We All... Every One of Us
MUSIC FOR THE JOURNEY HOME

AURORA CHORUS
WOMEN IN HARMONY FOR PEACE

JOAN SZYMKO, DIRECTOR
WITH SPECIAL GUEST: LINDA ALLEN

SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST • 8:00 PM • ARLENE SCHNITZER CONCERT HALL
We are glad you are with us this evening, to share our expression of home. “Home” has so many different meanings, so many different resonances to all of us. Home is sometimes the place we are eager to escape; and sometimes where we long to return with all of our heart.

As I end my term as President of Concord Community of Choirs, I feel tremendously glad to be a part of the overall organization that gives Aurora her “home.” Keeping an arts organization intact and afloat in the 90s is a challenging proposition: thank you for supporting us by buying tickets to our concerts, making a financial donation or contributing the enormous amount of time and energy that sustains our activities.

Our organizational mission is “To create quality choral music as an instrument of peace, for our audience and ourselves, through a community of choirs.” We strive to create an environment, a home, where individual respect and mutual understanding combine with producing excellent music. That spirit is present in Aurora, thanks to her members and to the leadership of Director Joan Szymko. This spirit permeates our overall organization, because of the vision and continuing leadership of Artistic Director David York and the work of all of us.

I want to commend the valiant members of the Council of the Concord Community of Choirs for doing good, hard work and paying attention to values in the midst of financial and operational pressures. It has been a privilege to work with the Council, and I look forward to continuing to serve as a Council member as Denise Andersen assumes the Presidency.

Blessings on all of us as we make our home in the world, amid all those circles of dependence and interdependence that nourish and strengthen and occasionally infuriate us. Let us be at home with one another this evening, and carry that spirit forth in the world.

This month marks a period of transition for The Concord Community of Choirs. Anne Rutherford, our Council President for the last three years, is completing her term, and we celebrate the wonderful gift of leadership that she gave to our organization. She has passed her president’s cap to me, and I will do my best to steer this magnificent musical ship.

Tonight’s concert closes an incredible season. Eight choirs have performed in a wide variety of venues from community events to the Festival of Lights at the Grotto to grand productions at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Sit back and enjoy tonight’s concert under the dynamic direction of Joan Szymko. We hope to see you next Fall when we begin another exciting season with the Concord Community of Choirs. Blessings!
CONCORD COMMUNITY OF CHOIRS

DIRECTORS
David York: Artistic Director, Concord Community of Choirs; Director Concord Choir, Chrysals Concert Choir  
Joan Szymko: Aurora, Viriditas Vocal Ensemble  
Ray Elliott: satori  
Laura Frizzell: Chrysals Celebration Singers  
Steve Peter: coro uomo

VOLUNTEER & STAFF SUPPORT
Jenna Scott, librarian; Patty Gicante, box office;  
Gail Murphy, bulk mail coordinator; Cheri Smith, art director;  
Sherrie Van Hine, voice mail coordinator

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If you would like to receive information about the Concord Community of Choirs and our 1997-98 season, please sign our mailing list in the lobby.

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JOAN SZYMKO MAKING PLANS FOR CD

Having been asked on countless occasions “Is there a recording available of that?” Joan Szymko has decided that this is the time to seek a wider audience for her compositions by producing a professional quality recording, it is happiness (premiered by Aurora last year), Openings (music for trapeze – Do Jump 96-97) and Ubi Caritas (premiered by Concord Community of Choirs last fall) are some of Joan’s works that will appear on her first CD. If you enjoy Joan’s music and want to be kept informed of the progress of this project, please sign your name at a special table in the lobby.
Artists' Biographies

Conductor and composer Joan Szymko has been leading community choruses in the Pacific Northwest for sixteen years. She is a native of Chicago and a graduate of the University of Illinois. Her years with the Seattle Women's Ensemble (1981-91) and as music director of University Baptist Church (Seattle, 1987-93) provided Joan with unique settings in which to hone her skills as a conductor and composer. This experience made her exceptionally qualified to take on the leadership of Aurora Chorus in the fall of 1993.

Joan began composing soon after she began conducting. Her numerous choral compositions and arrangements for women's voices have been performed by many choruses across the country. Two pieces she arranged for Aurora chorus have recently been published. Also included among her compositions are chamber works, sacred anthems, musicals and music for modern dance.

Joan Szymko is the founding director of Viriditas Vocal Ensemble, a women's chamber ensemble. Joan and Viriditas have been featured artists in Do Jump Movement Theatre's 96-97 season, singing Joan's compositions in over sixty performances at the Echo Theatre. Joan also directs the Portland State Community Chorus.

A resident of Bellingham, Washington, singer/songwriter Linda Allen has performed and given workshops from one coast to the other for over twenty-five years. Her songs have been sung and/or recorded by artists including Frankie Armstrong and Judy Small, and have appeared in publications such as Sing Out! and Broadside. A song collector and songwriter, she has been Washington's Resident Songwriter, worked extensively with the Washington Women's Cultural Heritage Project, and organized two community folk centers. She has released six original recordings which are available for purchase in the lobby. Also available is information on her upcoming retreats and workshops.

Tonight Aurora sings songs from Linda's most recent release, Lay it Down: Images of the Sacred. Of her music, Linda says: “Above all, I'd like my songs to be useful. I'd like to think that the singing of them will bring courage, visions, new understandings, perhaps a few tears, and a sense of joyful community.” Welcome Linda!

Text/Translations

MAYN RUE-PLATZ
My Resting Place
Don't look for me where myrtles grow, you will not find me there, my love. Where lives wither at machines - that is my resting place.
Don't look for me where birds sing, you will not find me there, my love. I am a slave, and where chains ring - that is my resting place.
Not where fountains splash, but where tears flow and teeth gnash - that is my resting place.
And if you love me truly, come lighten my heart and sweeten my resting place.

CRADLE SONGS
Shlof, Mayn Kind (Yiddish)
Sleep my child, my dear, my beautiful, sleep, zhuvenya.
Sleep my love, my only prayer
Sleep, lya, lya lya.
By your cradle sits your mother
She sings a song and cries.
You will in time, understand her weeping.
What she meant.

Aludjal El (Hungarian)
When mother wrapped up baby in bunting
In her happiness she started to sing
Sleep my beauty, hush, cuddle.
You my heart's biggest joy, hush.

BIST DU BEI MIR
If you are with me go I wish to joy to die and to my rest.
Oh, how pleasant thus would be my End
if your beloved hands close my faithful eyes.

UNDER ONE SKY
Judith Harrington, 1994
We walk with our feet on granite and limestone
We walk with our feet in desert sand.
On the prairies we walk where grasses make waves.
We walk on one earth, many lands.
Our voices are lark, cicadas, coyotes.
Languages stutter, or ring like a gong.
Rhythms and melodies scatter or float:
many notes, many voices, one song.
Beech tree, mahogany, maple or linden.
Willows that bend or tall pine:
needles or leaves, their songs in the wind
all whisper the same ancient rhyme.
Starfish and dolphin, salmon and crab -
their homes are in oceans deep blue.
The currents and tides that so many inhabit
all answer to one silver moon.
How different the lives we can live on this earth!
How different the deaths we can die.
Yet together we cycle through rest and growth -
all planted here under one sky.


**Program Notes**

"We are all wanderers on this earth... our hearts full of silver song, our pockets deep with dreams." So begins our musical journey this evening—with our hearts full, and with the common dream of finding home; be it a personal refuge, in our own families, finding peace in difficult circumstances, or creating a community where all beings are as one "family." Judith Barrington's poem *Under One Sky* puts into perspective the incredible diversity of life alongside its underlying commonalities; Creation’s "rhythm and melodies scatter or float—many notes, many voices, one song."

The many women of Aurora span several generations, ranging in age from 16 to 67. Our backgrounds and our lives are as diverse as our ages— but we all share a love for blending voices and for finding community in song. For many, the love of singing began at home: *Music In My Mother's House* is a tribute to the role of music in family life. Some discovered the power of voices raised in song at church and worship services, singing hymns like *Amazing Grace*. Others have found comfort and strength in the music of ancestors; *The Lark In the Clear Air* (Irish) and *Mayn Rue-Platz* (Yiddish) are but two examples of the rich folk music traditions passed down by our grandparents. They address two of the most popular themes in all of music: love and death. The tune is traditional but the lyrics of Mayn Rue-Platz (My Resting Place) were written by Morris Rosenfeld (1862-1923), who was the first Yiddish poet to be published in English translation. He often wrote of the pain and struggle of the Jewish immigrant experience. *(See translations)*

Still others' homes were filled with the sounds of classical music—Saturday afternoon opera on the radio, piano recital preparations, Handel's Messiah at Christmas time. J.S. Bach, surely one of the greatest composers of Western European music, did not compose music specifically for women's chorus; his *Bist du bei mir* (If you are with me) is a song that he wrote for his second wife, Anna Magdelena. His genius for composing exquisitely rational and emotionally eloquent music is clearly apparent in this beautiful song of faithfulness at death's door. *(see translation)*

No matter what kind of music played in the parlor or on the radio in our mother's house, there's a strong likelihood that our mothers, or other caretakers, sang us to sleep when we were young. Joan Szymko arranged *Cradle Songs* specifically for this concert. She included lullabies from different cultural traditions represented by the women of Aurora. You'll hear Cris Williamson's sweet *Lullaby*, followed by Yiddish, English, Hungarian, and African American slumber songs. *(see translations)*

The syncopated rhythms and improvisatory nature of African music combined with harmonic and structural idioms of European music melded together into a distinctly American musical genre: jazz. One of the geniuses of jazz, Duke Ellington wrote many hit songs that have become "standards."

*It Don't Mean a Thing* (If It Ain't Got that Swing) is one of those classics. Black Gospel is composed sacred music that shares the same roots as jazz. Gospel music is meant to inspire, fortify and motivate the spirits of those who sing and those who listen. Ysaye Barnwell taught Aurora and satori *A Ship Like Mine* for the *Ancestor's Breath* concert a few years back. We'd like to teach it to you this evening.

*Somos El Barco* tells us that we are the boat and the sea—implying that we all... everyone of us, are connected; that we are one body—what we do to others and to creation, we do to ourselves. The refrain is sung partly in Spanish and translates: "We are the boat, we are the sea—I sail in you, you sail in me." And together, we can "chart the waters never sailed before."

No song typifies the yearning of the human spirit quite like *Over the Rainbow*. Dorothy and The Wizard of Oz have taken on mythic proportions in the American cultural psyche. Who hasn't dreamt of a better life without troubles and without limits? Who hasn't had to come home to face the challenges of "reality." Bernice Johnson Reagon, in her dedication of *We All... Every One of Us* to Rosie Lee Horn Hooks writes:

*I heard you talking about the severity and want of your growing up years, and your never wanting to return to those times and places. It got me thinking about the bottom as a place we all should be familiar with. Home is the experience where you get your foundation. It is what you are standing on today, if you are still standing.*

Northwest singer/songwriter, Linda Allen takes the stage and leads Aurora on *The Long Way Home*. Linda comments on how life's journey, with its rocky roads and scattered dreams "makes you want to hold your ground, and find roots that matter." Sometimes, we are called to be "home" to others—in Allen's *Lay It Down* we sing of the nurturance and comfort we extend to our loved ones and of our own need for reassurance.

Sometimes, the only one at home is your own dear self. *Coming Into My Years* is about a woman doing just that; coming into her own; feeling safe, proud and strong. A world where all people are empowered and respected, where justice breeds peace; this is the world longed for in *All the Weary Mothers*. Looking the other way when others are victims of injustice is damaging to everyone's rights and to the moral fiber of society as a whole. Martin Neimoller, a German clergyman during WWII came to this conclusion too late. His poetry inspired Seattle songwriter Mike Stern, to write the song, *I Didn't Ask Why*.

Making the earth a home takes more than dreaming and talking. It means taking a stand and making difference for each other and for the planet. It takes a lot of *Hard Work* to create solutions to the problems we face individually, locally and globally. We are all together on but one *Small Green Island* and we "can make a difference" if *We Remain Faithful* to the work that must be done.
We All... Every One of Us

MUSIC FOR THE JOURNEY HOME

Pockets Deep With Dreams
Under One Sky
Music In My Mother’s House
Amazing Grace
The Lark In the Clear Air
Mayn Rue-Plats
Bist du bei mir
Cradle Songs
1. Lullabye 2. Shlof, Mayn Kind 3. All Through the Night
4. Aludjai El 5. Angels Watching Over Me

soloists: Judy Sapon-Borson, Moya Schloegl

It Don’t Mean a Thing (If It Ain’t Got That Swing)
A Ship Like Mine
Somos El Barco

Over The Rainbow
We All... Every One of Us
Taking the Long Way Home
Lay It Down
Coming Into My Years

soloist: Christine Hayward

All the Weary Mothers
I Didn’t Ask Why
trio: Sarah Ross, Kirsten Meyer, Lissa Meier
Small Green Island
Hard Work
We Remain Faithful

soloist: Lori Flowers

soloist: Judy Rose

Instruments:
Piano: Jeff Payne, Judy A. Rose
Harp: Ellen Lindquist
Bass: Marilyn John
Guitar: Ross McKeen, Jennifer Yocum, Carol Timper
Percussion: Judy A. Rose, Roberta Jortner
Traps: Monty Cowles

Ensemble singers (pg 5)

by Joan Szymko
Roumanian Gypsy saying

by Joan Szymko
poem by Judith Barrington

by Stuart Stotts
arranged by J.D. Moore

traditional, words by John Newton
arranged by Szymko

traditional Irish
arranged by Stuart Calvert

traditional Yiddish
words by Morris Rosenfeld

J.S Bach (1686-1750)

traditional & Cris Williamson
arranged by Szymko

Duke Ellington
arranged by Mac Huff

Melvin And Doug Williams

Lorre Wyatt
arranged by Szymko

Harold Arlen & E.Y.Harburg
arranged by Ben Kendall

Bernice Johnson Reagon

Linda Allen

Betsy Rose
arranged by Szymko

Joan Baez
arranged by Szymko

Mike Stern
arranged by Szymko

Susan Osborn, Paul Halley & Joan Spear
arranged by Szymko

Linda Allen

Charlie Murphy
arranged by Murphy and Patrinell Wright
Aurora Chorus: women in harmony for peace

SOPRANO 1
Michele A. Alderson
Debra Arrivé
Claudine Blake
Pamela Burrell
Barbara Cabot
Karen Cacciatto
Bar Emilion
Marge Gale
Christine Hayward
SOPRANO 2
Jenna Scott
Debra Arrivee
Michele A. Alderson
SOPRANO 1
Andrea Burke
Marge Gale
Bae Emilson
Barbara Cabot
Pam Burrell
Jay Marmaduke
Aurora Committees & Volunteers
Natasha Beck
Barbara Bonnema
Andrew Burke
Christine Brown
Patricia Chapman
Patricia Cormann
Camille Cole
SOPRANO 2
Angela Crow
Diane Dickey
Dianne Doyle
Marc Edwards
Kay Exo
Susan Freidler
Jeanne Hackney
Laura Hanks
Krya Hazilla
Emery Hankley
Amber Hodges
Melinda Jepsen
Robert Jornern
Judith Komishane
Kerry Lejeffer
Jan Lustig
Marilyn McCabe
Rita McDonagh-Noble
Marty Mitchell
Debbie Nicholson
Georgia Pinkel
Gayle Preston
Linda Jo Rasmussen
Sarah Ross
Moya Schloegi
Joan Sears
Megan Smith
Eileen Spencer
Heather Veldhuisen
Christie Winkelman
Carol Wright
Jennifer Yocum
Adelle Zimmerman
ALTO 1
Judy Brodkay
Jean Cohen
Gina Davies
Lois Dikes
Maura Doherty
Ann Dudley
Joanna Dumais-Clark
Margot Faege
Alyse Finlayson
Karla Fitzwater
Lori Flowers
Judie Franklin
Peggy Fried Yee
Jennifer Gates
Leslie Gardiner
Katie Gordon
Carol Hazzard
Merrill Hendin
Jeanne Henry
Susan Hopkins
Ann Huntswork
Georgie Hustead
Susan Hyde
Sue Jensen
Denise Kossower-Wechter
Dorothy Krogh
Linda Larsen-Hweale
Joan Logan
Arla Melun
Karen Milton
Janet Ploss
Mary Priester
Anne Rutherford
Beth Schwartz
Karen Scott
Kate Schuyler
Judi Soloway
Beverly Starr
Mary Anne Stowell
Kathie Stowell
Linda Jo Rasmussen
Joanna Dumais Clark
Joan Andrews
Patricia Ayerza
Rudi Besser-Rapport
Olivia Clark
Merlene Delgado
Sheila Engles
Karen Erde
Kathleen Fisher
Maria Hazilla
Lee Johannes
Marilyn John
Colleen Keyses
Betty McFarlane
Linda Meier
Linda Milone
Deanne Naylor
Barbara Ohashi
Melanie Plau
Wendy Rankin
Barbara Reader
Elizabeth Robb
Marie Roberts-Pillow
Dallas Shaffer
Kathy Smith
Carol (CL) Timper
Maureen Tolonen
Carol Wolff
Teena Wood
Ely Worden
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Professional Section Administrator
on leave
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ATTENDANCE
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Debbie Pinney
OUTREACH
Margot Faege
Kathleen Fisher
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Dorothy Krogh
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Chris Brown
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Editor – Jeanne Hackney
Design/Production – Cheri Smith
Illustration – Meg Ferguson
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Annie Rutherford
Joan Synk
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Alyse Finlayson, chair
Patricia Cormann
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Maura Doherty
Jeanette Hankins
Arla Melun
Barbara Ohashi
Moya Schloegi
Teena Wood
TICKETS
Barbara Cabot, chair
Chris Brown
Patricia Cormann
Colleen Keyes
Kerry Lefever
Kirsten Meyer
Barbara Reader
Charlann Snyder
Ely Worden
Jennifer Yocum
Vocal Ensembles
UNDER ONE SKY
Barbara Cabot
Sor1
Sor2
Joan Andrews
Patricia Ayerza
Rudi Besser-Rapport
Olivia Clark
Merlene Delgado
Sheila Engles
Karen Erde
Kathleen Fisher
Maria Hazilla
Lee Johannes
Marilyn John
Colleen Keyes
Betty McFarlane
Linda Meier
Linda Milone
Deanne Naylor
Barbara Ohashi
Melanie Plau
Wendy Rankin
Barbara Reader
Elizabeth Robb
Marie Roberts-Pillow
Dallas Shaffer
Kathy Smith
Carol (CL) Timper
Maureen Tolonen
Carol Wolff
Teena Wood
Ely Worden
IT DON'T MEAN A THING
Claudine Blake
Andrea Burke
Sheila Engles
Laura Hanks
Sue Jensen
MAYN RUE-PLATS
Claudine Blake
Andrea Burke
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And all others who volunteered after the press deadline.
COMING EVENTS

Aurora's Next Concert

Winter solstice is the theme for our next concert program scheduled for December 21, 1997. Joining us will be David York and Concord Choir. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us as we celebrate the turning of the seasons and the return of the light.

Looking for a place to sing? Try Ashira!

As an outreach component of the Concord Community of Choirs, Ashira is a network of community-based choruses who meet on a monthly basis in homes throughout the region.

Our common text is a songbook of tried and true hits accumulated from a decade of singing for peace. Gatherings are led by folks who've completed a series of conducting seminars tailored especially for novice conductors and led by Artistic Director, David York. Annual dues of $25 help offset the cost of training for conductors, publicity, and operations.

Groups, ranging in size from 12 to 50 people, define their own vocal configuration and priorities. Since Ashira's inception in June 1996, five chapters have formed:

**Accordia** (SW) – the charter chapter for women, Sylvan area.
HOST: Larry-Anne Garlock
DIRECTORS: Joan Peters & Carol Walker
MEETS: 2nd Sun. eve

**Hataama** (NE) – for women interested in incorporating ritual and dance with music.
HOST: Helen Richardson
DIRECTOR: Ellen Morrison
MEETS: 3rd Wed. eve

**Calliope** (NE) – for women with sight reading ability and extensive choral experience.
HOST: Teresa Culp
DIRECTOR: Mary McCarty
MEETS: 1st Sun. eve

**Woodstock** (SE) – for men, women and families.
HOSTS: Ron and LuAnn Spoelstra
DIRECTORS: Sherrie Anderson & Bob New
MEETS: Tues. eve

**Lively Tykes** (NW) – for 3 to 7-year-olds and their families.
HOST: Community Church of Cedar Hills
DIRECTORS: David York & Linda Jo Rasmussen
MEETS: 1st Sat. morning

Representatives will be available in the lobby after the concert to answer any questions you may have about singing with or leading an Ashira chapter. You may also request information by calling the Concord Community of Choirs at 721-0262.
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