

A Concert Collaboration

WOMENSING
the traditional...and the unexpected!

Voci
Women's Vocal Ensemble



Saturday, Dec 7, 2024 • 4:00 pm
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda

Sunday, Dec 8, 2024 • 4:00 pm
St. Mary Magdalen Church
2005 Berryman Street, Berkeley

Ofer dal Lal, Conductor
Matt Bourne, Accompanist

Synergy

Dear friends,

Standing in front of you today are 50 fantastic singers — each an enthusiastic musician with high standards and sensitivity. Each with her own uncompromising approach to the music and with passionate expression.

As these individuals join their voices, chaos might ensue. However, not surprisingly and yet miraculously, the joined parts create a beautiful whole. With so many timbres, rhythms, and words, how is it possible that something cohesive is created?

The miracle starts with listening. These singers are not just producing, they are also receiving and processing. They react in real time and make individual compromises to build something greater — together.

As avid choral supporters, I am sure that this is not news to you. And yet, I invite you to reflect on this truth. Can this be a metaphor or a lesson? In order to promote our cause, should we simply make ourselves more heard or also intently listen?

Voci and WomenSing, two established choirs, will be deeply attentive today to create a united and harmonious ensemble. As our various parts become one voice, we hope you are moved and delighted.

With best wishes to all,

Ofer dal Lal

The Performers

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

Pianist **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.

About Voci

Now in its 33rd 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. Voci especially enjoys championing existing and premiering pieces by women composers, including works composed for Voci. It enjoys a reputation among Bay Area audiences and critics for its adventurous programming and elegant, passionate sound. For more information, visit Vocisings.org.

Voci Choir

Liz Binning	Cassandra Forth	Rachael Roueche
Rachel Decker	Samantha Graff	Karla Sagramoso
Nicky Deremiah	Lena Hymel	Lisa Sanders
Jennifer Dix	Emily Kirk	Adina Sara
Angie Doctor	Alissa McLean	Sally Shute
Susan Draeger	Terry Meyers	Victoria Skerritt
Vicky Faulk	Hannah Parrilla	Kathy Walrath
Lezlee Flagg	Heather Roman	Lucy Williams

Voci Board of Directors

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

About WomenSing

Founded in 1965, **WomenSing** is an auditioned chorus renowned for its vibrant and beautifully blended sound. The repertoire includes both the traditional and the unexpected, featuring great landmarks of the women's chorus repertoire, seldom-performed works, new music, commissions from nationally recognized composers, and familiar music from all eras. Performances include rewarding collaborations with major performing groups and the finest Bay Area musicians, and special choral events to help raise awareness of community and global issues. For more information, visit www.womensing.org.

WomenSing Choir

Cynthia Adams	Donna Laspina	Cynthia Rodriguez
Leslie Blackie	Arlene Lee	Patti Sax
Criss Bürki	Linda Long	Kathryn Schumacher
Jules Campbell	Ellen Marshall	Beth Scott
Jean Cheng	Angela Michael	Jessica Takano
Tanya Court	Samantha Montgomery	Kristan Torres
Diane Griffin	Mary Jo O'Callaghan	Katie Walker
Linda Infelise	Kealie Pretzlav	Ann White

WomenSing Board of Directors

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Angela Michael, *Secretary*
Cynthia Adams, *Treasurer*
Chris Bennett, Jules Campbell, Tanya Court, Linda Infelise,
Donna Laspina, Kathryn Schumacher, Jessica Takano

Program

Ave Maria

Franz Biebl

Soloists: Kathryn Schumacher, Rachael Roueche, Susan Draeger

*Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae
et concepit de Spiritu sancto.*

The angel of God declared unto
Mary and she conceived of the Holy
Spirit.

*Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui,
Jesus*

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.

*Maria dixit: Ecce ancilla Domini
Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.*

Mary said: See the servant of the
Lord May it be unto me according to
your word.

*Et Verbum caro factum est
et habitavit in nobis.*

And the Word became flesh
and lived among us.

*Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.
Amen.*

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Hymn to the Virgin

Benjamin Britten, arr. Johannes Dewilde

text: anonymous poet, ca. 1300

Of one that is so fair and bright.
Brighter than the day is light.

Velut maris stella [Like stars of
sea]

Parens et puella [Both mother
maiden]

I cry to thee, thou see to me,
Lady, pray thy son for me,
that I may come to thee.

Tam pia [So pure]

Maria! [Mary]

All this world was forlorn
till our Lord was yborn.

Eve peccatrice [Because of Eve,
sinner]

De te, genetrice [Through you,
mother]

With Ave it went away
darkest night and comes the day,
the well springeth out of thee

Salutis [Of salvation]

Virtutis. [Of virtue]

Lady flower of everything
thou bare Jesu, Heaven's king

Rosa sine spina [Thornless rose]

Gratia divina [By divine grace]

Of all thou bearest the prize,
Lady, queen of paradise
maid, mild mother

Electa [Chosen]

Es effecta. [You are made]

Alleluia, Laus et Gloria

Tarik O'Regan

*Alleluia,
laus et gloria et virtus
Deo nostro,
quia vera et justa
sunt iudici ejus. Amen.*

Hallelujah,
praise and glory and virtue
to our God,
because his judgments
are true and just. Amen.

Heliseb väljadel (Ringing in the Fields)

Urmas Sisask

Soloist: Criss Bürki

*Ave Maria, tervitus hell.
Heliseb väljadel, metsas ja
mägedel.*

Hail Mary, welcome.
There is a bell ringing in the fields,
forests, and on the mountains.

*Helise Emale,
kes üle tähtede,
helise, kell!*

Ring for the Mother.
Ring over the stars.
Ring, gentle bell.

*Helise örnake, kanna sa kõrgele
palvet mu poolt.
Maria, mind aita, mind mu elus ja
surmas.*

Ring the bell and lift up
a prayer for me.
Mary, in my life and death,
look after me.

*Kanna hoolt, Maria.
Heliseb kell.
Heliseb kellake Ema Mariale.*

Take care of me, Mary.
The bell is ringing.
The bell is ringing for Mother Mary.

Milost' mira (Mercy of Peace)

Pavel Chesnoko

*Милость мира,
жертву хваления.
И со духом твоим.
И мамы ко Господу.
Достойно и праведно есть
поклоняться Отцу и Сыну,
и Святому Духу,
Троице единосущней
и нераздельней.*

Grace of the world,
Sacrifice of praise.
And with your spirit.
And mother of the Lord.
It is proper and right
to worship the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit,
three together
in one body.

*Свят, Свят, Свят,
Господь СаваоѠ!
Исполнь небо и земля
славы Твоя:
Осанна в вышних,
благословен грядѡй
во имя Господне.
Аминь.*

Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord Sabaoth!
Heaven and earth
are your glory:
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Amen.

Starting Now

Jocelyn Hagen

text: Joyce Sidman from *What the Heart Knows*

It is time for us to wake:
we who stumble through the day
with our gripes and complaints,
who drift numbly
through thronging halls and streets –
you and I, it is time.

You and I,
who rant about injustice,
who see all that is wrong in this world
but believe we are shackled
and powerless.

It is time to look into
each other's faces,
we who glide along the surface,

time to dive down
and feel the currents
of each other's lives.
Time to speak until the air
holds all of our voices.
Time to weave for each other
a garment of brightness.

Open your eyes.
Feel your strength.
Bless the past.
Greet the future.

Join hands.
Right here.
Our moment:
starting now.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Arr. Shawn Kirchner
text: traditional German carol

Saxophonist: Kristen Strom

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as saints of old have sung.
It came a flow'ret bright
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

This flow'r whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air
dispels in glorious splendor
the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God,
from grief and death he saves us
and lightens ev'ry load.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
this Rose I have in mind.
With Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

INTERMISSION

Composer Biographies: Scan the QR code for information about the composers featured in this program.



A Spotless Rose

Paul Mealor

A Spotless Rose is growing,
sprung from a tender root,
of ancient seers' foreshowing,
of Jesse's promised fruit;
its fairest bud unfolds to light
amid the cold, cold winter,
and the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
whereof Isaiah said,
is from its sweet root springing
in Mary, purest Maid;
through God's great love and might
the Blessed Babe she bare us
in a cold, cold winter's night. Amen.

Zwei Beter (Two Worshipers)

Arvo Pärt

Text: Gospel of Luke 18:9-14

Soloist: Susan Draeger

*Jesus sprach zu einigen, die davon
überzeugt waren gerecht zu sein und
die anderen verachteten, dieses
Gleichnis:*

*“Zwei Menschen gingen hinauf in
den Tempel, um zu beten. Der eine
war ein Pharisäer, der andere ein
Zöllner.*

*Der Pharisäer stellte sich hin und
betete also: „O Gott, ich danke dir,
daß ich nicht bin wie die übrigen
Menschen, Räuber, Ungerechte,
Ehbrecher, oder auch wie dieser
Zöllner da. Ich faste zweimal in der
Woche und gebe den Zehnten von*

Jesus told this story to some who
had great confidence in their own
righteousness and scorned
everyone else:

“Two men went to the Temple to
pray. One was a Pharisee, and
the other was a tax collector.

The Pharisee stood by himself
and prayed this prayer:

'I thank you, God, that I am not
like other people—cheaters,
sinners, adulterers. I'm certainly
not like that tax collector! I fast
twice a week, and I give you a

*allem, was ich besitze.“
Der Zöllner aber blieb hinten stehen
und wagte die Augen nicht zum
Himmel zu erheben,*

*sondern er schlug an seine Brust und
sprach:
„Gott sei mir Sünder gnädig!“*

*Ich sage euch: Dieser ging
gerechtfertigt nach Hause, jener
nicht.*

*Denn jeder, der sich selbst erhöht,
wird erniedrigt werden; und jeder,
der sich selbst erniedrigt, wird
erhöht werden.“ Amen.*

tenth of my income.’
But the tax collector stood at a
distance and dared not lift his
eyes to heaven as he prayed.

Instead, he beat his chest in
sorrow, saying,
‘O God, be merciful to me, for I
am a sinner.’

I tell you that this man, rather
than the other, went home
justified.

For those who exalt themselves
will be humbled, and those who
humble themselves will be
exalted.” Amen.

In dulci júbilo (In Sweet Rejoicing)

Matthew Culloton

*In dulci júbilo, [In sweet rejoicing]
let us our homage show,
our heart's joy reclineth
in praesepio, [in a manger]
and like a bright star shineth
matris in gremio [in the mother's lap].
Alpha es et O. [Thou art
Alpha & Omega]*

*O Jesu parvule [O tiny Jesus]
I yearn for thee alway!
Hear me, I beseech thee,
O puer optime! [O best of boys]
My prayer, let it reach thee,
O princeps gloriae! [Prince of
glory]
Trahe me post te. [draw me unto
you]*

O patris caritas! [O father's caring]
O nati lenitas! [O newborn's
mildness]
Deeply were we stained
per nostra crimina; [by our crimes]
but thou hast for us gained
coelorum gaudia! [heavenly joy]
O that we were there!

Ubi sunt gaudia, [where be joys]
where, if they be not there!
There are angels singing
nova cantica! [new songs]
There the bells are ringing
in regis curia. [at the king's
court]
O that we were there!

Hosanna

Knut Nystedt

Hosanna, in excelsis

Hosanna, in the highest

Still, Still Night

Arr by Jackson Berkey

Soloist: Katie Walker

Silent night. Holy night.
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face.
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Christ the savior is born!
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!

Silent night. Holy night.
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar.
Heav'nly choirs sing: Alleluia!
Christ the savior is born!
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!

Silent night. Holy night.
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and
child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Still, still night.

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VOCI



WOMENSING



Voci and WomenSing are not-for-profit 501c(3) organizations & welcome contributions.

Save the Dates!

Please join ***Voci*** with our new guest conductor, Terry Alvord, for our next concert on **March 30, 2025**, at 4:00 p.m. at Montclair Presbyterian Church, or on **April 6, 2025**, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

Please join ***WomenSing*** under the continued direction of Ofer dal Lal for our annual International Women's Day event on **March 16, 2025**, at 4:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. The event will feature storyteller Dana Sherry and The Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers led by Shauna Pickett-Gordon.

