

Voci

Women's Vocal Ensemble



peace within thy walls

An Urgent Wish for Our Times

Sunday, March 17, 2024 • 7:00 pm

Montclair Presbyterian Church
5701 Thornhill Drive, Oakland

Sunday, March 24, 2024 • 4:00 pm

St. Clement's Episcopal Church
2837 Claremont Blvd, Berkeley

Ofer Dal Lal, Guest Conductor

Matt Bourne, Accompanist

Today's Program

Dear friends,

Whether you are a loyal audience member or a guest like me, we are glad to be here with you today.

The past couple of months rehearsing with the singers of Voci have been a wonderful journey of exploration and discovery. We have been hard at work preparing a program that is intellectually, emotionally, and technically demanding. We delved deep into the meaning behind the poems, the way they were set to music, and how to approach them as performers. The process felt infused with purpose, dedication, and appreciation. I am grateful to the singers for this opportunity.

Composer David Lang once said in an interview, “We create music not to convince us to *believe* the same thing, but in hope that we might, if only for a moment, all *feel* the same thing.” According to Lang, “Music is a way of figuring out who you are, and the point of figuring out who you are is to be better at who you are.”

I hope that you enjoy the journey of emotions we have prepared for you today, that we find ways to feel in unison, and that on the other side we all come out better people: better parents, better teachers, better colleagues, better friends and sisters and daughters.

May we have courage to make peace, especially when it's hard.

Ofer dal Lal
Guest Conductor

About Voci

Now in its 32nd year, **Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble** is recognized as one of the finest choral groups in the Bay Area. 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. Composed of 24-28 experienced choral singers, Voci has performed with a wide range of artists and choruses at concerts, festivals, and benefits and has commissioned and premiered over 35 new works.

Voci Ensemble

Liz Binning	Rose Hansen	Heather Roman
Rachel Decker	Lena Hymel	Rachel Roueche
Nicky Deremiah	Pauline Ma-Senturia	Karla Sagramoso
Jennifer Dix	Alissa McLean	Lisa Sanders
Susan Draeger	Terry Meyers	Adina Sara
Vicky Faulk	Hannah Parrilla	Sally Shute
Lezlee Flagg	Joanna Powell	Kathy Walrath
Cassandra Forth		Sarah Williams

Board of Directors:

Karla Sagramoso (President), Lezlee Flagg (Vice President), Emily Kirk (Secretary), Lisa Sanders (Treasurer), Nicky Deremiah, Adina Sara, Rose Hansen

Sing with Voci!

Voci seeks experienced women choral singers in all voice parts to join the ensemble. Auditions will be held in July and August. Visit our website (VociSings.org) to learn more. Contact info@VociSings.org to inquire and schedule an audition.



Program

Dona nobis pacem

Give us peace.

Ko Matsushita

Peace Upon You, Jerusalem (Psalm 122)

I rejoiced that they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of Yahweh.”

At last our feet are standing
at your gates, Jerusalem!

Jerusalem, built as a city,
in one united whole,

there the tribes go up,
the tribes of Yahweh,
a sign for Israel to give thanks
to the name of Yahweh.

For there are set the thrones of
judgment,

the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem,
prosperity for your homes!
Peace within your walls,
prosperity in your palaces!

For love of my brothers and my friends
I will say, “Peace upon you!”

For love of the house of Yahweh our
God

I will pray for your well-being.

Arvo Pärt

Lo Yilmedu Od Milhama

English

They will neither harm
nor destroy (*Isaiah*
11:9)

And they shall beat their
swords into plowshares,
and their spears into
pruning hooks; nation
shall not lift up sword
against nation, neither
shall they learn war
anymore. (*Isaiah 2:4*
/ Micah 4:3)

Hebrew

Lo Yareu velo yashchitu

לֹא יָרְעוּ וְלֹא יִשְׁחִיתוּ

Vechitetu charvotam
le'itim vachanitoteihem
lemazmerot. Lo yisa
goy el goy cherev velo
yilmedu od milchama.

וְכִתְּתוּ חַרְבוֹתֵיכֶם לְאַתִּים
וְכִנִּיתוּתוֹתֵיכֶם לְמִזְמְרוֹת לֹא-
יִשָּׂא גּוֹי אֶל-גּוֹי חֶרֶב וְלֹא-
יִלְמְדוּ עוֹד מִלְחָמָה:

Sara Shoham

Arabic

La yasu'una wala
yufsiduna

لَا يَسُوؤُونَ وَلَا يُفْسِدُونَ

Fayatbauna suyufahum
sikakan warimachahom
manajil. La tarfau
umatun ala umatin
saifan, wala yata'alamu
alharba fi ma baad.

فَيَطْبَعُونَ سُيُوفَهُمْ سِكِّانًا
وَرِمَاحَهُمْ مَنَاجِلَ. لَا تَرْفَعُ أُمَّةٌ
عَلَى أُمَّةٍ سَيْفًا، وَلَا يَتَعَلَّمُونَ
الْحَرْبَ فِي مَا بَعْدُ

Sanctus and Benedictus

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra
gloria tua.*

*Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

Krzysztof Penderecki

Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full
of your glory.

Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Jaakobin pojat (The Sons of Jacob)

*Ruuben, Simeon, Leevi, Juuda, Daan,
Naftal, Gaad, Asser, Isaskar,
Sebulon, Joosef, ja Benjamin.
Jaakobin poikia kaikki.*

Pekka Kostiainen

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan,
Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar,
Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin.
All sons of Jacob.

Jerusalem

Chorus: Jerusalem, our happy home,
when shall we come to thee?
When shall our sorrow have an end?
Thy joy, when shall we see?

There's cinnamon that scenteth sweet;
there palms spring on the ground.
No tongue can tell, no heart can think,
what joy do there abound.

Chorus

For evermore the trees bear fruit,
and evermore they do spring
and evermore the saints are glad,

Michael McGlynn

and evermore they sing.

Chorus

There Magdalen she has less moan,
likewise there she doth sing;
the happy saints in harmony
through every street doth ring.

Chorus

Fair Magdalen hath dried her tears;
she's seen no more to weep,
nor wet the ringlets of her hair,
to wipe our Savior's feet.

Chorus

Adinu

I follow the religion of love
wherever love is found
for love is my religion
and my faith

arr. Shireen Abu-Khader & Andre de Quadros

Adinu bidin, ilhubbi أدين بدين الحب
Anna tawajahat, أنى توجهت
Rakaibuhu falhubbu, ركايبه، فالحب
Dini waimaani. ديني وإيماني

Pseudo-Yoik Lite

According to the composer, “the text exists merely to give form to the music and is meaningless”.

truth

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.
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.

So Many Angels (from *The Spirit of Women*)

Chorus: All night, all day,
Angels a-watching over me my Lord.
All night, all day,
Angels a-watching over me.

And if I die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take.

Chorus
Heaven's right before my eyes,
riding my chariot across the skies.

Chorus
Angels in the morning, angels at noon,
Angels in the closet, angels in my
bedroom!

Jaakko Mäntyjärvi

Andrea Ramsey

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 wound you,
but are they true?

You are beautiful, you are enough.
You must believe in that,
believe the truth.

Gwyneth Walker

Angels in the sofa and angels in the
chair,
Angels, angels EVERYWHERE!

Angels in my coffee and angels in my
tea —

Those angels, I think, are flirting with
me! —

Angels on the porch and angels on the
stair,

I even think I found some angels in my
hair!

Angels smiling, angels poking fun,

angels getting into everything under the sun!

Angels in the supermarket today.

There are so many angels, I just have to say that...

Chorus

Arise My Love

(as adapted from *The Song of Solomon* and *At the River*)

Arise my love, arise my fair one, come away.

The winter is passed, the rains are all over and gone;
and the flowers appear on the earth,
and the time of our singing has come,
and a band of many colors is riding the sky.

Arise my love,
our winter is passed, the rains are all over and gone.

And we'll gather at the river, that beautiful river;
and there's just one river of Love,

Yes there's just one river of Love.
Arise, arise, arise.

Joan Szymko



Composer Biographies

For information about the composers of the music in this program, scan the following QR code:



Voci Guest Musicians

Guest Conductor

Ofer dal Lal is a dynamic and sought-after choral conductor. He is the artistic director of *WomenSing*, and most recently was the artistic director of *San Francisco Bay Area Chamber Choir*, *Mission Peak Chamber Singers*, and *East Bay People's Choir*. He has served on the board of *Livermore Valley Opera*, *City of San Ramon Arts Council*, and on the faculty of *California State University East Bay*, teaching choral conducting to graduate and undergraduate students.

Mr. dal Lal first came into prominence as the musical director and conductor of the *Jerusalem Oratorio Choir* – an organization of five choirs consisting of 150 singers and one of Israel's leading non-professional choirs. He relocated to California after completing a master's degree magna cum laude in conducting at the *Buchmann-Mehta School of Music* in Tel-Aviv.

Among the ensembles he has conducted are the world-renowned *Stuttgart Chamber Choir and Classical Philharmonic Orchestra* (Germany), *Berlin Radio Choir* (Germany), *Oregon Bach Festival Choir and Orchestra* (Oregon, USA), *Salt Lake Vocal Artists* (Utah, USA), *The Israel Philharmonic Resident Choir* (Israel), *Voces Nordicae* (Sweden), *Studium Canticum* (Italy), and *Manado State University Choir* (Indonesia).

He and his wife, Revital Shmerling, also work as real estate agents, serving the greater Bay Area. They raise their two children, Amal and Sahar, in Walnut Creek.

Accompanist

Voci Accompanist **Matt Bourne** performs and accompanies for vocalists and choral groups all around the Bay Area. He is a musical director and conductor for musical theater productions at many local companies. He is staff accompanist for Campolindo High School, pianist at First United Methodist Church of Hayward, a piano teacher, and a composer. He is a Bay Area native and a graduate of the music program at UCLA.



A heartfelt thank you to The Reed Family Foundation; St. Clement's Episcopal Church, Montclair Presbyterian Church, Faith Christian Fellowship, and Orinda Community Church; Edna Yeh; and to all the friends, family, and members of Voci who give their time to make our performances possible!

Thank you also to the following foundations whose grants have helped support Voci: The Alameda County Arts Commission, Grants for the Arts Program:

Save the Date!

End of Season Celebration – *Come, Lovers, Follow Me*

Guest Conductor Susan Swerdlow

Sunday, May 5, 2024, at 4 pm

St Stephen's Episcopal Church, Orinda

As with all arts organizations, ticket receipts are not enough to sustain this choir's operation. To support Voci with your donation, please visit VociSings.org or scan the QR code below.



Voci is a not-for-profit 501c3 organization and welcomes contributions.

To help us focus our publicity to the greatest effect, would you take a moment to use this QR code below to complete a very brief survey?

