We Remain Faithful

International Women’s Day Concert
featuring vocal activist Melanie DeMore

Joan Szymko, Director
March 5, 2017
First Congregational Church
1126 SW Park Ave, Portland
From the Board

Thank you for joining us in Aurora Chorus’ Fourth Annual International Women’s Day Concert as we continue our celebration of our 25th Anniversary Season. Aurora is thrilled to welcome vocal activist Melanie DeMore to the stage with us.

We additionally welcome 100 students from our community who have not previously attended an Aurora concert. They are here with us today due to the generous support of a Regional Arts & Culture Council grant. Through both Aurora’s diverse repertoire as well as through the diversity of the singers, Aurora models the power of women of different backgrounds coming together to create something beautiful. In sharing our voices, our hope is that you will not only appreciate our music and the message in the songs, but will see the example Aurora sets as impetus to reach out to people in different communities in your own lives.

Aurora continues to thrive with your presence and financial support. In addition to your ticket purchase, you can support us by using our donation envelopes, participating in our upcoming online auction and by joining us in a paddle bid at our Gala on April 22. With this support Aurora can carry on strongly into the future. With this support women’s voices will continue to be heard where they are needed. Aurora is more than women singing words—it is a place that empowers women to be their truest selves, making the world a more compassionate place for everyone.

With immense gratitude,

Jaclyn Leeds
Board Chair

Join us for cookies and conversation after the show downstairs in reception area.

Our Director

Joan Szymko has conducted choruses in the Pacific Northwest for over thirty years. She left Seattle for Portland in 1993 to take on the leadership of Aurora Chorus. She soon founded Viriditas, a select women’s ensemble, (1994–2002) and enjoyed a fruitful collaboration with Do Jump! Movement Theater (1994–2012) as a performer, music director and resident composer. She recently served on the choral music faculty at Portland State University as director of Vox Femina (2013–15). As a visiting artist, Joan Szymko workshops her music with choirs in a variety of educational settings across the country. This past year she was honored to guest conduct at regional choral festivals that featured her compositions for women’s voices both in the Netherlands and at the University of Illinois.

Composing for choir is a natural outgrowth of Joan Szymko’s creativity as a conductor. Joan’s dedication to craft and artistry and her insistence on quality texts are renowned. Her catalog of over 100 published choral works is performed by ensembles across North America and abroad. Since 2003, her music has been performed at every National Conference of the American Choral Directors Association. In 2010 the ACDA recognized Szymko’s lasting impact on the choral arts in America by selecting her as the recipient of the prestigious Raymond W. Brock Memorial Commission. Most recently she was commissioned by Eugene Vocal Arts to compose a large-scale work that focuses on those faced with the tragedy of Alzheimer’s dementia. *Shadow and Light* premiered in April 2016 to great critical acclaim.
# We Remain Faithful

**Aurora Chorus’ 4th Annual International Women’s Day Concert**

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<th>Joan Szymko, Director</th>
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<td><strong>Warrior</strong></td>
<td>Kim Baryluk (Wyrd Sisters)</td>
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**Special Guest**

**Melanie DeMore**

**Against the Wind**

Sylvia Hackathorn, bouzouki  
Michelle Krause, drum kit  
Marisa Gilman, dancer  

**Ella’s Song**

Bernice Johnson Reagon  
lyrics based on words of Ella Baker  

**Song of Miriam**

reader: Di Stobaeus  

**Miriam**

Laura Berkson / arr. Szymko  

**We Remain Faithful**

Judy Rose, piano  

**Our Guest Performer**

We are thrilled that Melanie DeMore, the woman who wrote “I Am Sending You Light,” is with us today. This song has bound Aurora women together for over two decades; we circle once a month to sing this song and send light to those who are going through hard times. Joining Melanie are old friends Judy Rose on keyboards and Sylvia Hackathorn on bouzouki.

We also had the privilege of working with Melanie and the larger community in a powerful workshop yesterday. Working with Melanie in Full Body Forward was an amazing experience for over 150 singers.

Born in the Bronx, raised in Anchorage, Melanie’s folks moved all five kids to San Antonio where she finished school, got out of Texas, was the only Black folk singer in Taos, N.M., then decided to get back into the mix, took all her stuff and moved to Oakland where she’s been for the last 21 years.

She has traveled the world and every town Melanie traveled became her teacher and an opportunity to hone her craft as a songwriter, troubadour and an emissary of tolerance, kindness, and harmony through the sound of her golden voice. Melanie DeMore is a founding member of the Grammy-nominated vocal ensemble Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir and, as she will readily share, “is constantly amazed” by her life. But nothing is closer to her heart than bringing people together wherever she is to experience the healing power of music.
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A Place Where You Belong ~ Celebrating 25 Years

Soprano 1
Michele Alderson^A
Phyllis Auger
Margaret Blake
Kristan Burkert
Libby Clow
Paulla Dacklin
Lori Deering-Mohr
Ellen Drumheller
Kirsten Hays
Christine Hayward+^A
Frances Hicks^A
Wendy Howard
Lisa Hughes
Catherine Johnson
Lori Kovacevic^*
Katie McCullough
Meredith Peake
Lydia Pickard
Judi Ranton**
Heidi Sickert
Stacy Watts
Michele White

Soprano 2
Elaine Ball+
Patricia Cornman-WilcoxA
Clara Dair
Judith Don
Julie Earnest
Lynn Greenwood*
Hannah Grenchell
Robert Jortner
Static Kaeder
Deborah Kogan
Liz Larsen**
Jaclyn Leeds
Bonnie McAnnis
Zsuzsa Nemeth
Nannette Niski
Debbie Paynter
Gwen Porus
Karen Preston
Regina Sackrider
Mary Anne Thyezen

Alto 1
Ann Blair
Brenda Brischetto
Shannon Buono
Barbara Cervantes-Gautschi
Claire Dennerlein
Kaye Exo
Barbara Gray
Patti Harelin^A
Marylyn John
Donna Lieberman
Lani Jo Leigh
Marlyn Lindberg
Gayle Lovejoy**^A
Michelle Lum*
Bunny Marchal
Kim Martin
Peggy McComb
Wendy Miller
Mary Ellen Morrison
Jane Pelliccio
Judy Soule
Sharyl Swope
Carol Walker**+

Alto 2
Rachel Brooks
Colleen Cornman-WilcoxA
Margot Faege
Lisa Fithian-Barrett
Marya Hazilla
Jo Howard^A
Terri Lewis
Virginia Malone
Linda Milone^*
Claudia Nadine
Debby Pollack
Kelly Ralph
Jill Sanders
Debra Smith
Michele Stelmer**
De Stewart
Di Stobaues
CJ Timper
Cindy Zrinyi

+ Harmonizers
** Music Leaders
* Section Managers
^ Aurora Coordinating Team

Aurora Board: Jaclyn Leeds, president
Lynn Greenwood, secretary
Candice Laxton
Joan Szymko, ex officio

Judi Ranton, treasurer
Colleen Cornman-WilcoxA, chorus coordinator
Kristan Burkert

Stage Manager: Robin Lane • Production Manager: Patti Harelkin • Front of House: Ron Hartman

Program Designer: Martrese White/martrese.com with Michele Stelmer • Graphic design: Dianne Foster dianne@paisleyarts.com

Save These Dates

Auction • April 4–21 Personal concerts, vacation spots, on-line services and more. Sign up for The Aurora Voice, our online newsletter, or visit aurorachorus.org in April for a link.

Aurora Dances Down! April 22nd 7pm to 11pm Aurora Chorus celebrates her Silver Anniversary in style with a BIG PARTY at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center featuring Claudia Schmidt, the alumnae chorus, food and fun.

A Place Where You Belong • May 21, 4pm Our 25th Anniversary concert season soars to a close with two world premieres! Renowned composers Carol Barnett and Joan Szymko have created works that honor and celebrate the circle of love and life that is our Aurora Chorus community. First Congregational Church, 1126 SW Park Ave, Portland.