

***Join us for our Spring Performances!***

***A Symphony to Dante's Divine Comedy, by Franz Liszt***

With the Holy Names Orchestra  
Sunday, April 23, 2017 – 3:00 PM  
Holy Names University, Oakland

***Voci's Spring Concerts: Beautiful is the World***

Featuring exciting new works by local composers, including  
Mitchell Covington, Julie Herndon, Jude Navari and Edna Yeh.

**Sunday, April 30, 4:00 PM**

St. Perpetua Catholic Parish, Lafayette

**Saturday, May 6, 4:00 PM**

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, Oakland

Visit [www.vocisings.org](http://www.vocisings.org) for tickets, more information,  
and to sign up to receive announcements via email

### ***A Special Thanks***

...to our hosts, Stephan Friedrich & Trisha Cui  
for lending us their beautiful home,  
...to our guest duo, Helen Newby and Anne Rainwater  
...and to you, our audience, for helping make today's event a success!

Our 2016-17 season is made possible through  
your generous contributions,  
and by grants from the Alameda County Arts Commission, the Barbro  
Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, and the Zellerbach Foundation

***Voci*** Women's Vocal Ensemble  
Dr. Anne K. Hege, Artistic Director

*a romantic  
affair*



***Sunday, February 12, 2017***

***Oakland, California***

Mitchell Covington, Guest Conductor

Anne Rainwater, Piano

Helen Newby, Cello



## *Program*

### ~ Guest Duet ~

**Three Romances** Robert Schumann  
**I. Nicht schnell** (*Not fast*)  
**II. Einfact, innig** (*Simply, intimately*)  
**III. Nicht schnell**  
*Helen Newby, cello and Anne Rainwater, piano*

### ~ Solos & Small Groups ~

**Lost is my Quiet** Henry Purcell  
*Elizabeth Brashers and Katherine McStravick*

**Always** Irving Berlin  
*Arr. Kirby Shaw*

**Breaking Up is Hard to Do** Neil Sedaka and  
Howard Greenfield  
*Arr. Edna Yeh*

*The Dulcet Four:  
Susan Martin, Terry Meyers, Lisa Sanders and Edna Yeh*

**Habanera - *L'amour est un oiseau rebelle*** Georges Bizet  
*(Love is a rebellious bird,  
from Carmen)*

*Lisa Sanders*

**Looking Back** Arthur Sullivan  
*(words by Louisa Gray)*

*Susan Martin*

**Dôme épais le jasmin** Clément Philibert Léo Delibes  
*(from Lakmé)*

*Laurel Covington and MacKenzie Covington*

### ~ Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble ~

**Rise up My Love** Eleanor Daly  
*(text from the Song of Solomon)*

**Dirait-on** Morten Lauridsen  
*(So they say)* *(words by Rainer Maria Rilke)*

**Gracias a la vida** Violetta Parra  
*(Thanks be to life)* *Arr. Willi Zwozdesky*

## *About Today's Guest Duet*

**Cellist Helen Newby** continually seeks ways to expand the technical and expressive boundaries of her instrument through close collaboration with other innovative performers and composers. She received her Bachelor's in Music from the Oberlin Conservatory and her Master's in Cello Performance at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Her principal cello teachers have included Darrett Adkins, Jennifer Culp and Rachael Lonergan. Helen's passion for collaboration and experimentation has led her to premiere many new works by both emerging and established composers. Her premiere solo album, featuring commissions by contemporary American composers, is set to release in early 2017.



Helen is a founding member of string trio Chartreuse, string quartet Amaranth, jazz sextet deturtle, and experimental noise quartet HK&tCS. She additionally performs with the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players. In addition to an active career as a performer, Helen is equally dedicated to teaching. She maintains a private studio in Berkeley and is on faculty at The Crowden School.



Oakland-based **pianist, 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), 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. Recent performances include solo and collaborative shows at the Center for New Music, Switchboard Music Festival, Forte House, and with the Nevada County Composers Commission and sfSound. Anne also teaches privately at her home studio in Oakland and at International High School

in San Francisco. Anne joined Voci as the ensemble's accompanist in Fall 2016.

## *Translations*

### **Habenera** (from *Carmen*)

Love is a rebellious bird  
that no one can tame,  
and if you call for it, it'll be quite in vain  
for it's in its nature to say no.  
Nothing helps, neither a threat nor a prayer  
one talks well, the other rests silent  
and it's the other one that I prefer  
doesn't say a thing, but pleases me.  
Love! Love! Love! Love!

Love is a gypsy's child,  
it has never, never known what law is,  
if you do not love me, I love you  
if I love you, then beware!  
if you do not love me,  
if you do not love me, I love you!  
but if I love you,  
if I love you, then beware!

### **Dôme épais le jasmin** (from *Lakmé*)

Under the thick dome where the white jasmine  
With the roses entwined together  
On the river bank covered with flowers laughing in the morning  
Let us descend together!  
Gently floating on its charming risings,  
On the river's current  
On the shining waves,  
One hand reaches,  
Reaches for the bank,  
Where the spring sleeps,  
And the bird, the bird sings.

## **Dirait-on**

Wildness surrounding wildness,  
Tenderness touching tenderness,  
It is your own core that you ceaselessly caress, ... as they say.  
It is your own center that you caress,  
Your own reflection gives you light.  
And in this way, you show us how Narcissus is redeemed.

## ***About Voci***

Voci is an auditioned, non-profit, volunteer women's vocal ensemble dedicated to musical excellence in the performance of both new and innovative music, as well as treasured repertoire, within the classical choral tradition. Voci champions music written for and by women. Now celebrating our 25th season, we enjoy an established reputation with Bay Area audiences and critics as one of the finest choral groups in the area.

Voci is delighted to have Mitchell Covington as our Guest Conductor this spring, while Artistic Director Anne Hege is on maternity leave. Mitchell was Voci's founding Artistic Director from 1991-1995; his appointment provides a wonderful closing of the circle on Voci's first 25 years.

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**Voci Guest Conductor, Mitchell Covington** is an accomplished choral and orchestral conductor who has led many exquisite ensembles over a 30-year career, directing choirs and orchestras in performances in the United States and throughout Europe. He led Voci as its founding director 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.

Mitchell is also an award-winning composer, working in the San Francisco Bay Area. His compositions include works for orchestra, chorus, stage, film, television and video games. He has been awarded the Aaron Copland Foundation Meet the Composer Award, a regional Emmy award, and

several film festival awards and prizes. His scores have appeared in international film festivals and on prime-time, nationally broadcast television, and several of his compositions are published by major U.S. publishers.

Mitchell received a Masters degree in Conducting from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, graduating with honors. At USC he studied choral conducting with Rod Eichenberger, Orchestral Conducting with Hanz Beer and Choral Arranging with Morten Lauridsen. He currently serves on the Executive Board of the American Choral Director's Association-Western Division, and is the Artistic Director of the Duruflé in Paris Choral Festival. He frequently serves as guest conductor and clinician for church and high school choirs throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, and as adjudicator and clinician for choir festivals and conferences.

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Voci is a not-for-profit charitable organization, and donations are deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Please consider joining the *Friends of Voci* by making a donation today.

Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble  
4024 Everett Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602  
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[www.vocisings.org](http://www.vocisings.org)

### ***Get your tickets for Voci's Spring Raffle!***

#### ***Early bird drawing today for a gift of wine and chocolate***

*Grand Prize: 3-night stay at a cabin in South Lake Tahoe!  
Additional Prizes: \$100 gift card for Berkeley Repertory Theater;  
a bottle of 1942 Anejo Tequila; a basket of fine wines; and more!*

*Tickets available at the door before the performance –  
\$5 each or 5 for \$20. Main drawing May 10, 2017.*