



Winter Reflections

December 8, 2018

Firehouse Arts and Events Center
1314 Harris Avenue
Fairhaven, Washington

Vox & Friends - Uncorked

February 9, 2019

Sylvia Center for the Arts
205 Prospect Street
Bellingham, Washington

Our Stories Go On....

May 11, 2019

First Congregational Church
2401 Cornwall Avenue
Bellingham, Washington

www.voxpacifica.org

Wendy Bloom, Artistic Director

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

I hope that this evening of song will provide you with some joyful moments, some moments of reflection, some moments to celebrate your own roots, and an opportunity to remember and to celebrate your mothers. It has been a moving experience for all of us to live with this beautiful music and to explore this meaningful poetry.

Emily Gantt, Piano



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.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to:

Joan Youngquist for serving as our stage manager.
Connie Campbell for leading sectionals and rehearsals.
Cheryl Taylor for creating our program.
May May Gong for creating our artwork, website, and promotional materials.
All of our board members for the diligent work that they do to keep us running.
Hadassah McGill for accompanying one of our rehearsals.
Stephanie Straight and Anna Jull for joining us as instrumentalists for this program.
Ruth McNally for Accounting Support.
Our audiences, who have cheered us on and encouraged us and supported us!

Our Stories Go On...

Vox Pacifica



Wendy Bloom, Artistic Director
Emily Gantt, Piano
Stephanie Straight, Percussion
Anna Jull, Bass

Family Trees

1. **Lineage****Andrea Ramsey**

Emily Gantt, Drum, Carol Reed-Jones, Cabaça

My grandmothers were strong. They followed plows and bent to toil.
They moved through fields sowing seed. They touched earth and grain grew.
They were full of sturdiness and singing.
My grandmothers are full of memories, smelling of soap and onions and wet clay.
With veins rolling roughly over quick hands, they had many clean words to say.
My grandmothers were strong. Why am I not as they? - Margaret Walker

2. **We pray to be at Peace, from *Missa Gaia***.....**Libby Larsen**

Lily Pony, Gourd Flute

Mother, sister, blessed, honored,
Life of the Water, Life of the flower,
Grant that we do not hurt ourselves with vanity.
Help us to feel and not to feel.
Teach us to act with care. Teach us to be at peace with his will.
Teach us to care for all we touch and let my prayer be heard by thee. - M.K. Dean

3. **Music in My Mother's House**.....**Stuart Stotts**

There were wind chimes in the window, bells inside the clock,
An organ in the corner, tunes in the music box.
We sang while we were cooking or working in the yard,
We sang although our lives were really hard.
There was music in my mother's house, music all around,
And my heart still feels full with the sound.

She taught us all piano, but my sister had the ear.
She could play the harmony to any tune she'd hear.
Now I don't claim much talent, but I always loved to play,
And I guess I will until my dyin' 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.
There was music in my mother's house - Stuart Stotts

4. Let me Ask You Stephen Hatfield

*Soloists: Colleen Childers, Lesley Rigg, Aharen Ayers, Janet Mueller,
Emily Otero, Laura Shelton, Lily Pony*

If anybody asks you who I am you can tell 'em I'm my mother's child.
Well now, Moses had a mother, and the mother had a daughter,
an' they save the little Moses when they float him on the water.
Well now Ruth had a husband, and the husband had a mother
And when the menfolk were perished, the wimmin took care of each other.

Well the Saviour called his mother when he was dyin' on the mountain.
And when the blood was drippin' from him it was Mary who was countin'.
Now you can vote for the gov'ner, you can pray to the Father,
But you don't honor the mother, then you just ain't worth the bother.

I'm lookin' high up at heaven, Lawd, Lawd, Lawd.
And the sky is my mother,
If anybody asks you who I am you can tell 'em I'm my mother's child.

Role Models

5. Malala Joan Szymko

Speaker: Emily Otero

I am Malala, their bullet did not stop me.
I am Malala, their bullet gave me power to raise my voice.
One child, one teacher, one pen, one book,
Can change the world!
I am Malala, I am afraid of no-one. - adapted from Malala Yousafzai by Joan Szymko

6. Harriet TubmanWalter Robinson, arr. Kathleen McGuire

One night I dreamed I was in slavery, 'bout 1850 was the time.
Sorrow was the only sign; nothing around to ease my mind.
Out of the night appeared a lady leading a distant pilgrim band.
"First mate", she yelled, pointing her hand,
"Make room aboard for this woman"
and sayin' "come on up, I've got a lifeline.
Come on up to this train o' mine"

She said her name was Harriet Tubman and she drove for the Underground Railroad.
Hundreds of miles we traveled onward, gathering slaves from town to town.
Seeking every lost and found, setting those free that once were bound.
Somehow my heart was growing weaker, fell by the wayside's sinking sand.
Firmly did this lady stand, lifted me up and took my hand,
And sayin' "Come on up, I've got a lifeline."

Who are these children dressed in red?
They must be the ones that Moses led. "Come on up!" - Walter Robinson

7. And Ain't I a Woman Susan Borwick

And ain't I a woman! Look at my arm! look at me!
No man fed me, no man could head me, look at my arm, look at me!
I've plowed and I've planted, look at my arm, look at me!
Ain't I a woman?

I could work as much and eat as much and bear the lash as much as a man.
And I done borne thirteen children sold to slavery.
And when I cried out and grieved like no man can,
No one but Jesus, nobody else heard my plea.
If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world
Upside down all alone, then these women here now
Can get together and turn it all back around.
None but Jesus, nobody else, can show us how.

And ain't I a woman! - Sojourner Truth at Ohio Women's Rights Convention, 1851

INTERMISSION

Finding Ourselves

Reflection: Ahwren Ayers

8. Water Women..... Joan Szymko

We do not want to rock the boat, you say,
mistaking our new poise for something safe.
We smile secretly at each other,
sharing the reality that for some time
we have not been in the boat.
We jumped or were pushed or fell and some leaped overboard.
Our bodies form a freedom fleet, our dolphin grace is power.
We learn and teach and as we go
Each woman sings— each woman's hands are water wings.
Some of us have become mermaids or Amazon whales
and are swimming for our lives.
Some of us do not know how to swim.
We walk on water. - Alla Bozarth

Reflection: Molly Monahan

9. Warrior The Wyrd Sisters, arr. Kim Baryluk

*Soloists: Lily Pony, Emily Otero, May May Gong, Charlotte Pros, Carol Reed-Jones, Meril Davenport,
Laura Shelton, Charlene Day, Lesley Rigg*

I was a shy and lonely girl with the heavens in my eyes,
and as I walked along the lane, I heard the echoes of her cries.
I cannot fight, I cannot a warrior be;
It's not my nature nor my teaching, it is the womanhood in me.
I was a lost and angry youth, there were no tears in my eyes.
I saw no justice in my world, only the echoes of her cries.
I cannot fight.....
I am an older woman now, and I will heed my own cries,
And I will a fierce warrior be 'til not another woman dies.
I can and will fight. I can and will a warrior be.
It is my nature and my duty, it is the womanhood in me.
It is the sisterhood in me. - Kim Baryluk and the Wyrd Sisters

Reflection: Wendy Bloom

10. Now I Become Myself..... Gwyneth Walker

Now I become myself. It's taken time, many years and places;
I have been dissolved and shaken, worn other people's faces,
Run madly as if Time were there, terribly old, crying a warning,
"Hurry you will be dead before...."

(What? Before you reach the morning?)

Now to stand still, to be here, feel my own weight and density!

The black shadow on the paper is my hand; The shadow of a word as thought shapes the shaper falls heavy on
the page, is heard.

All fuses now, falls into place from wish to action, word to silence, my work, my love, my time, my face
gathered into one intense gesture of growing like a plant. As slowly as the ripening fruit, fertile, detached,
and always spent, falls but does not exhaust the root,

so all the poem is, can give, grows in me to become the song:

Made so and rooted so by love. Now there is time and Time is young.

O, in this single hour I live all of myself and do not move.

I, the pursued, who madly ran, stand still, and stop the sun! - May Sarton

Reflection: Lily Pony

11. Truth.....Andrea Ramsey

My roots are earth, Muddy river and honeysuckle
Sturdy and rigid, Like farmhouse planks
I shared a sisterhood with the amber grasses
My dreams climbed endlessly like the kudzu in July
I shared a sisterhood with the amber grasses
My dreams climbed endlessly, no fear in sight.
In nature, in naive youth, All the forest was possible
All the pasture was my own,
My mother told me I was beautiful And I believed her then.
Why shouldn't I?
There is no doubt in a pond,
Insecurity does not grow in a meadow,
It will not sprout beneath the Southern pines.
It is planted by the boys on the school bus
Tended by the words of small minds, And words may hurt you,
But are they true?
You are beautiful. You are enough,
You must believe in that, believe the truth.
My roots are earth, Muddy river and honeysuckle
My roots are beautiful,
My roots are strong. -Gardenia Bruce

The Voices of Vox Pacifica

SOPRANO 1

Ahwen Ayers
Ellen Barton
Cherie Little
Molly Monahan
Lily Pony
Laura Shelton

SOPRANO 2

Peggy Alexander
Kathy Bastow
Charlotte Pros
Carol Reed-Jones
Cheryl Taylor
Rachel Vogel

ALTO 1

Connie Campbell
Colleen Childers
Meril Davenport
Charlene Day
Hilde Meadow
Janet Mueller
Emily Otero

ALTO 2

Marcia Elwood
May May Gong
Carole Hammond
Leslee Probasco
Lesley Rigg
Mathilda Wheeler

Donors and Sponsors

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If you are interested in sponsoring a concert or making a tax-deductible donation, see the information in the envelope provided with this program or see our website for details!

www.voxpacifica.org

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Wendy Bloom

Voice Instructor

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~ Richard Horton, Bellingham, WA

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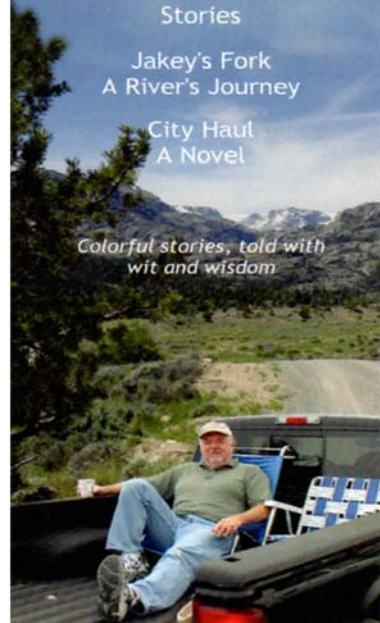
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singers from
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.... May May, Charlene, Leslee*

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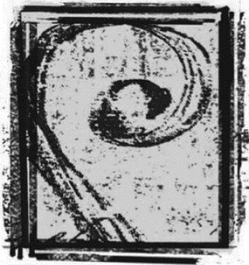
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