



Winter Reflections

December 8, 2018

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Vox & Friends - Uncorked

February 9, 2019

**Sylvia Center for the Arts
205 Prospect Street
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Spring Finale

May 11, 2019

**Venue to be Announced
Bellingham, Washington**

Wendy Bloom

Artistic Director, Vox Pacifica

Wendy Bloom's dedication to choral music began in high school and led her to Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa where she studied to become a choir director. During her senior year, she was offered an assistantship to teach voice and pursue an MFA in voice performance. She proudly stepped through that door, and feels grateful to have experienced a long career singing in choirs, operas, musical theater, cabaret, and as a soloist with symphonies.

Her singing appearances have included concerts with orchestras in Ann Arbor, Flint, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Baltimore and Toledo. In recent years she has performed as alto soloist in Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky*, Bach's *B Minor Mass* and *St. Matthew Passion*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Mahler's *Second* and *Third Symphony*. Her quartet, SATB, performed and toured extensively together for 15 years.

Wendy's pursuit of a freelance singing career continued in tandem with her passion for choral music and teaching. In Ann Arbor Michigan, she conducted middle and high school choirs, and was the director of music for a large church. She also served as the choir director and conducting professor at Concordia University. Her experience finally brought her to a large symphonic choir in Flint Michigan, where she prepared the chorus for many renowned orchestral works.

In her career as a vocalist, Wendy has curated two solo recitals, *The New American Songbook*, and *A Woman's Life and Love*. She has been a regular singer with professional choirs *Audivi Vocem* in Ann Arbor, MI, *Sounding Light* in Birmingham, MI, as well as the *Santa Fe Desert Chorale*. Additionally, her extensive work with *Conspirare* in Austin, TX included a televised PBS special in the spring of 2009. For fifteen years, Wendy was also the artistic director for a popular cabaret in Ann Arbor called *Wine, Women and Song*. She plans to recreate the cabaret as part of the Vox Pacifica season.

In her new home close to her two daughters in Washington, she sings with the *Bellingham Chamber Chorale* and the *Bellingham Threshold Singers*. She is delighted to be embarking on this new venture with Vox Pacifica!



Director's Statement

As Vox Pacifica began to take shape, our founding director May May Gong asked me, "What pieces will best represent us at our inaugural concert?" In consideration of her question, I would like for the pieces performed tonight to be meaningful to all persons, and also honor womxn and their roles in history and in the world. Who better to begin with than Hildegard von Bingen and the Blessed Mother Mary?

Hildegard von Bingen was a German Benedictine abbess, writer, philosopher, composer, and Christian mystic. Born in the 9th century, Hildegard began to experience mystic visions from a very young age. Her visions brought her images of vice and virtue, human and universe. She explained that she saw all things in the light of God through her five senses, and expressed what she felt through music, poetry, and painting. She was also a scientist and skilled herbalist, combining treatment of physical diseases with holistic methods centered on spiritual healing. At a time when women were told they could not read nor write, let alone hold positions of authority, her work and wisdom was sought after by statesmen, emperors, and abbots. Most recently, she was recognized by Pope Benedict XVI, who named her Doctor of the Church in 2012.

When Hildegard composed *Ave Generosa*, she imagined Mary in a loving relationship with a God who chose her over all creation. The first half of our program explores the story of Mary and how she may have felt as she was told she would be the mother of God.

The second half of our program is a quest for finding a balm for today's troubled world. Our composers and poets find respite in the constancy of the stars and the peace of wild things. We hope that our singing can help to lift all of you into a peaceful realm, at least for a time.

Pianist



Emily Gantt spent close to 15 years traveling throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico with the national Broadway tours of *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Mis*, *Miss Saigon*, *Mamma Mia!* and most recently *Annie*, and *Beautiful*.

Prior to moving to Bellingham last year, Emily served as the Senior Professional Accompanist at the University of Washington, School of Music. She is thrilled to be collaborating with Wendy and the singers of Vox Pacifica. Emily studied at the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music.

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VOX *pacifica*

May this be the start of many
♪ more successful seasons! ♪

~ Richard Horton, Bellingham, WA

Richard Little

Writer, Traveler

Bellingham, WA
"The Write Stuff"
pepys2000.blogspot.com

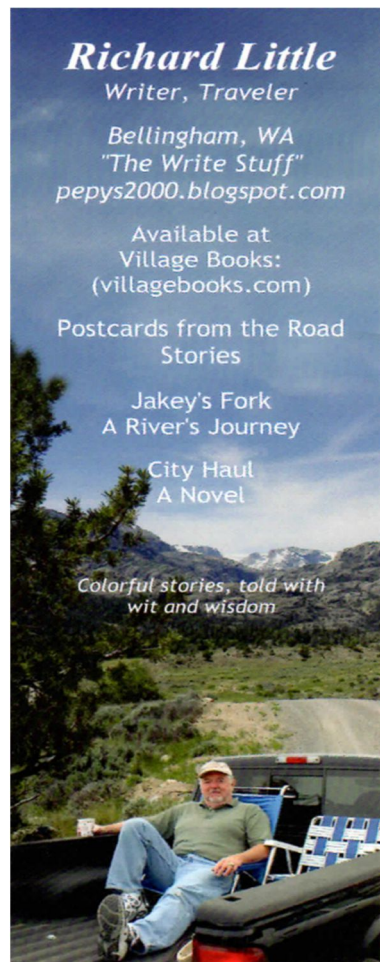
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elektra.ca

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Congratulations from Elektra Women's Choir to

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on your inaugural performance! We look forward to many years of your contribution to the wonderful world of women's choirs!

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Winter Reflections - Program

Part I: Mary the Rose

Ave Generosa

Hildegard von Bingen

I behold you, noble, glorious and whole woman,
the pupil of purity.
You are the sacred matrix in which God takes great pleasure.
The essences of Heaven flooded into you, and the Great
Word of God dressed itself in flesh.
You appeared as a shining white lily, as God looked upon you
before all of Creation.
O lovely and tender one,
how greatly has God delighted in you.
For He has placed His passionate embrace within you,
so that His Son might nurse at your breast.
Your womb held joy, with all the celestial symphony sounding
through you, Virgin, who bore the Son of God, when your
purity became luminous in God.
Your flesh held joy, like grass upon which dew falls, pouring
its life-green into it, and so it is true in you also, o Mother of
all delight.
Now let all Ecclesia shine in joy and sound in symphony
praising the most tender woman, Mary, the
bequeather/seed-source of God.

Soloist: Carol Reed-Jones

Herself a Rose, Who Bore the Rose Eleanor Daley

Herself a rose, who bore the Rose,
she bore the Rose and felt its thorn.
All loveliness new-born took on her bosom its repose,
and slept and woke there night and morn.
Lily herself, she bore the one Fair Lily;
sweeter, whiter, far than she or others are:
The Sun of Righteousness her Son,
She was His morning star.
She gracious, He essential Grace,
He was the Fountain, she the rill:
Her goodness to fulfil and gladness, with proportioned pace
He led her steps through good and ill.
Christ's mirror she of grace and love,
Of beauty and of life and death:
By hope and love and faith Transfigured to His likeness,
'Dove, Spouse, Sister, Mother,' Jesus saith.

Christina Rossetti

Magnificat

Christine Donkin

My soul doth magnify the Lord.
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
Because He hath regarded the humility of His slave:
For behold from henceforth all generations
shall call me blessed.
Because He that is mighty hath done great things to me;
and holy is His name. And His mercy is from generation unto
generations, to them that fear Him.

Magnificat

(continued)

He hath shewed might in His arm:
He hath scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble.
He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He
hath sent empty away.
He hath received Israel His servant, being mindful of His
mercy: As He spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his seed forever.
Glory be the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forever
and ever, Amen. *Luke 1*

Soloist: Wendy Bloom

Lo, How a Rose/The Rose

Craig Hella Johnson

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Some say love, it is a river, that drowns the tender reed

*Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
Some say love, it is a razor, that leaves your soul to bleed*

*It came, a flow'ret bright,
Some say love, it is a hunger, an endless aching need*

*Amid the cold of winter,
I say love, it is a flower, and you, its only seed*

*When half spent was the night.
It's the heart afraid of breaking
that never learns to dance
It's the dream afraid of waking
that never takes the chance.
It's the one who won't be taken,
who cannot seem to give
And the soul afraid of dying,
that never learns to live.*

*This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
When the night has been too lonely
and the road has been too long,*

*Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
And you think that love is only
for the lucky and the strong,*

*True man, yet very God,
Just remember in the winter, far beneath the bitter snows,*

*from sin and death He saves us,
Lies the seed, that with the sun's love,
in the spring becomes the rose.*

and lightens every load. Melchior

Soloist: Amanda McLean

Intermission

Part II: Finding Peace

Winter Stars

Jake Runestad

I went out at night alone;
the young blood flowing beyond the sea
Seemed to have drenched my spirit's wings
—I bore my sorrow heavily.
But when I lifted my head from shadows shaken on the snow, I
saw Orion in the east burn steadily as long ago.
From windows in my father's house,
dreaming my dreams on winter nights,
I watched Orion as a girl above another city's lights.
Years go, dreams go, and youth goes too,
the world's heart breaks beneath its wars,
All things are changed, save in the east
the faithful beauty of the stars. *Sara Teasdale*

The Peace of Wild Things

Joan Szymko

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time,
I rest in the grace of the world,
and am free. *Wendell Berry*

Soloists: Ahwren Ayers

And Sure Stars Shining

Z. Randall Stroepe

There will be rest, and sure stars shining,
over the roof-tops crowned with snow,
A reign of rest, serene forgetting,
the music of stillness holy and low.
I will make this world of my devising
out of a dream in my lonely mind.
I shall find the crystal of peace,
— above me, Stars I shall find. *Sara Teasdale*
Soloists: Ellen Barton, Lesley Rigg

Instrument of Peace

Kelly-Marie Murphy

Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is darkness, light.
Where there is sadness, joy.
Make me an instrument of peace.
Where there is uncertainty, let me bring faith.
Where there is injury, let me forgive.
Where there is hopelessness, let me bring hope.
Make me an instrument of peace.

Instrument of Peace

(continued)

Grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
and to be loved, but to love, love, love.
It is in giving that we receive.

And through forgiveness we find relief.
Make me an instrument of peace.

Adapted from St. Francis of Assisi

Night of Silence

Daniel Kantor

Cold are the people, winter of life,
We tremble in shadows this cold endless night,
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping,
Flowers that will echo the sunrise,
Fire of hope is our only warmth,
Weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, call in the night,
On wind you enfold us, you speak of the light,
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly,
Rumors of a dawn so embracing,
Breathless love awaits darkened souls,
Soon will we know of the morning.

Spirit among us, Shine like the star,
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from a far,
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,
Rising in the warmth of the Son's love,
Star unknowing of night and day,
Spirit we wait for the loving Son.

*Soloists: Peggy Alexander, Ellen Barton,
Jamie Enwright, Rachel Vogel*

Silent Night

Franz Gruber

Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories
stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia!

Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, Love's pure light, Radiant
beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace.

Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Joseph Mohr

The Voices of Vox Pacifica

Soprano 1

Ahwen Ayers
Ellen Barton
Jamie Enwright
Cherie Little
Cheryl Taylor

Soprano 2

Peggy Alexander
Kathy Bastow
Anna Blick
Amanda McLean
Carol Reed-Jones
Rachel Vogel

Alto 1

Connie Campbell
Meril Davenport
Charlene Day
Colleen Childers
Marcia Elwood

Alto 2

May May Gong
Carole Hammond
Janet Mueller
Leslee Probasco
Lesley Rigg



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.... May May, Charlene, Leslee

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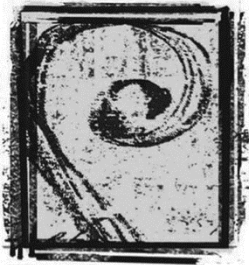
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