Oh can you just imagine what a vision it would be if every woman broke the chains and set her spirit free?

- Connie Cohen
GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome and thank you for joining Aurora Chorus in recognizing International Women’s Day as an occasion that is cause for celebration of and rededication to the ideal of global gender parity.

Worldwide, women continue to contribute to social, economic, cultural and political achievement. However, the news is flooded by a rising tide of stories of violence against women: sexual enslavement of women and girls by ISIS, legal “honor killings” in Pakistan, widespread assaults on women in Cologne on New Year’s Eve, criminal lack of support for rape victims on college campuses, ridicule of accomplished women by a leading presidential candidate, sexual victimization of vulnerable women by law enforcement officers in uniform, vicious, ubiquitous bullying of women on social media sites. And on and on... making me feel as though nothing can change the course of the deep undercurrents of misogyny that fuel this violence. However, such pessimism will not have the last word. Violence and threat of violence serve to silence women and to force acquiescence to the cultural norms that stand in the way of gender parity. We will not be silent. Aurora Chorus is proud to mark this day with songs and words of resilience, courage and hope. It is our hope that our singing serves to inspire you!

Joan Szymko, Artistic Director

Visit www.aurorachorus.org for Still | Rise program notes and board greetings.

Portland Women’s Crisis Line: 503-235-5333 or toll free at 888-235-5333

SPECIAL GUEST MOOREA MASA

Moorea Masa has been singing since she could talk. Her voice has the power to move mountains or to move grown men to tears. Her songs can transport listeners from lush green forests to dimly-lit juke joints. An Oregon native, Moorea has been performing professionally since the age of 15. She attended the Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts and studied with Flamenco musicians while living in the cave dwellings of Granada, Spain, and is influenced by soulful folk music across generations and geography, including Etta James, Feist, and Iron and Wine. In her former project, The Ruby Pines, she performed at venues like The Blue Note in New York City and The Wonder Ballroom at home in Portland, Oregon. Currently, she sings with Ural Thomas and The Pain (Willamette Week’s Best New Artist in 2014), a throwback soul band fronted by a former collaborator of James Brown and Otis Redding. She has also sung back up and has been a featured vocalist for bands such as El Vy, The Decemberists, Nu Shooz, Allen Stone, and John Craigie. Moorea just released her debut EP “Oh Mother” this past May.

Join us for What a Wonderful World June 5, 2016, at Parkrose High School and pencil us in for Aurora’s 25th Anniversary celebration--a three concert season and a gala on April 22, 2017.

Inspired to sing with us? Rehearsals on Thursdays and gathering for new singers will be on Tuesday, March 8. Contact us at join@aurorachorus.org for details on this term or any future term.
Circle Chant       Linda Hirschhorn

Special Guest Moorea Masa
Aurora Chorus

Vera, from my childhood
(VII. Common Woman Poems)     poem by Judy Grahn
reader: Patti Harelkin

Common Woman    Marla Beth Elliot & the Righteous Mothers
                 arr. Joan Szymko
                 soloist: Sharyl Swope

truth            Andrea Ramsey / poem by Gardenia Bruce

Still I Rise     poem (excerpt) by Maya Angelou
                 reader: Judi Ranton

Like a Mountain    Naomi Littlebear Morena / arr. Szymko

‘Til It Happens to You      Diane Warren & Stefani Germanotta
                           soloists: Aurora Alonzo & Sara Stennett

Ja Sam Tvoj Svyedok
(I am Your Witness)       Joan Szymko
                           readers: Ruth Friedel, Jill Sanders, Chris Bond,
                           Mary Anne Thygesen, Veronica Sullivan,
                           Patti Harelkin

what they did yesterday afternoon
                           poem (excerpted) by Warsan Shire
                           reader: Peggy McComb

Queen of Diamonds       Connie Cohen / ed. Szymko

Still Gotta Get Up in the Morning
                           Bernice Johnson Reagon
                           soloist: Anna Soderberg

Still I Rise           Rosephanye Powell
                           soloist: Moorea Masa
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 online 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!