LOOK OUT

with special guests, Humanis

May 19, 4:00PM
First Congregational Church
Greetings from our Executive Director

Thank you for joining Aurora Chorus today as we close out our 27th season with an impassioned plea to hear the voices of the land and preserve our only home Mother Earth. We sing of planting a tiny tree to grow in beauty to shame the face of greed, of reveling in tall trees, of mourning children crying at the border, and of hearing Earth’s spirit singing our name. We celebrate the west coast premiere of Joan Szymko’s setting of Wendell Berry’s Look Out as we invite you to say YES! to the air, the earth, the trees, the birds, the children.

We are proud to share the stage today with Humanis, as well as to welcome several local non-profits with shared visions of protecting our Earth. We hope you will take the opportunity to visit with them and learn more about their important work downstairs after the concert as you enjoy plant-based food and drink.

I invite you to make a gift of any size to support Aurora’s continued commitment to singing truth to power and providing a sisterhood for so many. Gifts can be made by check, online, or by texting the word LOOKOUT to the number 44-321. In our upcoming season, we will begin livestreaming our concerts with free access in order to extend the reach of our message and make sharing this music with us a reality for those unable to attend in person. Your support makes this possible.

Join us in saying YES! Yes to the earth. Yes to every living thing. Yes to the children.

With immense gratitude,

Jaclyn Leeds
Executive Director

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 onsortium; 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.
MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO AURORA CHORUS

Text **LOOKOUT** to **44-321**
or visit aurorachorus.org

Every dollar counts.
Your support helps Aurora to thrive.
Thank you.

Help us celebrate Joan Szymko’s 25th Anniversary as Aurora’s Artistic Director and pick up one of the few remaining copies 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!

The Eileen Spencer Scholarship

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.
Aurora Coordinating Team (ACT)

Chorus Coordinator: Lisa Fithian-Barrett  
Treasurer: Michele Alderson  
Membership: Wendy Miller  
Concert Coordinator: Jill Sanders  
Librarian: Frances Hicks  
Retreat Manager: Cathy Cartwright-Chow  
Scholarships: Chris Hayward  

Member-at-Large: Debbie Pollack  
Harmonizer Chair: Nanette Niski  
Administrative Asst: Marie Shier  
Artistic Director: Joan Szymko  
Executive Director: Jaclyn Leeds  
Scribe: Judy Soule  

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.
LOOK OUT
Aurora Chorus
Joan Szymko, conductor
Kira Whiting, accompanist
with special guests
HUMANIS
Ben España, conductor

Sioux Prayer
Joan Szymko / trad. Lakota

Kaki Lambe
Trad. (Senegal), arr. Brian Tate

The Earth is Singing My Name
Marjan Helms / poem: Dar N’var

Voices of the Land
Máire Brennan & Ian Q. Parker
arr. Szymko

Hymn of Grateful Praise
Joan Szymko / words: F.S. Pierpoint

Famine Song
by VIDA, arr. Matthew Culloton

Invocation
poem by Everett Hoagland
reader: Geneva Scharff

O Sacred World Now Wounded
tune by H. Hassler; harmonized by
J.S. Bach / words: Pete Seeger (v. 1)
and Szymko

Look Out
West Coast premiere
Joan Szymko / poem: Wendell Berry

HUMANIS

Earth Song
Frank Ticheli

Island in Space
Kirke Mechem /words: A. MacLeish
& astronaut, Russell Schweikart

Waves
Ayla Nerero, arr. Benjamin España
Ise Oluwa Kole Baje Oh
reader: Judi Ranton

Saltwater

Commencement Speech 1962 (excerpt)
reader: Karen Irving

From Way Up Here

Optimism
reader: Shannon Buono

Gentle Arms of Eden
soloists: Jenna Scott & Lori Kovacevic

Let This Be a Voice (Amazon)

PERFORMANCE CREDITS

Kaki Lambe ensemble:
Kristan Burkert, Krista Weikel Delaplane,
Kirsten Hays, Lynn Mendoza-Khan,
Robin Ray, Michele Stemler

Humanis was formed in the summer of 2016
in response to several social crises coming to a
head. Witnessing a growing sentiment of sadness
and helplessness among friends and family, found-
ning member, Laurel Alyn-Forest, was inspired by
the final words of the mass: ‘Dona nobis pacem’;
Grant us peace. And thus, the idea to sing for
peace was born. The small group of less than a
dozen singers is comprised of soloists and music
professionals in the Northwest. Our mission is to
spread peace and joy in our community and to those
who hear our voices.

Sopranos:
Laurel Alyn-Forest, Rachel Consenz

Altos: Ava Anderson, Marguerite McKean, Marisa Wildeman

Tenors: David Foley, Michael Hilton

Basses: Benjamin España,
Dylan Moe Brett Peldyak
SELECTED LYRICS & TRANSLATIONS

KAKI LAMBE
Traditional Senegal
An invocation to Kaki Lambe, the masked Father of Destiny, who appears from the forest to revitalize and heal the community.

Kaki Lambe = protector of the harvest
Kecombe = come to me, come to us

THE EARTH IS SINGING MY NAME
by Dar N’var

The Earth Spirit spoke my name
soft like the wind, still like the water.
She spoke to me ‘till I heard her
gentle like the stream, firm like the rock
I hear the Earth singing my name
singing like a storm, roaring like fire
sparks rising to touch stars
then land at my feet
She sang to me a song of myself
rolling my name round
in her mouth like a jewel
presenting it to me as a gift
saying look at yourself bright star
earthbound you are my child.
And she whispered my name like wine
sweet bitter berries touching my lips
filling my heart.

VOICES OF THE LAND
by Maire Brennan

As I journey through this blessed land
The signs and wonders are clear to me
Streams of silver
Streams of gold How much longer will they flow
Will they flow

Watch the seasons change with every year
With disappearing skies the earth will fade
Trees so tall and proud
Forests so grand
How much longer will they stand
Will they stand

Raindrops falling
Everything breathes
Hear the voices of the land
LOOK OUT
by Wendell Berry

Come to the window, look out, and see the valley turning green in remembrance of all springs past and to come, the woods perfecting with immortal patience the leaves that are the work of all of time, the sycamore whose white limbs shed the history of a man's life with their old bark, the river quivering under the morning's breath like the touched skin of a horse, and you will see also the shadow cast upon it by the fire, the war that lights its way by burning the earth.

Come to your windows, people of the world, look out at whatever you see wherever you are, and you will see dancing upon it that shadow. You will see that your place, wherever it is, your house, your garden, your shop, your forest, your farm, bears the shadow of its destruction by war which is the economy of greed which is plunder which is the economy of wrath which is fire. The Lords of War sell the earth to buy fire, They sell the water and air of life to buy fire. They are little men grown great by willingness to drive whatever exists into its perfect absence. Their intention to destroy any place is solidly founded upon their willingness to destroy every place.

Every household of the world is at their mercy, the households of the farmer and the otter and the owl are at their mercy. They have no mercy. Having hate, they can have no mercy. Their greed is the hatred of mercy. Their pockets jingle with the small change of the poor. Their power is the willingness to destroy everything for knowledge which is money which is power which is victory which is ashes sown by the wind.

Leave your windows and go out, people of the world, go into the streets, go into the fields, go into the woods and along the streams. Go together, go alone. Say no to the Lords of War which is Money which is Fire. Say no by saying yes to the air; to the earth, to the trees, yes to the grasses, to the rivers, to the birds and the animals and every living thing, yes to the small houses, yes to the children. Yes.
Join us after the concert for plant-based snacks and conversation with our singers and supporters.

A children's book promoting preserving our natural world and being more caring with each other...

We share our world...

Available for sale downstairs.

20% of book sales to Aurora Chorus, May 19th

More Books: bananalunabooks.com

BottleDrop is a new system for redeeming bottles and cans in Oregon. With their clean and spacious indoor facilities, friendly and helpful staff, and innovative BottleDrop Accounts, BottleDrop makes returning deposit containers and collecting a refund fast, clean and convenient.

If you already save returnables and collect your deposit back through BottleDrop you can now donate the funds you earn to Aurora. Just go online to your BottleDrop account, choose “give,” select Aurora Chorus from among participating non profits, and donate all or part of your redemption funds to Aurora. Or, pick up a blue BottleDrop bag from the BottleDrop table downstairs and return the bag at your convenience to any BottleDrop redemption center. The bags are marked with the Aurora barcode and our account will be credited with your funds.

There is no cost to you for the bags.

Thank you for supporting Aurora and the environment!

Learn More: bottledropcenters.com
We envision a future where international agreements and public policies, at all levels of government, have kept most of the known fossil fuels reserves in the ground; where, by mid-century, emissions from the burning of fossil fuels have reached zero, allowing natural processes in soils and forests to absorb excess carbon from our atmosphere, bringing it steadily down to levels safe for the our children, grandchildren and all life on earth.

We envision a future with enlightened social, political and economic systems prioritizing renewable energy use and increasing energy efficiency while creating quality family-wage jobs in building a fossil-free economy; where low-income communities are no longer disproportionately suffering the effects of climate change; and where sustaining life and the needs of communities take precedence over corporate profits, leading to a healthy world with thriving and resilient communities.

Learn More: 350pdx.org

Northwest VEG

Northwest VEG educates and encourages people to make vegan choices for a healthy, sustainable, and compassionate world. Based in the Greater Portland and southern Washington areas, Northwest VEG is dedicated to bringing awareness to the power of a plant-based, vegan lifestyle and helping support people in their transition toward making healthier, more sustainable, and compassionate food choices. Through courses, social events, programs, outreach, and larger annual events including Portland VegFest (SAVE THE DATE - Oct. 5 & 6, 2019 at the Oregon Convention Center), Northwest VEG welcomes everyone to learn about the animal, environmental, human rights, and health issues intertwined with our food choices, and fosters a community of people with shared values.

Learn More: nwveg.org

Oregon Environmental Council

OEC brings Oregonians together to protect Oregon’s water, air and land with healthy solutions that work for today and for future generations. Founded in 1968 by concerned Oregonians across the state, OEC is a membership-based, nonpartisan nonprofit. OEC is a fiscally sound, highly-regarded organization that is committed to transparency. OEC strives for equitable environmental policies and practices, works with businesses, farmers and health providers so that all may thrive and works with elected officials to create protective public policy.

Learn More: oeconline.org
Thank You to Our Donors
November 2017 to April 2019

**Sponsor ($1,000 to $2,499)**
- Kristan Burkert
- Colleen & Patricia Cornman-Wilcox
- Lynn Greenwood
- Frances Hicks
- Judi Ranton

**Donor ($500 to $999)**
- Peggy McComb & Karen Cameron
- Linda & Skip Durham
- Christine Hayward
- Marya Hazilla
- Robert Klonoff
- Bunny Marechal
- Meredith Peake
- Cheryl Perrin
- Don Powell
- Mary Jo Ranton
- Susan Rinker

**Associate ($250 to $499)**
- Donna Amos
- Mary F. Bowers
- Brenda Brischetto
- Julie Earnest
- Lisa Fithian-Barrett
- Mary Ellen Morrison
- Jill Sanders
- Michele Stemler
- Victoria Storie
- Connie Weiss

**Supporter ($100 to $249)**
- Phyllis Auger
- Elaine Ball
- Margaret Blake
- Rachel Bramble
- Larry Busch
- Barbara Cabot
- Judy Coons
- Diane Dickey
- Joyce Follingstad
- Karen Henell
- JoAnn Herrigel
- Judy Hilsenteger
- Kathleen Hollingsworth
- Molly Holsapple
- Karen Zumwalt & Pamela Hooten
- Mary Jane Johnston
- Mary Johnstone
- Lori Kovacevic
- Jeanne Kriensley
- Bill McNamee & Hannah Kuhn
- Dorothy LaDouceur
- Terri Lewis
- Kim Martin
- Gail K. Murphy
- Joe & Nannette Niski
- Nancy Nydegger
- James Ranton
- Margaret Robinson
- Joan Sears
- Ingrid Slizewski
- Judy Soule
- Christy Staats
- Sharyl Swope
- Melissa Thimm
- Jana Tracy & CJ Timper
- Leila Wrathall & Cathy Travis
- Al Turner
- Steve Turner
- Carol Walker

**Friend ($25 to $99)**
- Michele Alderson
- Linda & Adrienne Amar
- Tara Asai
- Nicole Behnke
- Amy Bremer
- Daryl Browne
- Jane & Ron Cease
- Bethany Clouse
- Jae Douglas
- Betsy Dowell
- Sharon Epstein
- Kathleen Fisher
- Jude Gerace
- Barbara Gray
- Jeanette Hankins
- Caroline Henry
- Jane Holt
- Patrick Hoyt
- Roberta Jortner
- Kristin Judge
- Vicky Krombein
- Lisa Kron
- Lani Jo Leigh
- Donna Lieberman
- Dana Lillie
- Marilyn Lindberg
- Ruth Lizotte
- Mike Malter
- Jennifer Mangieri
- Teri Martin
- Ruth McCabe
- Debra McLean
- Charles Murphy
- LouAnn Pearthree
- Judith and Guy Pinta
- Deborah T Pollack
- Kay & David Pollack
- Thomas Ranton
- Karen Schwartzrock
- Jenna Scott
- Robert & Beverly Shoemaker
- Deborah Spanton
- Peter Spendelow
- Dianne Turner
- Victoria Walker
- Stacy Watts
- Sara Wright