AURORA CHORUS PRESENTS

Your One Wild and Precious Life

with special guests

THE SEVERIN SISTERS

December 14, 7:00PM
December 15, 4:00PM
First Congregational Church
Greetings from our Guest Artistic Director

It has been a privilege to serve as Acting Artistic Director for Aurora Chorus this fall while our wonderful Joan Szymko took a short leave of absence. I am grateful for these compassionate and inspirational singers who accepted change, encouraged me, and stepped outside their familiar routines to explore a few new ones. To each, I am grateful. Very soon, we wholeheartedly welcome Joan’s return to complete the 2019-2020 concert season.

The collection of music and poetry for this concert was inspired by Mary Oliver’s famous line, “What will you do with your one wild and precious life?” There are likely many of you who have experienced loss recently. Perhaps you have been confronted with the startling realization that life is short, indeed. We must make the most and best of our limited time. Today’s spoken and sung poetry reflects our theme of embracing opportunities, recognizing life’s challenges from birth to death, enjoying the quiet and beauty of nature, and never waiting for tomorrow to pursue our goals and desires.

We begin by acknowledging the value of our gathering together through Ubi Caritas: “Therefore, when we come together, let us be united as one.” And Hine Ma Tov: How good and pleasant it is for brothers and sisters to live together in unity.” As the concert continues, I hope you find inspiration through our shared poetry and music that invites you to explore nature, love, quiet, and courage. Don’t worry—there is joy, humor, and celebration to come, particularly as we listen to the marvelous “Severin Sisters” spreading their energy and love. And as we honor and acknowledge the end of life through the final pieces of our program, we ask for eternal light and rest. Merritt Malloy reminded us: “Love doesn’t die. People do. So, when all that’s left of me is love, give me away.”

Aurora Chorus Board of Directors

Lynn Greenwood, President / Lori Kovacevic, Treasurer / Kristan Burkert, Secretary
Marilyn Cover / Lisa Fithian-Barrett / Colleen Wilcox
Jaclyn Leeds, Executive 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.
Dr. Tina Bull, Guest Artistic Director

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Dr. Tina Bull, Emeritus Associate Professor of Music, served as Coordinator of Music Education at Oregon State University from 1996-2015. She founded the Professional Music Teacher Education program in 1996, guiding graduate students through their preparation for the music teaching profession.

In 1999, Dr. Bull also founded Bella Voce, Oregon State’s women’s choir. Bella Voce performed throughout the state, region, nationally and internationally. A few highlights of their tours during Bull’s tenure include a featured performance at the 2014 ISME World Conference for Music Education in Porto Alegre, Brazil; a performance at the Estonian Song Festival, and a feature in a joint performance with the OSU Chamber Choir and OSU Meistersingers in Alice Tully Hall at the Lincoln Center for Performing Arts in New York, 2013.

Tina is a past member of the executive committee of the Society for Music Teacher Education and Northwest division chair. She is also past president of the Oregon Music Education Association. In 2017, selected Dr. Bull as the recipient of the John C. McManus Distinguished Teacher award for outstanding music teaching over the course of her career.

Currently, Dr. Bull is a member of the Board of Directors of the Oregon Repertory Singers, the Beaver Caucus, and she is serving as Guest Artistic Director for Aurora Chorus.

Kira Whiting, Collaborative Pianist

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

Please consider making a monthly pledge of $5, $10, or $18. Set up your pledge today on your phone or online.

Text AURORA to 44-321
or visit aurorachorus.org/support

If each person in the audience gave $5/month, Aurora would benefit from an additional $50,000 each year to dedicate to commissioning new music, hiring excellent musicians to accompany our concerts, securing rehearsal spaces, and covering operational expenses.

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Donate directly to the Spencer Fund: text SPENCERFUND to 44-321 or visit aurorachorus.org/support

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
Allison Batty-Capps
Kristan Burkert
Libby Clow*
Pauilla Dacklin
Jae Douglas+
Ellen Drumheller
Christine Hayward+
Wendy Howard**
Meredith Peake
Gloria Preston
Judi Ranton
Monet Richter
Susan Rinker
Gyorgyi Santa
Jenna Scott
Stacy Watts
Ann Wilson

Frances Hicks
Robert Jortner
Static Kaeder
Lori Kovacevic
Lisa Kron*
Jaclyn Leeds
Zsuzsa Nemeth
Nanette Niski+
Liz Page
Debbie Paynter
Stephanie Radoslovich
Mary Anne Thygesen
Wendy Leigh White

SOPRANO II
Rachel Baldwin
Elaine Ball
Cheyenne Chapman
Bethany Clouse
Caroline Cooper
Patricia Corrman**
Clara Dair
Judith Don
Betsy Dowell*
Lynn Greenwood

SOPRANO II
Rachel Baldwin
Elaine Ball
Cheyenne Chapman
Bethany Clouse
Caroline Cooper
Patricia Corrman**
Clara Dair
Judith Don
Betsy Dowell*
Lynn Greenwood

Patricia McKinney
Erin Pitney
Robin Ray*
Jackie Rose**+
Sharyl Swope
Carol Trenga

ALTO II
Donna Amos
Rachel Brooks
Olivia Clark
Jan Corwin
Margot Faegre
Lisa Fithian-Barrett
Emma Gray
Bunny Marechal
Gaia Mather+
LouAnn Pearthree
Debby Pollack**
Jill Sanders
Heather Smith
Brenda Spicer
Michele Stemler*
Colleen Wilcox
Devon Willis

ALTO I
Annie Auxier
Rachel Bramble
Ann Brodie-Knope
Shannon Buono**
Cindy Christensen
Marilyn Cover
Megan Davis
Claire Dennerlein
Barbara Gray
Patti Harelkin
Joy Jakubowski
Dixie Larsen
Donna Lieberman
Isabel Lips
Kim Martin
Peggy McComb

Aurora Chorus welcomes women of all ages at all musical skill levels who seek artistic expression in an empowering singing environment. Directed by renowned composer Joan Szymko, Aurora elevates women’s voices and open the hearts of singers and audiences through sharing diverse choral repertoire, celebrating musical excellence, and cultivating community.
YOUR ONE WILD AND PRECIOUS LIFE

Aurora Chorus
Tina Bull, guest conductor
Kira Whiting, collaborative pianist
with special guests
The Severin Sisters

Ubi Caritas
Traditional hymn, arr. Joan Szymko
Maker of Songs
Hazel Hall
reader: Elaine Ball
Hine Ma Tov
Hebrew folk song, arr. Neil Ginsberg
Little Birch Tree
Russian folk song, arr. Sue Bohlin
Honeybee-ing
Charles Goodrich
reader: Rachel Baldwin
Lake Isle of Innisfree
Eleanor Daley / poem: William Yeats
Wild Geese
Mary Oliver
reader: WendyLeigh White
Here
Joan Szymko / poem: Wendell Berry
soloist: Libby Clow
Warning
reader: Claire Dennerlein
Betsy Dowell, Lisa Kron,
small ensemble: Libby Clow,
Jackie Rose, Robin Ray,
Michele Stemler

Banjo Pickin’ Girl
Appalachian folk song,
guest artists: The Severin Sisters
arr. Tim Sharp and Andrea Ramsey

Howlin’ At the Moon
Hank Williams, arr. Sam Bush
My Heart Will Follow You
John Cowan
Roanoke
Bill Monroe
Million Reasons
Hillary Lee Lindsey / Mark Ronson /
Stefani Germanotta
Wagon Wheel
Bob Dylan / Ketch Secor
The Old Gristmill
Heidi Wiegal
White House Blues
Bill Monroe

The Severin Sisters
AURORA CHORUS

Siyahamba
reader: Judi Ranton
Traditional South African hymn
spoken text: Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandel

Imagine
soloist: Lisa Kron
John Lennon, arr. Mac Huff

Span
reader: Susan Rinker
Paulann Peterson

The Summer Day
Joan Szymko, poem by Mary Oliver

Deck the Halls in 7/8
soloist: Kristan Burkert
arr. James McKelvy

Lux Aeterna
Z. Randall Stroope

You There
reader: Chris Hayward
Judith Barrington

No Time
soloists: Joy Jakubowski, Allison Batty-Capps
arr. Susan Brumfield

Epitaph
reader: Sharyl Swope
Merrit Malloy

I Have Had Singing
Ron Jeffers

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Bryce Caster, violin
Amy Severin Scott, guitar
Collin Oldham, cello
Roberta Jortner, Marylyn John
Julie Earnest, flute
Erin Pitney, Kira Whiting, percussion

The Severin Sisters

The Severin Sisters have been dazzling audiences with their Americana music for over fifteen years. Touring and entertaining throughout the Northwest they have had the pleasure of opening for such renowned acts as Rascal Flatts, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, The Del McCoury Band, and The John Cowan Band. Amy and Heidi are twin sisters and have attained exceptional mastery playing banjo, mandolin, guitar and fiddle. Additionally they are highly gifted songwriters and have three CDs to their credit. After a few years off from touring, they’re back at it! The Severin Sisters are now joined by their younger sister, Haley Severin, on bass and vocals, The Severin Sisters’ hot, bluegrass instrumentals and three-part harmonies are sure to “wow” audiences of all ages! Their youthful energy and talent, charm and audience appeal make them one of the most sought after bands in the northwest!
SELECTED LYRICS & TRANSLATIONS

UBI CARITAS
Where charity and love are, God is there.

HINE MA TOV
Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity.

LAKE ISLE OF INNISFREE
I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight’s all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet’s wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart’s core.

HERE
Horseback on Sunday morning,
harvest over, we taste persimmon
and wild grape, sharp sweet
of summer’s end. In time’s maze
over the fall fields, we name names
that went west from here,
names that rest on graves. We open
a persimmon seed to find the tree
that stands in promise,
pale, in the seed’s marrow.
Geese appear high over us,
pass, and the sky closes. Abandon,
as in love or sleep, holds
them to their way, clear,
in the ancient faith: what we need
is here. And we pray, not
for new earth or heaven, but to be
quiet in heart, and in eye
clear: What we need is here.

SIYAHAMBA
We are marching in the light of God.
IMAGINE
Imagine there’s no heaven
It’s easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people
Living for today
Imagine there’s no countries
It isn’t hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
No immigration, too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace
You may say I’m a dreamer
But I’m not the only one
I hope someday you’ll join us
And the world will be as one
Imagine no possessions
I wonder if we can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood and sisterhood of man
Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world

THE SUMMER DAY
Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean--
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down--
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don’t know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn’t everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
With your one wild and precious life?

LUX AETERNA
Let eternal light shine upon them, Lord.
Grant them eternal rest, Lord.
Best wishes to Aurora singers for another outstanding season of song - from your fellow songbirds in Bellingham, WA - - VOX PACIFICA

Vox Uncorked!
Feb. 15 @ 7:30pm & Feb. 16 @ 4:00pm
Sylvia Center for the Arts • 205 Prospect Ave.

Our Stories Go On
May 8 @ 7:30pm & May 9 @ 7:30pm
First Congregational Church • 2401 Cornwall

Learn more: voxpacifica.org/events

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Save The Dates!

March 8 at 4pm
International Women’s Day
Shaking the Foundation

May 17 at 4pm
Open Up and Let Her Through

All concerts at First Congregational Church

Join us after the concert for cookies and conversation with our singers and supporters.