Grace Before Sleep

A musical celebration of peace and an offering of thanks for the wonderful gifts we share.

Aurora Chorus
Ashley McCullar, Interim Director

Sunday, December 13, 2015
4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
First Congregational Church
1126 SW Park Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97205
Greetings from the Aurora Chorus 
Board of Directors

Thank you for joining us for Grace Before Sleep. In the midst of this bustling season, we hope you'll find this music drawing you into a spirit of peace. We all need that – audience members and singers alike. Aurora’s musicians are proud to share this marvelous collection of songs to warm the soul in dark and cold days. All of us thank Ashley McCullar for leading us in these performances. Her musical talents, teaching skill, enthusiastic energy, and artistic vision have been gifts to Aurora that will remain with us beyond our term together. We will welcome Artistic Director Joan Szymko back from sabbatical for our next concert on March 8, 2016, and we will remember both Ashley and spring term director Kathleen Hollingsworth with fondness and deep gratitude.

Aurora is looking ahead to celebrating our “silver season” in 2016-17. The Board is working to strengthen the organization for the future and invites you to join us in offering gifts of financial support. As with all arts organizations, we depend on both ticket-buying patrons (you!) and contributors (maybe you as well!). Sign up for a sustaining monthly contribution of $25 per month beginning in January 2016, and we’ll send you two tickets for the best seats at next December’s concert that opens our 25th anniversary season. Visit our website (www.aurorachorus.org) to contact our administrator and also to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter, The Aurora Voice. We’ll be saving some trees in future concert programs, and our program notes will be available exclusively through The Aurora Voice in advance of each performance.

We’re looking ahead, as leaders must, and we’re also celebrating this moment right now when we are together on this wonderful “evening of content.” Thank you for sharing this season with us.

- Kristan Burkert, Board President

Eileen Spencer Scholarship Fund

The Eileen Spencer Scholarship Fund was established in honor of Eileen Spencer, a devoted chorus member for nearly 15 years. The fund carries on Eileen’s desire to support Aurora and all the women who find empowerment through creativity and song.

The fund assists chorus members with membership fees when financial challenges arise. Eileen would be pleased that women are still able to sing thanks to the generosity of our donors.

We invite you to support Aurora singers by making a contribution to Aurora Chorus earmarked for the “Eileen Spencer Scholarship Fund.”
Ashley McCullar joins Aurora Chorus as Interim Director for the 2015 fall season. Ashley graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 2005 with a degree in piano performance and is currently pursuing a Master’s Degree in Choral Conducting at Portland State University. She has more than ten years’ experience directing church choirs and musical theater productions in the Pittsburgh area, and she performed with the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. After moving to Portland, Ashley began directing the St. Mary’s Academy Concert Choir and accompanying for the award-winning Marian Singers.

Ashley believes that the job of the director is to serve the choir in its development as a community, and each individual member in developing as a musician. She is energetic, passionate, hardworking, and appreciates the opportunity to work with Aurora Chorus.

From the Artistic Director

Welcome and thank you for joining us as we present Aurora’s December concert celebration! It has been a great pleasure to serve as Aurora’s interim director this past term. Although I have only worked with these wonderful women for a short period of time, I already feel welcomed into their family. The sisters have been kind enough to laugh along with me as they get to know my unique sense of humor and my fascination with the larynx.

I’d like to thank Jonathan DeBruyn and the members of the Portland State University Orchestra who join us for this concert. Thanks as well to Ethan Sperry and Kathy Briggs for their advice and support. Now, as we come to the end of the year, let us pause to reflect on the journey we have just completed and warmly welcome this “evening of content.”

Blessings and Peace,
Ashley McCullar, Interim Artistic Director
Aurora Chorus

Grace Before Sleep

How can our minds and bodies be
Grateful enough that we have spent
Here in this generous room, we three,
This evening of content?
Each one of us has walked through storm
And fled the wolves along the road;
But here the hearth is wide and warm,
And for this shelter and this light
Accept, O Lord, our thanks tonight.

- Sara Teasdale

I chose Grace Before Sleep to be the cornerstone of this concert after hearing it prepared and performed by the Marian Singers from Saint Mary’s Academy for the OMEA State Festival in the spring of 2015. As the choir practiced in the warmup room before the final performance, there was a moment when they became one as a group. Their concerns about winning or losing fell away, they transcended any anxiety about making mistakes and became wholly immersed in the music. It was as if they were home together as a family, and being in the presence of that unity brought me to tears. When I heard that Aurora Chorus was looking for an interim director, I knew that Grace Before Sleep was the experience I wanted to share.

Sleep is the destination of Sara Teasdale’s poem, but the text implies a difficult journey that could be anything from a long day of work to a lifetime of joys and concerns. The poem was written the night of Thanksgiving 1931, at a house in the Adirondacks after a pleasant day with friends. Whether on a spiritual journey or stuck in rush hour traffic, we all spend a lot of time on The Road. When it comes, The Storm we face may be something external, or something from within. Waiting for us is The Hearth where we find comfort, friendship, and care. After warming up by the fire we can finally feel Content and acceptance of everything that has happened. Thank you for choosing to share your time with us. Please enjoy Grace Before Sleep.
The Road...

Eatnemen Vuelie (Song of the Earth)
Music: Frode Fjellheim and Silesian Folk Melody; words: Frode Fjellheim and Joseph August Seiss

The Stars Are with the Voyager
Eleanor Daley; text: Thomas Hood

Always Coming Home
Joan Szymko; text: Ursula K. Le Guin

Belonging
Poem: Alla Bozarth Reader: Jeanne Krinsley

The Storm...

Winter
Antonio Vivaldi
Portland State University String Ensemble
Soloist: Jonathan DeBruyn

Mata del Anima Sola
Antonio Estevez text: Alberto Arvelo Torrealba
Soloist: Terri Grayum

Caffeine Overload Polka
Eric Barnes

The Longest Night
Jason Shelton; text: Julie Forest Middleton
Soloists: 4 PM Lisa Kron; 7 PM Tina Izen

The Hearth...

The Dream of Now
Poem: William Stafford
Reader: Patricia Cornman-Wilcox

Calling My Children Home
Trad. arr. by J. Graffagna

Fire, Fire, My Heart
Thomas Morley; arr. Wesley Harris

Five Hebrew Love Songs
Eric Whitacre; text: Hila Plitmann
Soloists: Michele White, Elizabeth Larson, Patti Harelkin, Gayle Lovejoy

Content...

Everyone Sang
Poem: Siegfried Sassoon
Reader: Christine Hayward

Dona Nobis Pacem trad. Latin

One Voice
Ruth Moody, arr. by Marcelline Moody
Trio: Libby Clow, Kristan Burkert, Claudia Nadine

Grace Before Sleep
Susan Labarr; text: Sara Teasdale

Amani
Jim Papoulis and Jacques Sebisaho

Grace Before Sleep
**Translators**

*Dona Nobis Pacem*  
(Grant Us Peace)

*Mata Del Ánima Sola*  
(Tree of the lonely souls)

Tree of the lonely soul,  
wide opening of the riverside  
now you will be able to say  
Here slept Cantaclaro

With the whistle and the sting  
of the twisting wind,  
the dappled and violet dusk  
quietly entered the corral  
The night, tired mare,  
shakes her mane and black tail  
above the riverside;  
and, in its silence,  
your ghostly heart is filled with awe.

*Amani*  
(A Song of Peace)

French: Sing strongly for peace  
Swahili: with one voice, we all sing together

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**String ensemble:**  
Jonathan DeBruyn: violin  
(Violinist and soloist)  
Viet Block: violin  
Chibia Ulinwa: violin  
Joel Schain: violin  
Lauren Grant: violin

**Tricia Bogdan:** viola  
**Matt Meeks:** violin  
**Ara Kang:** cello  
**Hasan Abualhaj:** cello  
**Kyle Lissman:** bass  
**Grant Edwards:** harpsichord

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**Kira Whiting:** piano accompanist; shaker  
**Michele White:** frame drum; finger cymbals  
**Julie Earnest:** flute; recorder  
**Gayle Lovejoy:** hand drum; djembe  
**Anna Soderberg:** tambourine  
**Terri Grayum:** guitar
### Singer Roster

#### Soprano 1
- Michele Alderson
- Margaret Blake
- Kristan Burkert
- Libby Clow
- Paulla Dacklin
- Ellen Drumheller
- Terri Grayum**
- Kirsten Hays
- Christine Hayward+
- Frances Hicks
- Wendy Howard
- Linda Jenkins
- Catherine Johnson
- Lori Kovacevic*
- Judi Ranton**
- Anna Soderberg
- Wendy Street
- Michele White
- Eun Jung Yi

#### Soprano 2
- Iris Armos
- Elaine Ball
- Patricia Cornman-Wilcox
- Julie Earnest**
- Lynn Greenwood
- Tina Izen
- Roberta Jortner
- Static Kaeder
- Lisa Kron
- Elizabeth Larsen+
- Jaclyn Leeds
- Zoe Lehr
- Zsuzsa Nemeth
- Linda Nichenko
- Debbie Paynter
- Amanda Perl*
- Gwen Porus
- Sara Stennett**
- Veronica Sullivan
- Mary Anne Thygesen
- Krista Weikel-Delaplane

#### Alto 1
- Micki Barney
- Ann Blair
- Noelle Brighton
- Shannon Buono
- Barbara Gray
- Patti Harelkin
- Ann Helm
- Dixie Larsen
- Katie Lockwood
- Gayle Lovejoy**
- Michelle Lum*
- Bunny Marechal
- Kim Martin
- Wendy Miller
- Mary Ellen Morrison
- Debby Pollack
- Jackie Rose ++
- Judy Soule
- Sharyl Swope
- Carol Walker++

#### Alto 2
- Chris Bond*
- Ceara Carder
- Colleen Cornman-Wilcox
- Jan Corwin
- Lisa Fithian-Barrett
- Jo Howard
- Jeanne Krinsley
- Terri Lewis
- Patty Magid-Volk
- Virginia Malone
- Linda Milone
- Gail Murphy
- Claudia Nadine+
- Janet Neuman
- Melissa Parkerton
- Harmony Schreiter
- Michele Stemler**

* Section Manager
** Music Section Leader
+ Harmonizer
++ Harmonizer Chair

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**Help Aurora Chorus just by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card!**

Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Aurora Chorus. You can search for Aurora Chorus by name or by our nonprofit number 88060 at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping Aurora Chorus earn a donation!
Thank you to all of the ushers, ticket sellers, and additional concert volunteers whose names did not get into the program. We appreciate your support.

**AURORA COORDINATING TEAM**

Chorus Coordinator and Chair: Colleen Cornman-Wilcox  
Attendance Manager: Terri Grayum  
Scholarship Liaison: Christine Hayward  
Website: Michele White  
Volunteer Coordinators: Patti Harelkin / Michele Stemler  
At Large and E-lists: Gayle Lovejoy  
Music Librarian: Chris Bond  
Harmonizer Chair: Jackie Rose  
Chorus Treasurer: Micki Barney  
Retreat Coordinator: Margaret Blake  
Production Coordinator: Lisa Fithian-Barrett  
Tickets: Dixie Larsen  
Scribe: Frances Hicks

**EILEEN SPENCER SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Kathleen Middleton, Joan Sears, Kaye Exo

**CONCERT STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS**

Front of House: Ron Hartmann  
Stage Manager: Jon Plueard  
Program Design: Martrese White - martrese.com  
Program Coordinators: Bunny Marechal and Terri Grayum

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Sunday Parkways: Michele Stemler, Michele Alderson, Kathy Austen, Micki Barney, Jeanette Hankins, Kirsten Hays, Roberta Jortner, Linda Milone, Amanda Perl, Meredith Peake, Carol Walker  
Home Free Liaison: Christine Hayward

And for their special efforts to create events and opportunities that benefit Aurora Chorus:

Fundraising Leads: Lynn Greenwood, Roberta Jortner, Dorothy LaDouceur  
Full Circle Concert: Terri Grayum, Marilyn Lindberg, Dorothy LaDouceur  
Summer Song: Mary Ellen Morrison, Kay Exo, Kathleen Hollingsworth and Tapestry  
French Dinner Party: Joni Hartmann, Frances Hicks, Ann Wilson  
Olive Oil Tasting at Durant Vineyards: Libby Clow, Paul Durant, Amanda Perl, Roberta Jortner, Lynn Greenwood, Michele White  
Mojo Soccer Club Benefit: Lisa Fithian-Barrett  
Chinook Book Sales: Judi Ranton  
Heart Pin Sales: Michele Stemler

**Raise Your Voice in Song**

We are now placing new, experienced singers on the list for our winter term, *Still I Rise*, which begins the first full week in January. In addition, we are inviting inexperienced as well as experienced singers for our spring term, *What a Wonderful World*, which begins March 10. For more information email join@aurorachorus.org
Save the Dates
Join us for our International Women’s Day celebration Still I Rise on March 6, 2016, and our spring concert What a Wonderful World on June 5, 2016. Visit us online at AuroraChorus.org for more details.

We baked for you! Please join us downstairs after the performance for cookies and coffee, courtesy of Starbucks.

Thank You to Our Donors
November 2014 to October 2015

**Sponsor ($1,000 to $2,499)**
- Terri Grayum
- Carol Walker

**Donor ($500 to $999)**
- Kristan Burkert
- Marilyn Lindberg
- Judi Ranton
- Dorothy LaDouceur
- Lisa Fithian-Barrett
- Chris Bond
- Catherine Kordesch & David Fryfield
- Shirley Rogers

**Associate ($250 to $499)**
- Roberta Jortner
- Meredith Peake
- Ann Wilson
- Brenda Brischetto
- Frances Hicks
- Rebecca Pepper
- Ruth Friedel
- Colleen & Patricia Comman-Wilcox
- Maria Peyer
- Allen Knecht DC PC
- Bill McNamee & Hannah Kuhn
- Michelle & John Lum
- Rachel Brooks
- Morgan Kearns
- Cornie & Bill Stevens

**Supporter ($100 to $249)**
- Peggy McComb & Karen Cameron
- Michele Stemler
- Julie Earnest
- Barbara Cabot
- Linda Meier
- Mary Jo Ranton
- Christine Hayward
- Mary Ellen Morrison
- Michele Alderson
- Karen Zumwalt & Pamela Hooten
- Maggie Skendarian
- Sarah Bohnenkamp
- Cindy Zrinyi
- Margaret Blake
- Lani Jo Leigh
- Eun Jung Yi
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- Donald Jortner
- Aron Faegre & Kathy Kelley
- Michael Koszegi
- Jeanne Krinsley
- Ashley McCullar
- Nancy Nydegger

**Friend ($25 to $99)**
- Terence Shumaker
- Ingrid Silzewski
- Nancy LaPaglia & Stephen Slusarski
- Margaret Spencer
- Patsy Steimer
- Beryl Turner
- Collie & Allan Lee Wright

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**Margaret Spencer**

**Patsy Steimer**

**Beryl Turner**

**Collie & Allan Lee Wright**

**Friend ($25 to $99)**
- David Battaglia
- Terri Lewis
- Elaine Ball
- Mary F. Bowers
- Andra Makler
- Jane Morgan & David Thorness
- Micki Barney
- Elsa Porter
- Sharyl Swope
- Bunny Marechal
- Martha Hall
- Kristin Judge
- Sherry Archer
- Barbara Blackstone
- Judy Hilsenteger
- Kathleen Hollingsworth
- Jane Holt
- Dan Hortsch
- Dana Lillie
- Marti Marvin
- Kathleen Middleton
- Charles Murphy
- Mary Lynn O’Brien

**Lois Orcutt**

**Nancy Otis**

**Thomas Ranton**

**Jim Ranton**

**Bernice Rust**

**Joan Sears**

**Janet Senior**

**Lynn Greenwood**

**Carol Brownlow**

**Mary Fay**

**Lisa Mayer**

**Janice Monti**

**Judy Romano**

**Wendy Street**

**Thomas Talbot**

**Gayle Lovejoy**

**Cynthia Sulaski**

**Deborah Zita**

**Anne Bryant**

**Kaye Exo**

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**Barbara Gray**

**Kay and David Pollack**

**Katharine Riker**

**Laura Coates & Ann Uhler**

**And to these corporations for their continued support:**
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Photography © Mark Seibold - “Comet Lovejoy at White River Sno-Park” showing Andromeda galaxy, the Pleiades/Seven Sisters, Orion Nebula, the Hyades, Comet Lovejoy, and Mt. Hood.