song for the August 21, 1993 Celebration of Diversity to be held at Waterfront Park. Tens of thousands of people are expected to attend this musical and aerial photographic experience. (Postcards are being planned . . .)

The festival will celebrate the diversity of Portland and its surrounding communities and will stress the exposure and eradication of racism, homophobia, sexism and bigotry. Aurora Chorus and many other community and professional groups will be performing. Mark the date on your calendars now and plan to attend this energy-laden and soulfully expressive event!

— Susan Glasser

Hildegard of Bingen was a twelfth-century nun who wrote, composed music, and was highly accomplished and respected in the religious, scientific, political and artistic communities of her time.

Her work influenced thousands during her lifetime. After her death, much of her writing was suppressed by ecclesiastical authorities. De Spiritu Sancto illustrates the sensitive spirituality combined with the compassionate humanity that are characteristic of her work.

— Eleanor Malin

How Can I Keep From Singing?
Traditional

This hymn dates from at least 1864. The words were written by Anne Warner. It has been recorded by Pete Seeger, John McCutcheon, Bok Muir & Trickett, and Enya. It is popular in Iredell County, North Carolina.

— Jennifer Gates

Carol Rich, Pianist

Pianist Carol Rich graduated from the Juilliard School with a Master of Music degree.

Ms. Rich has had extensive solo, accompanying and chamber music experience throughout the United States, including appearances at Carnegie Recital hall and Alice Tulley Hall.


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AURORA
women in harmony for peace
David York, Director

PRESENTS

the POWER of
WOMEN ASSEMBLED

with Featured Pianist, Carol Rich

With the Earth and With Each Other

**Horn Players, Corni di Caccia:** Erik Beyer, Adam Franklin-Lyons,
Corwin Light-Williams, James Priest

Hey Nonny No!

Sigh No More, Ladies

Under the Greenwood Tree

Ophelia's Song

Nigra Sum

Listen

Namasté

The Power of Women Assembled
INTERMISSION

How Can I Keep From Singing?  
**Traditional**

**Trio No. 1:** Judy Rose, Sharon Klin, LeAnn Petrone

**Trio No. 2:** Teresa Culp, Judith Mowry, Kristen Van Kranenburgh

**Trio No. 3:** Pat Farrell, Catherine Rolling-Freedman, Judy Sibelman

Appalachian Round  
**Traditional**

Hava Nashira  
**Traditional**

Dona Nobis Pacem  
Giovanni Palestrina

De Spiritu  
Hildegard of Bingen

Voices  
Holly Near

Arranged by Kate Campbell

**Guitarists:** Jan Carpenter, Karen Chase, Emma McLaughlin, Melanie Plant, Judy Rose

This We Know  
Joan Simcoe

**Vocal Soloist:** Sherrie Van Hine

**Oboist:** Gerrie Kraus

**Cellist:** Drew Eckard

Blue Green Hills of Earth  
Kim Oler

In Our Hands  
David Shire and David Pomeranz

**Vocal Soloist:** Gwen Riggins

Give Yourself to Love  
Kate Wolf

Arranged by Kate Campbell

**Vocal Soloists:** Emma McLaughlin, LeAnn Petrone, Allison Bell-Stalnaker
AURORA
women in harmony for peace

David York, Director
Judy Rose, Assistant Conductor
Andrea Medlock, Signer

THE CHORUS

SOPRANO I
Elise Albert
Diane Baldocchi
Anne Bates
Allison Bell-Stalnaker
Pamela Burrell
Judith Chambliss
Cristi Daggett
Lorre Gadoua
Susan Glasser
Wendy Howard
Sarah Huntsman
Barbara Hutson
Dana Jaszcult
Becky Lally
Eleanor Malin
Nancy McFarlane
Kirsten Meyer
Pat Murray
LeAnn Petrone
Debbie Pinney
Sharon Richter
Judy Romano
Donna Schreiner
Judy Sibelman, Section Coordinator
Kit Siegel
Cheri Smith
Lisa Stone
Kristen Van Kranenburgh
Jean Aslakson

SOPRANO II
Jean Aslakson
Priscilla Bernard
Nancy Blauer
Sherry Booth
Betty Bricken
Rose Compton
Sophie Crawford
Judy Flynn
Brandaine Friel
Cyn Gardiner
Lynn Greenwood
Sue Ann Higgen
Sara Kaufman
Lenore Keating
Judith Komishane
Patti Kreipe
Jane Lucas
Mimi Maduro
Fay Malloy
Ellen Morrison
Nancy Oace
Gayle Preston
Catherine Rolling-Freedman
Katharine Salzmann
Joan Sears
Robin Sutherland
Pamela Town
Connie Weiss, Section Coordinator
Sahana Wolvington

ALTO I
Kate Campbell, Section Coordinator
Karen Chase
Nancy Chesler
Gaia Davies
Lenore DiFiore
Maura Doherty
Pat Farrell
Karla Fitzwater
Jennifer Gates
Peggy Halloran
Laura Hanks
Gloria Dean Harris
Jeanne Henry
Susan Hunter
Susan Hyde
Holy Kaur Khalsa
Sharon Klin
Holly Kuschel
Eileen La Chance
Suzanne Lehman
Paula Lowden
Patty McCollum
Judith Mowry
Gail Murphy
Helen Nissani
Beth Perkins
Anne Rutherford
Marcy Satalich
Diane Schell-Rowley
Kate Schuyler
Nina Scott
Melanie Serpa
Nina Sessler
Nancy Thorn
Sherrie Van Hine
Martha Wagner
Fran Weick
Liza Whitmarsh

ALTO II
Joan Andrews, Section Coordinator
Pati Burraston
Jan Carpenter
Maureen Carrsyn
Eileen Cayo
Leslie Congleton
Teresa Culp
Roslyn Ferrington
Gail Gallagher
Elisabeth Gern
Victoria Gill
Jane Haley
Sally Hersh
Susan Knight-Allen
Sandy McQueen
Emma McLaughlin
Libby Miller
Carole Most
Sue Pickgrobe
Melanie Plaut
Wendy Rankin
Gwen Riggins
Mart Roberts-Pillon
Judy Rose
Saavedra Vibiona
Maria Simon
Spring Svart
Sherry Wallingford
Aurora Gives Special Thanks To

B & N Printing
Gango Gallery and Leslie Lee
Dennis Hoggatt
Lewis and Clark College
Bill Stalnaker
Jess Wade III
Whittaker Middle School

Leslie Lee is a local clay artist who established a national reputation with her fanciful “narrative teapots,” but has recently moved on to larger sculptures with more personal meaning. The “Bread and Roses” piece on display in the lobby this afternoon, was inspired by the concert given by Aurora Chorus in the Northwest District Service Center last November 6th. The theme of women empowering themselves has been strong in Lee’s work over the last few years. To see more of the artist’s work visit the S.W 1st & Pine or Progress Square Gango Galleries.
Aurora Premieres Two New Compositions

Listen
By Judith Barrington

If you walk north from the cottage into deep woods and happen to look up at just the right moment, and if, when you look up there, your heart is full of what you do not yet know, then, perhaps, you may see the owl crouched like a cat in the fork of the tallest fir.

If you stand at the west window, there may be a blue heron fishing beside the bench at the pond. If you decide to learn patience today and wait with her, motionless, for the careless fish, soon you will find your eyes piercing weed, as one shadowy carp slides below and everything but gliding flesh falls away.

The cedar tree close to the south window is never still. She shakes water from the tips of her fronds; she drapes branches across the view; but it is her trunk that has reassured me, morning after morning, its huge weight soaring, its two perfect, female fissures moist again, with the secretions of the dew.

If you lie at night by the east windows where the roof slopes down, and if your heart is full of what you might one day know, you may hear the oak beams sing. For seven years the sap will move as the wood, lovingly shaped to its new task, sings of the forest it left behind.

If you listen, you will learn there is no such thing as leaving.

The Power of Women Assembled
By Judy Sibelman

We gather like droplets learning to be cloud; drawn by sun’s insistence, we build the power to cool its very touch and flood its fires, teaching comfort to the land.

From every direction, we come together like the roots of a tree, joining at its center, rising, rising, turning as we rise, reaching as we turn, alive, welcoming life in our arms, bearing strength like a single thought bridging earth and sky.

Sharp and bright as the instant of the dawn, we are Aurora and we wield the power of women assembled to change the world. We raise our voices not in anger, but in harmony, weave our song into a fine basket cupping, as our hands that bear water, as our bodies that bear life, our conviction: peace be.

AURA Statement of Intent

Aurora is a women’s chorus which celebrates harmony in diversity. We provide a unique opportunity to:

- Develop vocal and creative potential
- Learn music reading and choral performance techniques
- Commission and give voice to new choral works
- Share ideas and beliefs, joys and sorrows.

Through a variety of musical styles and content, Aurora offers our community a message of love, peace and respect for those who sing and those who listen.

Aurora: Women in Harmony for Peace

David York, Director
P.O. Box 2636
Portland, OR 97208-2636
760-3722
AUDITIONS SCHEDULED for Concord Choir 1993-94 Season

Professional singers and qualified amateurs in all voice categories are encouraged to audition. Twenty-five singers are sought. Financial remuneration will be offered to qualified professionals. Applicants must read music. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings beginning in September. Auditions for new members will be Wednesday evening, May 12 at St. Rose Catholic Church, 2727 N.E. 54th (one block north of Sandy Blvd.). Call back auditions will be Wednesday, May 19.

Call 760-3722 for more information or to schedule an audition time.

ONE MOTHER'S FIGHT AGAINST AIDS

Judith Hyde is a Portland, Oregon letter carrier from the Woodlawn neighborhood who has taken a year's leave of absence to walk across the United States to call attention to our lack of knowledge about AIDS. Judith left Portland on August 30, 1992 and will arrive in Washington D.C. in August, 1993.

Judith wishes not only to personally educate people to remove the stigma associated with AIDS, but also, at a grass-roots level, to raise money for AIDS education. Her goal is to bring attention to all facets of this terrible disease and to replace ignorance and fear with knowledge, courage and empathy. The monies raised will go to the National Community AIDS Partnership, which establishes educational programs in large and small communities.

Judith's Journey is a non-profit organization, so your contribution will be tax-deductible.

Judith's Journey was originally involved with a marketing and advertising company to promote the Journey, but their fee would have consumed 2/3 of the funds raised. Obviously, approaching this from a grass roots perspective allows almost all the money to go to its intended purpose, AIDS education, and since all of the staff are volunteers, administrative costs are kept to a minimum.

Please support the effort by donating one cent for each mile that Judith will be walking ($28.00)--or more if you can, less if you can't. All donations of $50.00 or more will receive a free T-shirt. T-shirts are available at $12.95, sweatshirts at $16.95 each, plus $3.00 shipping and handling. Make checks payable to:

JUDITH'S JOURNEY
P.O. Box 86143
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MEN'S CHORUS BEING FORMED

David York, Director
Launch date: Wednesday, Sept. 1, 1993
Time: 7:00 to 9:30 pm
Location: Portland State University
Campus Ministries

CALL 760-3722 TO REGISTER

Modeled after our sister chorus, "Aurora," Satori is an entry-level men's chorus dedicated to affirming peace through music. An affiliate of Concord Choir, Inc., the goal of Satori is to instill concord and an awareness of one world in an ever-expanding audience.

Purpose:
- to provide premium quality musical performances throughout the community.
- to provide ongoing training for its members in vocal development, music reading, ear training, and choral music technique.
- to establish an atmosphere for authentic self expression through music among its participants.
- to commission and perform new works.

Membership:
Attend the first rehearsal as our guest. Afterward, an invitation for membership will be given to those who are interested and who demonstrate the ability to match pitches. The director will listen to you sing a simple vocal exercise during a group audition. You will not be required to sing alone. Dues are $20.00 per month.

Literature:
Music from all time periods, styles and cultures will be considered; including classical, jazz, world music, show tunes, and folk music.

PREMIERE PERFORMANCE:
Satori will be guests of Aurora Women's Chorus in "The Ancestors' Breath: African and African-American Music" on October 9, 1993. Featured guest artist/director, will be Ysaye Barnwell from the acclaimed Sweet Honey in the Rock. Join Aurora Women's Chorus and the Boka Marimba Band for this extraordinary community celebration.
AURORA presents

The Ancestors' Breath: African and African-American Song

with Special Guests

Ysaye Barnwell from the acclaimed Sweet Honey in the Rock and Boka Marimba

Saturday, OCTOBER 9, 1993 8:00 p.m.

Neighbors of Woodcraft 1410 S.W. Morrison

CALL 760-3722 FOR TICKET INFORMATION

AURORA IS GROWING! JOIN THE FUN!

Registration for new members will be on Thursdays May 6th, 13th & 20th at Whittaker Middle School, 5700 NE 39th, Room C-215 at 6:30 p.m. After summer recess, we'll resume rehearsals on September 2 for our concert, "The Ancestors' Breath: African and African-American Song," with featured guests Ysaye Barnwell and Boka Marimba. Dues are $20.00 per month. Call 760-3722 for more information.