

VOX PACIFICA PRESENTS

Winter Song

Wendy Bloom, Artistic Director

Emily Gantt, Piano

Alishia Joubert, Harp

Teresa Lenssen, Soprano

December 7th & 8th, 2019

First Congregational Church

2401 Cornwall

Bellingham, Washington

Vox & Friends - Uncorked

February 15th & 16th, 2020

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Our Stories Go On...

May 8th & 9th, 2020

First Congregational Church

2401 Cornwall

Bellingham, Washington

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 the second season with Vox Pacifica!



Director's Statement

We are delighted to present Britten's beloved work, *Ceremony of Carols*. In March, 1942, after three years in North America, Britten and his partner, the renowned tenor Peter Pears, boarded a cargo vessel for a return to England. At that time, the waters of the Atlantic were crawling with German U-Boats. It was Britten's intent to work on the *Hymn to St. Cecilia* as well as a piece for Benny Goodman during the long journey. Sadly, all of his materials were confiscated before leaving port in case they were in a secret code. During a stop in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Britten bought a copy of *The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems*, with texts in Middle English, Latin, and Early Modern English. Some of those poems became the basis for the carols we will be singing. You will hear the macaronic compilation of those three languages.

Following the Britten, we will be intermingling Christian and Jewish traditions by singing some traditional Hanukkah songs, arranged skillfully by Charles Baker.

As we enter the holiday season in the darkness of our winters, many of us are wistful for family and for home. The end of a calendar year is also a period of reflection on our world and our place in it. Vox Pacifica will address the themes of home and of peace with music of Ola Gjeilo, Joan Szymko, Gwyneth Walker, and Stephen Paulus. Thank you for joining us today. May the season bring you and your families joy and comfort.

Emily Gantt, Piano



Emily Gantt studied at the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music. She 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*.

She is thrilled to be collaborating with Wendy and the singers of Vox Pacifica.

Winter Song

VOX PACIFICA

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CEREMONY OF CAROLS

Benjamin Britten

1. Procession

Today Christ is born; Today the Savior has appeared;
Today the angels sing, The archangels rejoice;
Today the righteous rejoice, saying,
Glory to God in the highest, Alleluia!

2. Welcome Yule

Welcome, Welcome to You, our heavenly King.
Welcome, You who was born one morning, Welcome, for You shall we sing!
Welcome, to you, Steven and John, Welcome all innocent children,
Welcome, Thomas, the martyred one, Welcome, good new year,
Welcome Twelfth Day, both in fear, Welcome Saints left and dear.

Candle Mass, Queen of bliss,
Welcome both to more and less. Welcome you that are here,
Welcome all and make good cheer. Welcome all another year.

3. There is No Rose

There is no rose of such virtue As is the rose that bore Jesus. Alleluia
For inside the Rose was contained heaven and earth in a single, little space.
Miraculous thing.
By that rose, we now may see, There be one God in persons three.
Created in the Parent's image.
The angels sang to the shepherds, Glory to God in the highest!
We rejoice.
Leave we all this worldly mirth, And follow we this joyful birth.
We cross over to Christ's world.

4a. That Young Child (Soloist: Kaitlin Davis, Soprano)

When that young child began to weep, with song, she lulled him to sleep.
It was such a sweet melody, It passed all other songs.
The nightingale sang also, But her song was hoarse, it was not the same:
Whoever listens to the nightingale's song Instead of Mary's, does wrong.

4b. Balulalozw (Soloist: Teresa Lenssen, Soprano)

O love of my heart, young Jesus sweet, Prepare your place in my heart,
And I shall rock thee with great love, And I shall never leave your side.
And I shall praise you forever, With sweet songs of your glory
The knees of my heart shall I bow, And sing the right "Lullaby."

5. As Dew in April

I sing of a maiden that is mateless, Her son was the King of all Kings.
From his mother he came to us quietly as dew in April that falls on the grass.
His mother's labor was painless and quiet as dew in April that falls on the grass.
As His mother lay there, he came quietly as dew in April that falls on the flower branches.
Never has there been such a mother and maiden; How fitting it is that this be God's mother.

6. This Little Babe

This little Babe so few days old Has come to disturb Satan's fold.
All hell quakes at his presence, Though he himself shivers with cold.
For in this weak, unarmed guise He will surprise the very gates of Hell!
With tears he fights and wins the field, His naked breast stands for a shield;
His shots are his babish cries, His arrows, the looks of his weeping eyes.
His martial ensigns are cold and need, And his feeble flesh, his warrior's steed.
His camp is pitched in a stall, His bulwark is a broken wall;
The crib his trench, hay stalks are his stakes, of shepherds, he enlists his troops.
And sure of wounding the foe, The angels sound the trumpets alarm.
My soul joins Christ in the fight, Stay by the tents that he has pitched;
Within his crib is sure protection; This little babe will be your guard;
If Christ can foil your foes with joy, Stay near the heavenly boy.

7. Interlude (Harp Solo) – Alishia Joubert

8. In Freezing Winter Night (Soloists: Kaitlin Davis, Soprano, Lesley Rigg, Alto)

Behold, a helpless tender babe, In freezing winter night,
In homely manger trembling lies – Alas, a piteous sight!
The inns are full; no man will yield This little pilgrim bed.
But forced is he with silly beasts In crib to shroud his head.
This stable is a Prince's court, This crib his chair of State;
The beasts are parcel of his pomp, The wooden dish his plate.
The persons in that poor attire His royal liveries wear;
The Prince himself is come from heaven; This pomp is prized there.
With joy approach, O Christian being, Do homage to thy King,
And highly praise his humble pomp, which he from heaven doth bring.

9. Spring Carol (Soloists: Laura Shelton, Soprano, Lesley Rigg, Alto)

It is always a pleasure to hear the birds sing,
To see the deer in the dale, the sheep in the vale, the corn springing from the earth.
God supplies sustenance for us all.
Then we should always give him praise and give him thanks.

11. Give Thanks to God

Give thanks to God!
Adam was bound in sin for four thousand years,
Although he thought this not too long It was all for an apple that he took,
As clerics find written in their books.
Had the apple never been taken, Then our Lady would have
Never been a heavenly queen.
Blessed be the time the apple was taken.
Therefore, we must sing Thanks be to God!

11. Recession – Same as Procession.

INTERMISSION

A Home for the Holidays

The Road Home Stephen Paulus

Soloist: Teresa Lenssen, Soprano

Tell me where is the road I can call my own, that I left, that I lost so long ago.
All these years I have wandered,
Oh, when will I know there's a way, there's a road that will lead me home.

After wind, after rain, when the dark is done,
As I wake from a dream in the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling from far away,
There's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me, come away is the call,
With love in your heart as the only song;
There is no such beauty as where you belong,
Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home. *Michael Dennis Brown*

Days of Beauty Ola Gjeillo

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 suffering and its tears. *Emily Bronte*

Three Hanukkah Songs Charles Baker

1. S'vivon (Dreidel)

See the whirling top, how lovely it spins!
Let us celebrate Chanukah, this joyous occasion.
Let all people celebrate this joyous occasion because a great miracle happened here!

2. Nerli (My Candle)

My lovely tapers of Chanukah, let me now kindle.
Let the lovely lights glow as songs of celebration we offer.

3. Chanukah, oi Chanukah, (Hanukkah, oh Hanukkah)

Hanukkah, oh Hanukkah, come light the menorah,
We'll have a party; we'll all dance the hora.
Gather round the table, we'll give you a treat: Dreidels to play with and latkes to eat,
And while we are playing the candles are burning bright.
One for each night, they shed a great light to remind us of days long ago.
Traditional Hebrew and Yiddish

PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO ALL

The Tree of Peace Gwyneth Walker

Oh, my sister and my brother, all who walk upon this earth,
Fold to your hearts each other.
Where mercy dwells, the peace of the Lord is there.

To live rightly is to love one another,
Each kindness a gift, each deed a prayer.
Listen, listen to one another.

Walk with reverence in the steps of those who have gone before,
Where forgiveness and wisdom have stood.
So shall the wide earth become our temple,
Each loving life a psalm of gratitude.
Walk with reverence where forgiveness and wisdom have stood.

Listen to one another, Listen!
Then shall all shackles fall, the violence of war over the earth shall cease,
Love shall tread out the fire of anger, and in its ashes plant a tree of peace.
Listen to one another. Peace. *adapted from John Greenleaf Whittier*

Light, Beauty, PeaceJoan Szymko

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. Peace. *Chinese proverb*

The Voices of Vox Pacifica

SOPRANO 1

Ahwren Ayers
Kaitlin Davis
Cherie Little
Kay Marsh
Molly Monahan
Laura Shelton
Cheryl Taylor

SOPRANO 2

Peggy Alexander
Kathy Bastow
Susan Bradley
Charlene Day
Hilde Meadow
Janet Mueller
Carol Reed-Jones



ALTO 1

Connie Campbell
Meril Davenport
Liliana Gilster
Ashley Jakubczyk
Amber Miller
Lesley Rigg
Mindy Zuckerman

ALTO 2

Cathy Arnold
Colleen Childers
Marcia Elwood
May May Gong
Carole Hammond
Leslee Probasco
Mathilda Wheeler

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If you are interested in sponsoring a concert or making a tax-deductible donation, see our website for details!

www.voxpacifica.org/support-vox-pacifica/

★★★Vox Pacifica is very grateful for the support and generosity of the following individuals and organizations. ★★★

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- ★ Susan Elwood
- ★ Vox Pacifica (in honor of Hank Witt)

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- ★ Central Lutheran Church – Rehearsal Space
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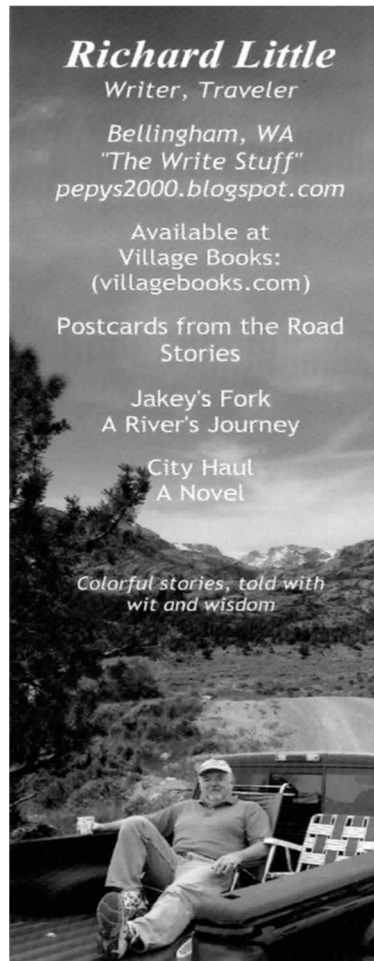
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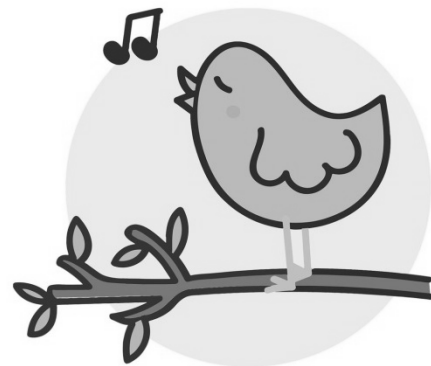
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