AURORA CHORUS PRESENTS

Secret Gardens of the Heart

DECEMBER 15, 7:30PM
DECEMBER 16, 4:00PM
Rose City Park United Methodist Church
Greetings from our Board Chair

In his iconic song, “Anthem,” Leonard Cohen reminds us “there is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in.” Cohen's words will echo though the performance hall as Aurora kicks off its 27th season. Thank you for joining us as we share heartfelt songs that allow the warmth and joy of the season to shine much needed light on all of us. From Cohen's “Anthem” to the premiere of Joan Szymko's “A Winter Ride” we take you on a journey through snow, secret gardens of the heart, sparkling Swedish holiday lights and a few raindrops. We offer our music as a gift of joy and celebration.

Aurora has much to celebrate this year including the 25th anniversary of Joan Szymko's tenure as Artistic Director. Joan is an internationally renowned composer and conductor and her original compositions have been a hallmark of our concerts for many years. We are honored to have her as Aurora's Artistic Director. To celebrate Joan's 25th anniversary we have put together a CD set of 25 works she composed expressly for Aurora, called “Everything She Touches.” The limited edition set is for sale in the lobby. Joan is graciously donating the royalties from the sale of the CDs to Aurora. Don't miss out on the opportunity to purchase one!

Aurora is also celebrating our good fortune to have Jaclyn Leeds as our new Executive Director. Jaclyn served on the Aurora board for several years and hit the ground running. She has expertise in marketing, networking, management and technology. Jaclyn's leadership has already helped expand our social media presence, increase ticket sales, add new and younger voices to the chorus and plan for our future. Her participation in Chicago at the annual Chorus America conference and her membership in RACC's “Art of Leadership” program will benefit Aurora as we move forward.

Thank you for coming! Best wishes for a joyful holiday season and a fruitful new year!

Lynn Greenwood,
Board Chair

Aurora Chorus Board of Directors

Lynn Greenwood, President / Kristan Burkert, Treasurer / Lori Kovacevic, Secretary
Colleen Cornman-Wilcox / Lisa Fithian-Barrett
Jaclyn Leeds, Executive Director, ex officio / Joan Szymko, Artistic Director, ex officio

About Aurora Chorus

Aurora Chorus was founded in 1992 on the belief that music is a powerful instrument of peace locally, globally, and within the hearts of all who sing and all who listen. We honor the strength, beauty and diversity of women's lives through the fine art of choral singing.

As a community of women empowered by song, our mission is to be a clear and compassionate voice in an increasingly conflicted world. Aurora Chorus offers novice and experienced singers alike the opportunity to grow in a nurturing, inclusive atmosphere where healthy vocal production, solid choral technique and a diverse and compelling repertoire support Aurora's mission. Comprised of singers from the Portland/Vancouver metro area, the chorus presents three full-length concerts each season. The Aurora Outreach Ensemble also performs at community events throughout the year.
Artistic Director

JOAN SZYMKO
Joan Szymko has conducted choruses in the Pacific Northwest for nearly forty years. In 1993 she left Seattle for Portland to take on the leadership of Aurora Chorus. Soon after, she founded Viriditas, a select women’s ensemble, (1994-2002) and began 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. (2013-15). As a visiting artist, she workshops her music with choirs in a variety of educational and festival settings across the country and abroad. This 2018-19 season is Joan’s 25th Anniversary as Artistic Director of Aurora Chorus.

Composing for choir is a natural outgrowth of Joan Szymko’s creativity as a conductor. Her passion for the singing voice, an embodied approach to sound, a dedication to craft and an insistence on quality texts—all relate to her work as a conductor and are reflected in her choral compositions. With a catalog of over 100 published choral works her music is performed by ensembles across North America and abroad. Since 2003, Joan’s music has been presented 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.

Joan Szymko has been commissioned by all manner of choral ensemble: professional and community choirs, university and high school programs, select children’s choirs, LGBT choruses and church choirs. Upcoming premieres include “Words,” a piece on the topic of bullying for the 2019 Chorus America consortium; also the GALA Choruses Cathy Roma Commission “Lifting as We Climb,” a 3-mvt work with narration, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment granting women suffrage.

Accompanist

KIRA WHITING
Collaborative pianist Kira Whiting graduated from Manhattan School of Music in May 2014, with a Master’s in Classical Accompanying with a Vocal Emphasis. Ms. Whiting has participated in master classes with Thomas Quasthoff, Martin Katz, Thomas Hampson, Craig Rutenberg, and Roger Vignoles. She has performed several art song recitals in Scandinavia, including a program of American art songs with Norwegian soprano Margrethe Fredheim for a balcony concert at the Oslo Opera House. Ms. Whiting was a semi-finalist in collaboration with Dashon Burton, Bass-Baritone, at the Wigmore Hall International Art Song Competition 2015 in London, UK.
Sing With Us!

Aurora Chorus welcomes women of all ages at all musical skill levels who seek artistic expression in an empowering singing environment. Directed by renowned choral composer Joan Szymko, Aurora provides women with an outstanding opportunity to grow vocally, but also to sing words that allow the heart to soar, to grieve, to celebrate and to communicate to our audience our hopes for a more compassionate world.

After the Concert!

Join us downstairs for cookies and conversation. Help us celebrate Joan Szymko’s 25th Anniversary as Aurora’s Artistic Director and pick up your copy of the limited release CD “EVERYTHING SHE TOUCHES.” This two-disc set features 25 of the original works she composed expressly for Aurora Chorus over 25 years, including “Always Coming Home,” “Here,” “It Takes a Village,” “Malala,” and many more!

Limited Release 2-Disc Set!

Joan is donating all royalties derived from the sale of “25” to Aurora Chorus. Will you join her in supporting Aurora’s mission by making a year-end tax deductible donation? To give, visit aurorachorus.org.

The Eileen Spencer Scholarship Fund

The Eileen Spencer Scholarship Fund was established in memory of Eileen Spencer, a devoted chorus member for nearly 15 years. The fund assists chorus members with participation fees when financial challenges arise. We invite you to support Aurora singers by making a contribution to Aurora Chorus earmarked “Spencer Fund.”

Aurora Outreach Ensemble

This enthusiastic 20 voice ensemble is ready to sing at your upcoming banquet, party, fundraiser, or other special event. For more information about booking and availability, contact ed@aurorachorus.org.
SINGERS

SOPRANO I
Michele Alderson
Kristan Burkert
Libby Clow**
Jae Douglas
Karla Fitzwater
Christine Hayward
Wendy Howard**
Kristin Judge
Lynn Mendoza-Khan
Lydia Pickard*
Gloria Preston
Judi Ranton
Susan Rinker
Francine Talla
Ann Wilson
Lisa Wood
Eun Jung Yi

Deanna Nelson
Zsuzsa Nemeth
Nanette Niski+
Gwen Porus
Rebecca Pozorski
Mary Anne Thygesen
Krista Weikel Delaplane
Wendy Leigh White

ALTO I
Annie Auxier
Elaine Beauvais
Haley Bibbee
Rachel Bramble**
Cathy Cartwright-Chow
Claire Dennerlein
Joanna Dumais
Barbara Gray
Beth Ferrarini
Patti Harelkin
Kristin Jacobson
Marylyn John
Allyson Knapper
Dixie Larsen
Lani Jo Leigh
Donna Lieberman
Marilyn Lindberg
Gayle Lovejoy*
Kim Martin
Peggy McComb
Patricia McKinney
Mona Middlewood
Wendy Miller
Mary Ellen Morrison
Erin Pitney
Robin Ray
Jackie Rose**+
Sharyl Swope

SOPRANO II
Rachel Baldwin
Elaine Ball
Cheyenne Chapman
Bethany Clouse
Patricia Cormman-Wilcox**
Judith Don
Julie Earnest
Ruth Friedel
Ruth Ruth
Hannah Grenfell
Lynn Greenwood
Frances Hicks
Roberta Jortner
Static Kaeder
Lori Kovacevic
Lisa Kron*
Hannah Kuhn
Liz Larsen*
Jaclyn Leeds

ALTO II
Donna Amos
Colleen Cormman-Wilcox
Jan Corwin
Lynn Corwin
Margot Faegre
Lisa Fithian-Barrett
Jeanette Faegre
Terri Lewis
Gaia Mather+
Linda Milone**
Gail K. Murphy
LouAnn Peartree
Debby Pollack
Jill Sanders
Colleen Scovill
Michele Stemler*

* Music Section Leader
** Section Manager
+ Harmonizer

CONCERT CREDITS
Production Coordinator: Jill Sanders
Stage Manager: Sara Steege
Front of House: Marie Shier
Tickets: Dixie Larsen, Donna Amos
Graphic Design: Joan Szymko
Program Booklet: Joan Szymko

Aurora Coordinating Team (ACT)

Chorus Coordinator: Lisa Fithian-Barrett
Membership: Wendy Miller
Concert Coordinator: Jill Sanders
Librarian: Frances Hicks
Retreat Manager: Mary Ellen Morrison
Scholarships: Chris Hayward

Member-at-Large: Gayle Lovejoy
Harmonizer Chair: Nanette Niski
Administrative Asst: Marie Shier
Scribe: Judy Soule
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Prelude, Cello Suite III        J.S. Bach
featuring Valdine Mishkin

Invocation         Everett Hoagland
reader: Judi Ranton

Light, Beauty, Peace        Joan Szymko,
words traditional (China)

Anthem         Leonard Cohen, arr. Szymko
soloists:  Sat: Haley Bibbee
          Sun: Lynn Mendoza-Khan

Ding-a Ding-a Ding        Greg Gilpin

Jul Jul          Gustav Nordqvist

Joy          Jim Papoulis

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Julie Earnest, flute
Valdine Mishkin, cello
Shelley Mathewson, flute

percussion ensemble:
Lynn Corwin, Gayle Lovejoy,
Marilyn John, Roberta Jortner

TRANSLATIONS

Gloria (Latin)
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Glory to the Most High

Born in a Song (Spanish)
He nacido en una canción, 
yo vivo en una canción sin palabras.
I was born in a song,
I live in a song without words.

Jul, Jul (Swedish)
Yule, radiant glow above the white forest
heavenly crowns, glittering candles,
glowing boughs in all of God's homes;
Songs, sung from age to age
eternal longing for light and peace!

Come blessed Yule!
Lower thy white wings over the battle's
blood and din, over all human anxiety,
Over all the ancestors gone to rest,
Over the young ones’ dawning!
Come, come blessed Yule,
**Deep the Love**
by Carolyn McDade

Deep the love, deep the love that calls us
O the love, deep the love that calls us on.

Deep the river, deep the sea,
deep the wanderings of my mind.
Deep the rooms between earth and me
and deep the love that calls us on.
Deep the roots connecting all tha be.
Deep life’s oldest dream whole and free.
Deep the memory singing in the song
and deep the love, the love that calls us on.

**Days of Beauty**
by Emily Brontë (1818-1848)

When days of Beauty deck the earth
or stormy nights descend
How well my spirit knows the path
On which it ought to wend
It seeks the consecrated spot
Beloved in childhood’s years
The space between is all forgot
Its sufferings and its tears

**A Winter Ride**
by Amy Lowell (1874-1925)

Who shall declare the joy of the running!
Who shall tell of the pleasures of flight!
Springing and spurning the tufts of wild heather; / Sweeping, wide-winged,
through the blue dome of light.
Everything mortal has moments immortal,
Swift and God-gifted, immeasurably bright.

So with the stretch of the white road
before me, / Shining snow crystals
rainbowed by the sun, / Fields that are white,
stained with long, cool, blue shadows,
Strong with the strength of my horse as we run.
Joy in the touch of the wind and the sunlight!
Joy! With the vigorous earth I am one.

**Music in My Mother’s House**
by Stuart Stotts

There was music in my mother’s house.
There was music all around,
there was music in my mother’s house,
and my heart still feels full with the sound.

She taught us all piano but my sister had
the ear: / She could play the melody for any
song she’d hear. / I don’t claim much talent
but I’ve always loved to play and I guess
I will until my dying day.

Those days come back so clearly although
I’m far away. / She gave me the kind of gift
I love to give away. And when my mother died
and she’d sung her last song, / We sat in the
living room singing all night long.
Singing la la la la, Singing the front porch songs.
Singing the old torch songs. La la la La,
Singing the hymns to send her home.

**Born in a Song** from *Si Fuera Canción*
by Bianca Chamusco

He nacido en una canción, yo vivo
en una canción sin palabras.

I live in a song without words or endings,
fragments of memories, murmur of harmonies,
half-remembered melodies, echoes of my soul.

I live in the drum of the human heart,
the space between the soaring notes,
passing of visions, whispers of sorrows,
my soul is song, my soul is peace.

**Light, Beauty, Peace**
adage from China

If there is light in the soul
there will be beauty in the person.

If there is beauty in the person
there will be harmony in the house.

If there is harmony in the house
there will be order in the nation.

If there is order in the nation
there will be peace in the world.
Sunrise
by Mary Oliver

You can
die for it-
an idea,
or the world. People
have done so,
brilliantly,
letting
their small bodies be bound
to the stake,
creating
an unforgettable
fury of light. But
this morning,
climbing the familiar hills
in the familiar
fabric of dawn, I thought
of China,
and India
and Europe, and I thought
how the sun
blazes
for everyone just
so joyfully
as it rises
under the lashes
of my own eyes, and I thought
I am so many!
What is my name?
What is the name
of the deep breath I would take
over and over
for all of us? Call it
whatever you want, it is
happiness, it is another one
of the ways to enter
fire.

from Dreamwork (Atlantic Monthly press)
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Anthem
by Leonard Cohen

The birds they sang
At the break of day
Start again
I heard them say
Don’t dwell on what
Has passed away
Or what is yet to be
Yeah the wars they will
Be fought again
The holy dove
She will be caught again
Bought and sold
And bought again
The dove is never free

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That’s how the light gets in

We asked for signs
The signs were sent
The birth betrayed
The marriage spent
Yeah the widowhood
Of every government
Signs for all to see
I can’t run no more
With that lawless crowd
While the killers in high places
Say their prayers out loud
But they’ve summoned, they’ve summoned up
A thundercloud
And they’re going to hear from me

Ring the bells that still can ring...

You won’t have the sum
You can strike up the march
There is no drum
Every heart, every heart to love will come
But like a refugee

Ring the bells that still can ring...
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Warmest wishes to Joan Szymko & Aurora Chorus for a fabulous season from your sisters in song . . .

VOX pacifica

Our debut performance!
WINTER REFLECTIONS - VOX PACIFICA
Sat, December 8, 2018 ~ two shows
The Firehouse Events Center © 3pm and 7pm
1314 Harris Avenue • Bellingham WA
VOX PACIFICA is a brand new choir in Bellingham, WA under the artistic direction of Wendy Bloom, with Emily Gantt collaborating on piano.

In 2019, we have performances scheduled for Sat, Feb 9 and Sat, May 11. Please visit if you travel to Bellingham, WA!

Learn more at voxpacific.org

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HOPE IN THE DARK

Creativity, Connection, and Courage for the World We Live In

Who shall we be in a world of turmoil? What are we called to do in the face of injustice, environmental chaos, and political strife? How do we weather these storms, personally and collectively?

This daylong retreat, facilitated by Barbara Ford, offers the opportunity to come together to ponder these questions, and offers a toolbox for resilience and clarity of intention as we navigate the world we live in now. Drawing from practices from the Work That Reconnects, creative arts, and other emergent resilience practices, activists and other engaged humans will gather and create practices for self and community resilience.

This event is offered as a fundraiser for 350PDX.

Consider the following 3 questions to decide on your offering:
1. What is fair?
2. What can I afford?
3. What can I offer with joy?

"As an inspiring guide in this time cultural crisis and transition, Barbara Ford combines a contagious vitality and a firm faith in the power of the human spirit. It is a joy for me to watch how she enlivens groups with her humor, intellect, and creativity. In all her endeavors- as an artist, singer, teacher, and organizer - I rejoice that she is bringing her life-changing work to our world."

- Joanna Macy

REGISTRATION AT https://barbaraford.net
SAVE THE DATES

Aurora’s 6th Annual
International Women’s Day Concert
First Congregational Church

MARCH 3, 4:00PM
STEP BY STEP

Aurora welcomes back Ara Lee and Beth Wood performing as the duo, STAND and SWAY!
Also back by popular demand— an inspiring intergenerational assemblage of singers!
Young women 13 yrs of age and up are welcome to join us, accompanied by current Aurora singers, alumni, or by adult women with previous choral experience. For info: www.aurorachorus.org

MAY 19, 4:00 PM
LOOK OUT!

Aurora sings of the critical state of humanity’s relationship with Earth. We sing to honor our Mother, to grow awareness and to hold on to hope for future generations. Featuring the West Coast premiere of Szymko’s setting of Wendell Berry’s poem “Look Out.”

ALSO FEATURING

a special collaboration with Humanis chamber choir. Humanis is an accomplished SATB ensemble whose mission is to bring joy and gather community while giving voice to the voiceless.