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and to all the friends, family and members of Voci
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Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble
4024 Everett Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602
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Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble *Mitchell Covington, Artistic Director*
Edna Yeh, Asst. Conductor • Anne Rainwater, Piano

ELEMENTS

SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018, 4:00 PM

ST. MARY MAGDALEN CHURCH, 2005 BERRYMAN STREET, BERKELEY

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018, 2:00 PM

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 114 MONTECITO AVENUE, OAKLAND



Air



Water



Earth



Fire

About Today's Program

In contrast to our December concerts, which featured music that was written over a 50-year period and focused tightly on the musical life of 18th century Venice, the music for today's ELEMENTS program is all about *variety*. We will explore a rich spectrum of musical styles, from the post-romantic expression of Rachmaninoff to the experimental and aleatoric music of Voci Composer-in-Residence Julie Herndon. We also present music by composers from the United States, Australia, Russia and England, influenced by different world cultures.

What this music has in common is that all of it is about Earth, Air, Fire and Water. It was also all written after the turn of the 20th century—a time when the Western world was preoccupied with bending these four “elements” to its will.

From ancient times until the age of enlightenment and the advent of experimental science, a mystical breed of philosophers, called alchemists, believed that everything in the world was made of just four elemental substances—Air, Earth, Fire and Water. They also believed that, if they could just find the right combination of these substances, they could transmute common metal into gold, cure disease and create the elixir of eternal life.

Despite our modern understanding, these “elements” continue to shape our daily lives in varied and powerful ways. Earth represents the soil in which we grow our food, but when it shakes, it causes fear and destruction. We rely on fire for warmth and air for life, but the lives of virtually all Californians were affected, many tragically so, by the unprecedented wind-driven wildfires in both halves of the state last fall. When the rain falls on us making us cold and wet, we Californians still look to the sky and say, “Hooray, we need this!” But while not enough water is a bad thing, so is too much water—as we saw when heavy rains led to terrible mudslides in the southern California burn zones. Powerful winds and rain devastated large parts of the United States and Puerto Rico as well.

The music you will hear today is as varied as the elements themselves, and takes on particular significance as we approach Earth Day (April 22.) Thank you for joining Voci as we explore the rich and complicated relationship we all have with the ELEMENTS.

— Mitchell Covington

Program



To Agni (God of Fire)

from Choral Hymns from the Rig-Veda, Group II

Gustav Holst

Burn up our sin fierce flaming Agni,
Thou with thy face that shineth brightly,
Flame for us O Agni, Flame!

Grant unto those that call upon thee,
That we may live on in our children,
Praising thee forever.
Flame for us, O Agni!

Thy glowing tongues of flame leap upward,
Reaching the heavens,
Ever victorious.
Thy face doth gleam on ev'ry side.
Thou art triumphant ev'rywhere.

Over the raging sea of foemen
As in a boat O bear us onward,
Flame for us, O Agni!



Hymn to the Waters

from Choral Hymns from the Rig-Veda

Gustav Holst

Flowing from the firmament, forth to the ocean,
Healing all in earth and air, never halting.
Indra, Lord of Heav'n formed their courses,
Indra's mighty laws can never be broken.
Cleansing waters flow ye on, hasten and help us.

Lo, in the waters dwelleth One,
Knower of all on earth and sea,
Whose dread command no man may shun,
Varuna, sovereign Lord is He.

Onward ye waters onward hie,
Dance in the bright beams of the sun,
Obey the ruler of the sky,
Who dug the path for you to run.

Voci Staff

Artistic Director: Mitchell Covington

Assistant Conductor: Edna Yeh

Accompanist: Anne Rainwater

Chorus Manager: Mishaela De Vries

Communications & Marketing: Elizabeth Brashers (lead),
Adina Sara, Susan Sands, Lezak Shallat

Website & Graphic Design: Edna Yeh

Concert Production: Terry Meyers (lead), Michelle Pitcher,
Karla Sagramoso, and members of Voci

Program: Elizabeth Brashers (lead), Julie Blade,
Mitchell Covington, Rose Hansen, Lezak Shallat

Librarians: Janet Biblin, Nicky Reed

House Staff: John Gibbins (Box Office) and volunteers

Voci Board of Directors

Terry Meyers (President), Lisa Sanders (Treasurer),

Elizabeth Brashers (Secretary),

Mishaela De Vries, Susan Sands,

Mitchell Covington & Edna Yeh (ex officio)

supervises other therapists. In her former life, she was a print and television journalist. She has an adult son and loves traveling all over the world with her husband.

Adina Sara is returning to Voci after a 13 year break, during which she pursued other musical interests with Broadway, pop and jazz ensembles. A veteran performer, she produced three albums of original music and performed as a singer/songwriter in folk festivals and clubs throughout Northern California. Adina is also a member of MOZAIK, an *a cappella* chorus that sings Eastern European music. When not singing, she can be found digging in her garden, crocheting clothes or visiting her 4 grandchildren in southern California, where she loves to sing duets with her 12 year-old granddaughter.

Lezak Shallat started singing choral music in college and has never stopped. She's sung mostly in chamber groups and symphonic choirs, and music from Latin America. In addition to singing in choirs, she loves to travel with choirs and participate in music festivals, and is famous for making copious notes in her scores.

Kathy Walrath used to play piano semi-professionally, but she abandoned keyboards for her true love, singing. Other loves include writing, knitting, dogs, and her funny, talented family. As a teenager she lived in Napoli and studied music theory in Italian, which she doesn't really speak, yet she still remembers *La musica è l'arte del suono...*

Marsha Wehrenberg has been a choral singer since elementary school. First with church choirs and later with a variety of Symphony Choruses in Napa, Oakland and Stockton. Marsha discovered music for women in the last few years while singing with the Harmony Ensemble at Rossmoor. A real estate broker, she helps families in transition at Rossmoor to purchase or sell their retirement homes in this 55+ community.

Edna Yeh, assistant conductor, joined Voci in 2008. After a childhood spent playing the piano and violin, she began singing with a women's chorus in college, and eventually earned a master's degree in music theory. Edna works by day in web development and is the mother of two young adults.

Sing with Voci!

Seeking experienced choral singers
for fall 2018 and beyond

Visit our website at vocisings.org to learn more, and
contact Artistic Director Mitchell Covington at
music@mitchellcovington.com to schedule an audition



National Weather Forecast

Henry Mollicone

Thunderstorms will bring sleet and rain
to the Southwest states tomorrow.

High winds below twelve thousand feet will prevail,
causing rotating storms that could produce tornadoes.

But California will be sunny and mild.

Heavy freezing winds will predominate over New England,
and snow will fall on parts of Maine;

Some schools may be closed.

But by the weekend, we can expect relief.

And California will be sunny and mild.

Now we'll take a look at the Rockies:
The Rocky region will have sleet and rain,
and some heavy snow tomorrow.

Some slopes may be closed—
check the ski reports in the morning.

Yet California will be sunny and mild.



Wind Song

Richard Kidd

Aura	<i>Faintest breath of air at sunrise (Greece)</i>
Cacimbo	<i>Cold wind from the southwest (Angola)</i>
Vento coado	<i>Breeze (Portugal)</i>
Pampero	<i>Fierce squall from the southwest (Argentina)</i>
Minuano	<i>Chilly wind (Brazil)</i>
Dzahni	<i>Warm southerly wind (North Africa)</i>
Kokaze	<i>Light breeze (Japan)</i>
Mbatis	<i>Light evening breeze (Greece)</i>
Soyo Kaze	<i>Very soft wind (Japan)</i>
Sz	<i>Autumn breath of air (China)</i>
Zephiro	<i>Moderate, warm breeze (Italy)</i>



Voice on the Wind

Julianne Knell, drums

I heard a voice on the summer wind,
 Who she is I can't explain.
 I heard a voice on the summer wind,
 Blowing free and blowing wild.
 I heard a voice on the summer wind,
 Strength and spirit in her song.
 I heard a voice on the summer wind,
 With a song I seem to know.
 I heard a voice on the summer wind,
 Sounds familiar like my own.
 I heard a voice on the summer wind,
 Moves me like she knows me well.
 I am the voice on the summer wind,
 Strong and sure where e'er I stand.

Sara Quartel

Terry Meyers grew up in Los Angeles, the youngest child of two musicians. In a former life, she danced, made art, played the violin and performed in musical theater. Terry joined Voci as a founding member in 1991 and has worked behind the scenes for Voci for 22 years, currently serving as board president. She also sings with the Dulcet Four and Resmiranda Vocal Ensemble. She is a clinical psychologist in private practice and has 2 grown daughters. Her husband is usually working the box office for Voci.

Clare Palmer is a recent Cal graduate, hailing originally from the Los Angeles area. She has little experience in formal choirs, but has played a number of different instruments in orchestras, wind ensembles, jazz combos and informal bands. Clare's dad, a professional musician, always encouraged her to push the boundaries of her musical endeavors, so she is very grateful for Voci for making her dream to pursue singing a reality! To pass the time, Clare works in the financial services industry and holds a second job at a restaurant/brewery in downtown Berkeley.

Michelle Pitcher comes to Voci as a recent UC Berkeley graduate. She has been part of various ensembles throughout her life, singing everything from madrigals to show tunes. To pay those student loans, Michelle works as a writer and marketing manager. She is thrilled to be part of a choir again, especially with such an amazing group of women!

Jennifer Randolph began piano lessons at age 9. She discovered Renaissance and Baroque music in the San Jose State University Collegium Musicum and ended up with degrees in music instead of engineering. She has performed with vocal and instrumental ensembles throughout the Bay Area, including Lyric Theatre, Opera San Jose, SJSU Alumni Choir, Masterworks, Mission Peak Chamber Singers, Camerata California, Peralta Consort, and more. By day she is a digital project manager and enjoys volunteering for organizations that support music, art and animals.

Nicky Reed loves being a part of Voci! She sang in an all-women's choir in college and enjoys the complexity and sound of women's choral music. In addition to singing with Voci, she loves to trail run and bake desserts of all shapes and sizes.

Karla Sagramoso is very pleased to be part of Voci, having participated in choral singing of all sorts since childhood. She is convinced that if the world's people all belonged to choirs and ate regular infusions of chocolate, they'd all be happier and healthier, though perhaps not slimmer. She especially enjoys singing in small ensembles and house concerts and loves learning repertoire from many centuries and countries. When not singing, she works as a clinical psychologist and enjoys her family.

Lisa Sanders enjoys being part of such a talented group of singers. Lisa also sings in the Dulcet Four, an *a cappella* quartet based in the San Francisco Bay Area, performing repertoire from the Great American Songbook and other classics. She has sung with Festival Opera in Walnut Creek and the Livermore Valley Opera. On weekends, Lisa cantors at the St. Perpetua Church in Lafayette and sings jazz. When not singing, Lisa teaches technology and math at St. Mary's School in Walnut Creek and keeps up with her two 20-something daughters and a traveling husband.

Susan Sands has been singing in groups all her life, and has joyously sung with Voci for 25 years. She is a clinical psychologist in private practice, and also teaches, writes articles, and



Fire

I am fire. You know me
 For my warmth and light
 For my crackling, leaping
 Colored light,
 Which comforts all.
 I am fire. You know me
 For my endlessly moving,
 Burning, destroying hunger
 Which eats all.
 I am fire. I have one foe
 Who conquers my might,
 Who quenches my thirst,
 Who swallows my light.

Mary Goetze

Text by Patricia Taylor

Margaret Garms has been singing since high school, including with the New York State Honor Chorus, Stanford University Chorus and the St. James Cathedral Choir (Episcopalian, Chicago). Since moving back to the Bay Area 20 years ago, she has sung with Baroque Choral Guild, Midsummer Mozart Festival and Oakland Symphony Chorus, as well as co-founding Chora Nova, now in its 12th year. She is a retired corporate bankruptcy attorney and the mother of an Oakland police detective.

Lucy Goodell got back into choral music a decade ago after a long hiatus from her high school and college singing days. One thing led to another and she currently sings in four different groups and has rehearsals 4–5 days a week. Having retired, she is involved with a number of non-profit organizations that keep her very busy in addition to the music.

Rebecca Gulick is thrilled to be joining Voci this spring. A choral music fanatic, she's been an active member of Vallejo Choral Society, singing with both the symphonic and chamber choirs (as well as serving on the board and managing the children's choir). Her other recent groups include the San Francisco Choral Society and Sing Napa Valley, and she founded an ensemble for special events, the Mare Island Chorale. Before discovering her choral passion, she was an alternative singer-songwriter. Rebecca also loves being a parent, orchardist and urban farmer. She is a tech writer–editor by day.

Rose Hansen has been singing with Voci since 2016. Singing has always played an important role in her life, and she is grateful for the special opportunities it has afforded, such as singing in magnificent European and Mexican churches on choir tours and performing as the live “soundtrack” for a silent film at film festivals. When not singing in choirs or writing about science (her day job), Rose enjoys reading, hiking, writing fiction and traveling with her husband, whom she met while singing.

Mina Lucacher is a Bay Area native who just moved back from Montreal after 4.5 years at university. Her first choir experience was in elementary school, and she has been in small *a cappella* groups and other choirs ever since. Music and singing have always been a wonderful part of her life, and she is thrilled to be Voci's newest member.

Pauline Ma-Senturia was born in Guilin, China, and grew up singing at her mother's church in Taiwan. She holds degrees in both music and interior architectural design. She has sung with various choral groups in the Bay Area, while working as a design and construction project manager for the U.S. General Services Administration for 18 years. Since her retirement, she is busier than ever enjoying her seven grandchildren, singing, dancing, doing craft projects and traveling near and far.

Susan Martin is happy to be singing with Voci for the 10th year in a row; however, she will be taking a leave of absence next semester, in order to focus on her academic endeavors as a Master of Music student at San Francisco State University. Her two children are now–also–in college, leaving her time not only to study her avocation, but also to continue her work as a small animal veterinarian. She and her husband (and her 11-year-old puppy) live in El Cerrito. Susan's future plans include releasing recordings of Christmas classics with her *a cappella* jazz quartet, The Dulcet Four, and becoming an enthusiastic audience member at Voci's next Voices in Peace concert!



Fire-Flowers (*Premiere*)

Mitchell Covington

Poem by Pauline Johnson Tekahionwake

And only where the forest fires have sped,
Scorching relentlessly the cool north lands,
A sweet wild flower lifts its purple head,
And like some gentle spirit sorrow-fed,
It hides the scars with almost human hands.

And only to the heart that knows of grief,
Of desolating fire, of human pain,
There comes some purifying sweet belief,
Some fellow-feeling beautiful, if brief.
And life revives and blossoms once again.

***We invite you to make a contribution
to the victims of the
2017 Northern California fires***

Contributions collected will be donated to the
Napa Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund

Please join us by making a contribution in the lobby during
intermission or after today's concert.

*Checks can be made payable to Napa Valley Community Foundation
(write "Napa Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund" in the memo line)
or online from your smartphone at
<https://www.napavalleycf.org/fire-donation-page/>
Federal Tax ID number: 68-0349777*



A Song of Rain

Anne Boyd

Jennifer Randolph, solo

Lisa Sanders, rain stick

Because a little vagrant wind
veered south from China sea;
Or else, because a sunspot stirred
or yet again, maybe
Because some idle god in play
breathed on an errant cloud,
the heads of twice two million folk
in gratitude are bowed.

Patter, patter, patter, patter...
Boolcoomatta
Adelaide and Oodnadatta
Pepegoona, parched and dry
Laugh beneath a dripping sky.

Riverina's thirsting plain
Knows the benison of rain.
Ararat and Arkaroola
Render thanks with Tantanoola
For the blessings they are gaining,
For it's raining!

Ah—patter, patter, patter, patter...
In the lonely silent places,
Men lift up their glad, wet faces,
And their thanks need no explaining
For it's raining!



Spring Waters

Op. 14, No. 11

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Text by Fyodor Tyutchev

Arr. Elena Sharkova

Ещё в полях белеет снег, А воды уж весной шумят -- Бегут и будят сонный брег, Бегут, и блещут, и гласят... Они гласят во все концы: « Весна идёт, весна идёт! Мы молодой весны гонцы, Она нас выслала вперёд.	The snow is still white in the fields But spring is in the water's voice. The rushing waters wake the sleepy banks. They flood, they glisten, they rejoice: "Oh, spring is coming, spring is here!" They shout in every corner, "We are the messengers of spring, She sent us out with the news!"
Весна идёт, весна идёт, И тихих, теплых майских дней Румяный, светлый хоровод Толпится весело за ней!...	Oh spring is coming, spring is here! And in a bright and rosy dance Of joyful, happy bustle Come warm and quiet days of May.

— INTERMISSION —

Elizabeth Brashers has enjoyed singing all her life. She sang with the San Francisco Girls Chorus in her teens, and in college sang with and directed Yale's all-women's *a cappella* group, the New Blue. 2017–18 marks her 14th year with Voci. Elizabeth is assistant dean and UC Berkeley–UCSF Campus Liaison at UC Berkeley, where she works to foster greater collaboration between the two institutions. When she's not working or singing, Elizabeth loves being outdoors in the garden, the Sierras or the hills of Mendocino.

Jenny Breckler comes from a musical family. Her father played piano by ear and her sister is an accomplished recorder player of the baroque repertoire. Jenny is a biologist, has a husband and 2 adult children and recently become a grandmother. She loves hiking, traveling on the west coast and taking French classes. She played piano for years as a child and took up classical choral singing about ten years ago.

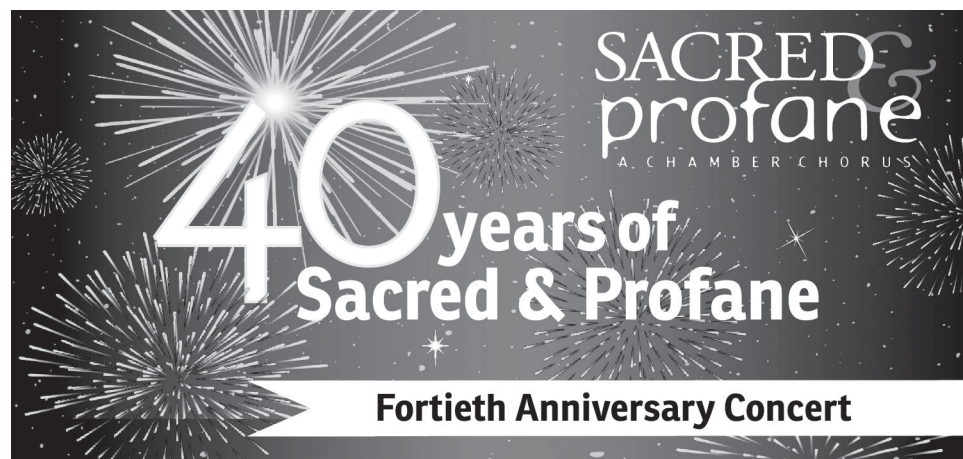
Barbara Brenner Buder has sung in church choirs for most of her life, beginning with the First Baptist Church of Elk Grove where her father was pastor. She is a long-standing member of the Chancel Choir at First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley where Mitchell Covington was music director for many years. Twenty-eight years of Sunday morning anthems, Christmas and Easter concerts and three international choir tours gave her a great appreciation for the breadth, the beauty and the power of sacred choral music. She was pleased to join Voci this past spring and is enjoying the challenging new choral experience.

Mishaela De Vries is in her third season with Voci. She has studied music since the age of six, beginning with violin, and later piano and voice. Since graduating with her bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Oregon, she has taught private music lessons and studied choral conducting. Her passions are early music of the Renaissance, coffee (small batch, local roasts...self-proclaimed coffee snob) and teaching music to the very young.

Cynthia Dodge has enjoyed a lifetime of singing in all sizes of choral groups around the country. From Albany Pro Musica in New York to the Anchorage Opera Chorus in Alaska, she finds collaborating with fellow musicians to be a grounding and sustaining force. Cynthia is thrilled for the opportunity to sing with Voci, her first all-female ensemble. Early in her career she served as a Clinical Psychologist in the US Air Force, and now serves veterans within the VA Northern California Healthcare System.

Vicky Faulk has been singing, and loving it, since she was a small child. As a young adult she studied voice and has performed with choirs and smaller ensembles almost continuously. Vicky works with Coldwell Banker as a residential real estate agent. She has assisted with marketing and selling homes in the East Bay area since 1987. Says Vicky of singing with Voci, "Nothing is as soul-satisfying as standing in the midst of a glorious choral chord, the vibrations swirling around my head. It is transformative!"

Arsinoe Ferry has been singing since she was a child and loves many different types of music. In addition to choral music, she has sung vocal jazz with Seven Steps, *a cappella* music with Ro-Sham-Bo and folk music with the Acoustic Soul Trio. In college, she sang with the San Francisco State University Chorale and the San Jose State Alumni Chorus. Arsinoe loves singing with Voci and being surrounded by such a talented group of women. Along with music, her passions include photography, cooking, travel and spending time with her husband and 9-year-old son.



MAY 11, 12, 19 Berkeley, San Francisco & Gualala

Join Rebecca Seeman and Sacred & Profane in a musical celebration of the ensemble's 40th Anniversary. Program includes Tormis, Martynov, Pärt, S&P's namesake : Britten's *Sacred & Profane*, as well as a world premiere of a newly commissioned work by Karin Rehnqvist, *Songs from the North*. Attend a pre-concert talk with Swedish composer Karin Rehnqvist and enjoy a post-concert reception!

www.sacredprofane.org

A dark grey business card for Elizabeth Weiss, a stylist. Her name is written in a white cursive font. Below it, 'Stylist' is in a simple sans-serif font. At the bottom, the address and phone number are listed in a small sans-serif font.

Elizabeth Weiss
Stylist
1214 BOULEVARD WAY • WALNUT CREEK • CA 94595-1107
(925) 939-5288



To Be Sung on the Water
Op. 42, No.2

Samuel Barber
Poem by Louise Bogan

Beautiful, my delight,
Pass, as we pass the wave,
Pass, as the mottled night
Leaves what it cannot save,
Scattering, dark and bright.

Beautiful, pass and be
Less than the guiltless shade
To which our vows were said;
Less than the sound of the oar
To which our vows were made,
Less than the sound of its blade
Dipping the stream once more.



O Shenandoah (*Premiere*)

Traditional
Arr. Mitchell Covington

Oh Shenandoah,
I long to see you,
Away, you rolling river.
Oh Shenandoah,
I long to see you,
Away, I'm bound away
across the wide Missouri.

Oh Shenandoah,
I love your daughter,
Away, you rolling river...

'Tis seven years
since last I saw her,
Away, you rolling river...



but now (*Premiere*)

Julie Herndon

But life, but living, but now



Earth Blessing

J. David Moore

Text by Jack Manno

Nicky Reed, solo

May earth's song reach us in our deepest,
wildest places.

At long last, may earth's protectors declare
victory in a sigh of relief.

May it be heard as we move upon her, as we
partake of her sustenance,
as we nestle in her waters and grasses.

May this sigh resound in ocean depths,
reverberate in humpback flesh and please all
the watery souls.

May we hear the voices of the stones,
the winds and the waters,
creatures and plants,
above the human chatter,
softly but not silently, so we can heed them
when we must.

May whales and wolves rejoice with weird
shouts that all is well.

May our grandchildren's grandchildren share
legends of when we
brought about the end of the time of
arrogance and waste.

May all those who try to conquer earth's
powers learn instead from
compost and humus,

May they toss stones from shores, hearing our
names echo in the ripples.

and take from them humility,
knowing any force conquered is lost forever
to the conqueror.

So may it be.



Tundra

Ola Gjeilo

Text by Charles Anthony Silvestri

Mishaela De Vries, solo

Wide, worn and weathered,
Sacred expanse
Of green and white and granite grey;
Snowy patches strewn,
Anchored to the craggy earth,
Unmoving;
While clouds dance
Across the vast, eternal sky.

Voci Singers



Ella Bacon grew up singing with the Piedmont Choirs for 11 years and participated in many tours, choral competitions and festivals around the world. This is her first year with Voci. In her spare time, Ella plays the viola, and enjoys singing to, and gardening with, her two young daughters.

Janet Biblin joined her first choir in fourth grade, where she discovered her love of choral music. She's been singing in choirs ever since, most recently as a founding member of the Berkeley choir Chora Nova. She is excited to be singing with Voci and be part of the close harmony and sound of an all-women's group. In her free time, she enjoys playing the Appalachian dulcimer, hiking in the open spaces of the East Bay and keeping track of the NBA.

Julie Blade has sung virtually all her life, with her first choral experience being in the fourth grade. She joined Voci in the fall of 2009 and considers this her finest choral experience. Julie has sung with notable community choruses and ensembles. She has also performed in a number of musical stage productions and dabbled in jazz and opera. Julie's encore career is as a personal historian who helps clients write their memoirs and publish them in books. She has three adult children and four grandchildren. In addition to singing, Julie's passions are live music in many forms (opera, symphony, jazz), theater, dancing, gardening, hiking and always learning, learning, learning.



Assistant Conductor Edna Yeh joined Voci in spring 2008. She is the founder and former director of the Pacific Women's Chorus in San Diego and Concentus Women's Chorus in Rochester, New York. Edna currently serves as assistant conductor for Sacred & Profane Chamber Chorus and performs with the Dulcet Four, an *a cappella* quartet performing repertoire from the Great American Songbook and other classics. She received her Master of Music degree from the University of Texas at Austin, where she studied conducting with Morris Beachy and Craig Hella Johnson.



Oakland-based pianist and **Voci Accompanist, Anne Rainwater** is a dexterous musician, known for her vibrant interpretations of works from J.S. Bach to John Zorn. Recognized for her "boldly assertive rhetoric" (San Francisco Examiner), and "bright golden honeycomb for a brain" (Roy Doughty, poet), she appears as a soloist, accompanist, chamber musician and educator. She holds a Bachelor's in Music from the Oberlin Conservatory and a Master of Music in Contemporary Performance from the Manhattan School of Music. Anne has performed in venues and festivals throughout the world, including the Donau Festival in Krems, Austria, the Kennedy Center, Princeton University, and Kampnagel in Hamburg, Germany, among others. Recent solo shows include performances at the Center for New Music, Switchboard Music Festival, Maybeck Studio and the Old First Series in San Francisco. Anne also teaches privately in her home studio to students of all ages.

Guest Artists

Juliana Knell, drums, got her start on playing tympani with the Berkeley Bach Cantata Group following the retirement of their previous player. Her primary musical passion, however, is singing. She sang with the San Francisco Opera Regular Chorus for 25 years (1987-2012) and has sung with the Berkeley Bach Cantata Group for the past 30 years. While not normally a percussionist, she is enjoying the experience of accompanying Voci on drums today.



Ain't No Grave Can Hold My Body Down

Ain't no grave can hold my body down.
There ain't no grave can keep a sister
underground.
Oh, I will listen for the trumpet sound.
Ain't no grave can hold my body down.

You know they rolled a stone on Jesus.
And then they tried to bury me.
But then the Holy Ghost it freed us
so we could live eternally.

Sister you better get your ticket
if you wanna ride.
In the mornin' when Jesus calls my number,
I'll be on the other side/I will fly.

Ain't no grave...

Ain't no grave is gonna hold me.
Ain't no man is gonna bury me.
Ain't no serpent gonna trick me.
Ain't no grave can hold my body down.

I will fly to Jesus
in the mornin' when I die.
I know he will take me
home to live with him on high.

Traditional Spiritual

Arr. Paul Caldwell / Sean Ivory

I will fly with Jesus in the mornin'.
Don't look here. I'll be way up in the sky.
Soon one day he's gonna call me up to heaven
for a chariot ride.

Ain't no grave ...

Ain't no grave dug deep enough to hold me.
Ain't no devil been slick enough to trick me.
Ain't no grave digger man enough to bury me.
You can't hold me down.

Ain't no grave can hold me down.
You can't keep me underground.
When the silver trumpet sounds,
Ain't no grave can hold me down.

Ain't no grave ever been dug so low.
No grave digger ever been born so strong.
Ain't no man that can,
Ain't no devil can,
Ain't no grave can hold me.

Ain't no grave that goes so low.
Ain't no grave dug low enough down.



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Voci's 2018–19 Season Performances!

Season of Peace

*Voci's fall concerts
featuring Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols
with harpist Meredith Clark*

*Part of our ongoing "Voices in Peace" Concert Series
December 2 & 8, 2018*

Salut Printemps!

(Springtime in Paris)

*Voci's annual house concert and fundraiser
March 3, 2019*

Northern Lights

*Voci's spring concerts
featuring 20th and 21st century masterpieces
from living Scandinavian and Baltic composers
May 5 & 11, 2019*

About Voci

Founded in 1991, Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble is recognized as one of the finest choral groups in the Bay Area. The Ensemble continues to thrive 26 years later, holding fast to its mission of championing music written for women and by women, from all parts of the world and every century. Voci is dedicated to musical excellence in the performance of new and innovative music, as well as treasured repertoire within the classical choral tradition. It enjoys a reputation among Bay Area audiences and critics for its adventurous programming and elegant, passionate sound. Voci has performed with a wide range of artists and choruses at concerts, festivals and benefits and has commissioned and premiered over 25 new works from nationally- and internationally-recognized composers.

Voci's own annual commissioning program, the *New Works Project*, was launched in fall 2014 to advance Voci's mission of showcasing music written for, and by, women. The *New Works Project* brings together early- and mid-career composers with the Ensemble, to develop new compositions over a two-year period, allowing time for experimentation, feedback and revision. This spring, Voci celebrates the culmination of its second *New Works Project* installment, with a performance of two new works by composer-in-residence, Julie Herndon. You can read more about Julie and the *New Works Project* on our website: vocisings.org/nwp/new_works_project.php.



Artistic Director, Mitchell Covington, is an accomplished choral and orchestral conductor who has directed ensembles nationally and internationally over a 30-year career. He was the founding director of Voci (then Voci Women's Chamber Choir) from 1991–1995, directed the Bay Choral Guild from 1995–2001, and led a seven-choir music program with over 300 participants at First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley for 23 years. He is also an award-winning composer, whose compositions include works for orchestra, chorus, stage, film, television and video games. Mitchell received his MA in conducting from the University of Southern California, where he studied choral conducting with Rod Eichenberger, orchestral conducting with Hanz Beer and choral arranging with Morten Lauridsen, graduating with honors. He currently serves on the Executive Board of the American Choral Director's Association—Western Division, and is the Artistic Director of the "Durufle in Paris" choral festival. Mitchell returned to Voci after 23 years, as Guest Conductor for the spring 2017 season, and was appointed Artistic Director in summer 2017.

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Composers

(in order of appearance in the program)

English composer **Gustav Holst** (1874–1934) wrote operas, chamber and vocal works and orchestral music on subjects ranging from folk music to Sanskrit literature and astrology. Born into a musical family, Holst began to compose as a teen. He served for two decades as Musical Director of St. Paul's Girls School. The works we sing today, *To Agni (God of Fire)* and *Hymn to the Waters*, come from *Choral Hymns from the Rig Veda*, a work based on Hindu religious scriptures written in Vedic Sanskrit, composed between 1500 and 1200 BC.

South Bay composer **Henry Mollicone** (b. 1946) writes opera, symphonic music and songs. His works for the San Jose Symphonic Choir include the *Beatitude Mass*, based upon interviews with homeless people, and the *Sueños de Esperanza* song cycle with texts based on the stories of Mexican immigrants crossing the border into California. Mollicone has taught both nationally and locally at Santa Clara University, Gavilan College and Notre Dame de Namur University. Today's tongue-and-cheek *National Weather Forecast* was premiered by the San Francisco Girls Chorus in 2009.

British/Canadian composer **Richard Kidd** (b. 1954) has composed extensively for choir, voice, chamber groups and orchestra. He is also an arranger, organist, pianist, trombonist, chorus master and conductor, and leads his own jazz ensemble. His compositional style has evolved over the years from aggressively atonal to works of harmonic subtlety and rhythmic intricacy. Tonight's work, *Wind Song*, has received international recognition and is performed by choirs worldwide. The text is derived from the names for different types and characters of winds found all over the globe.

Contemporary Canadian composer and educator **Sarah Quartel** writes primarily for children and youth. Sarah's choral works are performed throughout the world, and her work as an educator connects exciting musical experiences with meaningful classroom learning. Last year, her work *Snow Angel* was performed at Lincoln Center by the U.S. National Children's Chorus. *Voice on the Wind* is the setting of an inspiring text, written by the composer, about the empowerment of singing.

Mary Goetze (b. 1943) enjoyed a long career at Indiana University, where she taught music education courses, founded the University Children's Choir, and promoted world music. Her many compositions often focus on multicultural themes. Her composition, "Fire," which Voci performs today, was inspired by a poem written by a 13 year-old girl and was first performed in 1988 by the Indianapolis Children's Choir.



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Voci Artistic Director **Mitchell Covington**'s compositions include works for orchestra, chorus, stage, film, television and video games. In this concert, Voci premieres two new works written especially for Voci: an arrangement of the traditional American favorite, *O Shenandoah*, and a new piece, entitled *Fire-Flowers*. This new composition celebrates the fire poppy, which only blooms after a wild fire. Covington was inspired to compose the piece following last year's North Bay fires, drawing the text from a poem by Pauline Johnson Tekahionwake, born in 1861 on the Six National Reserve in present-day Ontario.

Australian composer **Anne Boyd** (b. 1946) teaches at the University of Sydney. The text of *A Song of Rain*, composed in 1986, reflects the desperate importance of rain in a dry land such as Australia, where rivers are temporary and droughts can last for years.

Russian **Sergei Rachmaninoff** (1873–1943) gained worldwide fame during his lifetime as a conductor, composer and pianist. With the outbreak of the Russian revolution in 1905, Rachmaninoff resigned his post at Moscow's Bolshoi Opera and fled to Germany. This launched his international career and a life lived primarily in exile. Today's version of *Spring Waters* was arranged by San Jose-based Russian-American conductor Elena Sharkova, Artistic Director of the Symphony Silicon Valley Chorale.

One of the most celebrated U.S. composers of the 20th century, **Samuel Barber** (1910-1981) began composing as a teen and saw the premier of his famous *Adagio for Strings* at just age 28. In his later years, following the harsh reception of his third opera, Barber began refusing commissions: "I ... now want to compose what I want on my own time, be it 48 preludes and fugues for piccolo." This period of artistic independence produced today's work, *To Be Sung on the Water*. The text is by Louise Bogan, who was appointed Poet Laureate to the Library of Congress in 1945.

A doctoral student at Stanford University, graduate of Mills College and former Voci singer, **Julie Herndon** is Voci's second *New Works Project* composer-in-residence. Herndon's compositions have been featured in Italy and Singapore and at U.S. venues, including the Megapolis Audio Art Festival in Oakland and the San Francisco Art Institute. Herndon works with internal/external space, improvisation, text, graphics and electronics. Tonight we premiere her second work for Voci, *but now*, which was commissioned as part of the *New Works Project*. The piece offers a hypnotizing metaphorical climb up Mt. Everest, and was inspired by Herndon's first sight of the famous mountain while hiking in Nepal in 2017. We premiered Julie's first work, *am an ocean*, in spring 2017.

J. David Moore (b. 1962) has written over 200 arrangements of vocal jazz, spirituals, barbershop quartet, Celtic mouth music, Civil Rights marching songs, early American hymn tunes, 16th-century madrigals and folk music. Shaped by his voracious appetite for music of every era and style, he has written art song, music for percussion ensemble, string quartet, wind ensemble, baroque orchestra and tuned wine glasses. The text of *Earth Blessing*, written by activist Jack Manno, comes from a 2011 Earth Day poster for the Syracuse Cultural Works.

Norwegian composer **Ola Gjeilo** (b. 1978) moved to New York in 2001 to study composition at the Julliard School and is now based in Santa Monica, California. Written in 2010, the lyrics of *Tundra* were penned by Charles Anthony Silvestri for this piece, based on photos of the Hardangervidda mountain plateau where Gjeilo's father grew up.

Ain't No Grave is a traditional gospel song that has been performed by artists as varied as country singer Johnny Cash and folksinger Dave Van Ronk. This choral arrangement by **Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory** adds a jazzy touch with some serious stride piano.

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