



Sunday, March 30 - 4:00pm  
Montclair Presbyterian Church  
5701 Thornhill Drive, Oakland

Sunday, April 6 - 7:00pm  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda

Terry Alvord, Conductor  
Matt Bourne, Pianist

*Welcome* to a concert devoted to celebrating women through music. Today we explore the power of women and what it means. In the past, we have had to fight to have our voices heard. Now, asked to be silent, we will Rise. As Goddesses, we are sublime but we also will defeat those who want to oppress us. As loving people, we express ourselves from the heart. As spiritual beings, we devote ourselves to listening to our souls' messages.

Over the past few months, I have had the privilege of getting to know the amazing singers of Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble. I find this group to be a living microcosm of the messages in today's choral program. They are an inspiring group that shows in their lives what it means to be a devoted, dynamic, divine, loving, and powerful group of women. Among our members are loving mothers, lawyers, psychologists, educators, artistic creators, and of course, musicians!

We hope you will be inspired by the musical messages in today's concert. Let's ALL RISE together and use our voices to learn, to be heard, and to unify our world.

In the loving and powerful voice of music, *Terry Alvord*

## About Voci

Now in its 34<sup>th</sup> 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 pieces by women composers and strives to expand our repertoire of new music written for and by women. It enjoys a reputation among Bay Area audiences and critics for its adventurous programming and elegant, passionate sound. For more information, visit [Vocisings.org](http://Vocisings.org).

## Voci Choir

Joan Bell  
Liz Binning  
Anne Collins  
Jennifer Dix  
Angie Doctor  
Susan Draeger  
Vicky Faulk

Lezlee Flagg  
Cassandra Forth  
Samantha Graff  
Lena Hymel  
Emily Kirk  
Malenca Logan  
Pauline Ma-Senturia

Alissa McLean  
Terry Meyers  
Karla Sagramoso  
Lisa Sanders  
Victoria Skerritt  
Susan Swerdlow  
Lucy Williams

## Voci Board of Directors

Karla Sagramoso, *President*

Emily Kirk, *Secretary*

Nicky Deremiah, Adina Sara, Pauline Ma-Senturia, *Members at Large*

Lezlee Flagg, *Vice President*

Lisa Sanders, *Treasurer*

**Conductor Terry Alvord**, mezzo soprano and conductor, has led the San Francisco Symphony Chorus in rehearsals of Brahms' Requiem and Mahler's Symphony No. 3, and has conducted the San Francisco Conservatory's chamber vocal ensemble, assisting Maestro Ragnar Bohlin. She was the level 3 director for the San Francisco Girls Chorus from 2018 until June of 2024.

Ms. Alvord was a featured conductor of sacred music in Sarteano, Italy from 2015-2017. In addition, she was the interim artistic director for Resound Ensemble, a 50 member mixed voice choir based in San Francisco for the 2015-2016 season and was music director at Trinity United Methodist Church in Berkeley for almost 20 years.

Working as Special Projects Associate and conductor for San Francisco Girls Chorus, Ms. Alvord has prepared choristers for Bay Area opera companies including *The Shining* produced by Opera Parallele in 2024 and for a production of the opera, *Prospero's Island* by Allen Shearer and Claudia Stevens in collaboration with Ninth Planet.

She is currently preparing choir members for upcoming performances of Opera Parallele's production of *The Pigeon Keeper* as well as for the San Francisco Opera's upcoming production of *La Boheme* in June, 2025.

In addition to conducting, Ms. Alvord is an active soloist and choral singer. She has appeared as a soloist with many Bay Area orchestras and has sung numerous operatic roles with opera companies in the area. Ms. Alvord has been a professional member of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus since 2000 and has also sung with the San Francisco Opera Chorus and Philharmonia Baroque Chorale.

**Pianist Matt Bourne** performs and accompanies for vocalists and choral groups all around the Bay Area. He is music director and conductor for the 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.

**Composer Biographies:**

Scan this QR code  
for information  
about composers  
featured in this concert



# Program

## ***Karitas habundat***

Hildegard von Bingen

*Soloists in appearance order: March 31; Susan Swerdlow, Emily Kirk, Susan Draeger, Samantha Graff, Lisa Sanders, Terry Meyers.*

*April 6; Emily Kirk, Susan Draeger, Lisa Sanders, Terry Meyers, Lezlee Flagg*

*Karitas habundat in omnia*

*De imis excellentissima super sidera*

*Atque amantissima in omnia*

*Quia summo Regi osculum pacis dedit.*

*- Hildegard von Bingen*

Charity abounds here in everything,

From the lowest depths to the highest stars,

And is loving to all,

For the supreme King gave a kiss of peace.

## Women Goddesses

***Hymn to the Dawn*** Third Group from *Choral Hymns from the Rig Veda*

Gustav Holst

Hear our prayer O Goddess,  
Rich in wealth and wisdom,  
Ever young yet ancient,  
True to Law Eternal.

Bring to her your off'ring,  
Humbly bow before her,  
Raise your songs of welcome,  
As she comes in splendour.

- from Hindu scripture as translated by Holst

Wak'ner of the songbirds,  
Ensign of th'Eternal, Draw  
thou near O Fair One, In  
thy radiant Chariot.

## ***Moon Goddess***

Jocelyn Hagen

*Piano: Pauline Ma-Senturia & Matt Bourne,*

*Finger cymbals: Angie Doctor Drum: Tom Dreiman*

Oh my lady, on hearing your sound,  
hills and flatlands bow,

O my lady, guardian of all the great essences,  
you have picked them up and hung them on your hand.

You are lofty like Heaven. Let the world know!

You are wide like the earth. Let the world know!

You strike everything down in battle,  
O my lady, on your wings  
you hack away the land and charge disguised  
as a charging storm,  
roar as a roaring storm,  
thunder and keep thundering, and snort  
with evil winds.

O primary one,  
moon goddess Inanna of heaven and earth!

On your harp of sighs  
I hear your dirge.

O my lady, this song has made you great  
And exalted you.  
O my lady, wife of An, I have told your fury!

- *Enheduanna* (born ca. 2300 B.C.), adapted by Jocelyn Hagen

## Women and the Spirit

### *Ave Maria*

Joan Szymko

*Ave Maria, gratia plena;  
Dominus tecum ,  
Benedictatu in mulieribus,  
Et benedictus fructus ventris tuis .  
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,  
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus,  
Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.*

Hail Mary, full of grace  
the Lord is with thee,  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

### *O bone Jesu*

Johannes Brahms

*O Bone Jesu, miserere nobis,  
quia tu creasti nos, tu redemisti nos  
sangine tuo practiosissimo.*

O good Jesus, have mercy on us,  
Because you created us, you have redeemed us  
With your most precious blood.

## ***Adoramus te***

Johannes Brahms

*Adoramus te, Christe,  
Et benedicimus tibi quia,  
per sanctam crucem tuam,  
redemisti mundum,  
qui passus est pro nobis, pro nobis.  
Domine, miserere nobis.*

We adore you, Christ,  
We bless you who,  
through the Holy Cross,  
You have redeemed the world,  
Who suffered for us, for us.  
God, have mercy on us.

## **Women and Love**

### ***Fly, Singing Bird Fly***

Edward Elgar

Fly, singing bird, fly,  
From the wood where lies sheltered thy nest  
From the tree whence thou pourest thy song,  
Fly away, far away to the west,  
Tell my love that I wait, that I wait,  
Ah! Too long and lonely, I sigh.

Fly, singing bird, fly,  
Leave thy nest 'midst the wood, lone, unsought,  
Leave the cradling boughs, spread thy wing,  
And swift as my following thought,  
Onward speed, and swift flying, still sing,  
Come, or I die.

- Caroline Alice Elgar, née Roberts

Fly, singing bird, fly,  
O're the blossoming meadows, where grow  
Yellow cowslips and daffodils pale,  
Say I wait where anemones blow,  
Weary wait, till with waiting, I fail,  
And failing, I sigh.

### ***Jack's \* Valentine***

Libby Larsen

Hey. Hey you! I love you,  
I love you.  
A lot. I love you  
A whole lot.  
I love you lots and lots and lots.  
A whole bunch. Very, very, ... much.  
Hey. Hey you!

- Aldeen Humphreys \*Jack Kerouac

# Women in Other Times

## *What Can We Poor Females Do?*

Henry Purcell

Chorus:

What can we, what can we poor females do  
When pressing, teasing lovers sue?  
What can we poor, poor females do?

And relenting or consenting,  
Does alike, our hopes betray.  
Chorus

Fate affords no other way,  
But denying or complying,  
Chorus

## *Huswifery*

Richard K. Winslow

Make mee, O Lord, Thy Spinning Wheele compleat;  
Thy Holy Worde my Distaff make for mee.  
Make mine Affections Thy Swift Flyers neate,  
And make my Soule Thy holy Spoole to bee.  
My Conversation make to be Thy Reelee,  
And reele thereon the yarn spun of Thy Wheele.

Make me Thy Loom then, knit therein this Twine,  
And make Thy Holy Spirit, Lord; winde quills.  
Then weave the web Thyselfe. The yarn is fine.  
Thine Ordinances make my Fulling Mills.  
Then dy the same in Heav'nly Colours Choice,  
All pink't with Varish't Flowers of Paradise.

Then cloath therewith mine Understanding,  
Will, Affection, Judgement, Conscience, Memory,  
My Words and Actions, that their shine may fill my Wayes with Glory  
And Thee glorify. And Thee glorify.  
Then mine apparell shall display before yee  
That I am cloathed in Holy robes for glory.

- Edward Taylor

## ***Some Men Desire Spouses***

Thomas Weelkes

Some men desire spouses,  
that come from noble houses,  
and some would have in marriage,  
ladies of courtly carriage.

Fa la la la la ....

But few desire as I do

The maidenhead of a widow.

Fa la la la la ...

Some think fair youth will cherish,  
Strength that begins to perish.

I'll have no colts to taming,

Let me be young'st at gaming.

Fa la la la la ...

I'll get, or I'll go nigh to,

The maidenhead of a widow.

Fa la la la la ...

## **Young Women Coming of Age**

### ***Malala***

Joan Szymko

*Speaker: Angie Doctor*

I am Malala.

Their bullet did not stop me.

I am Malala.

Their bullet gave me power to raise my voice.

Hear my voice:

one child, one teacher, one pen, one book – can change the world

I am Malala.

I am afraid of no one.

-adapted by Joan Szymko from the quotes of Malala Yousafzai

### ***maggie and milly and molly and may***

Vincent Persichetti

maggie and milly and molly and may.  
went down to the beach (to play one day)

and maggie discovered a shell that sang  
so sweetly she couldn't remember her troubles,

and milly befriended a stranded star  
whose rays five languid fingers were;

and molly was chased by a horrible thing which  
raced sideways while blowing bubbles:

and may came home with a smooth round stone  
as small as a world and as large as alone.

for whatever we lose (like a you or a me)  
it's always ourselves we find in the sea.

- e. e. cummings



# Women of Power

## *The March of the Women*

Ethel Smyth, ed. Amelia Nagoski

Shout, shout, up with your song!  
Cry with the wing, for the dawn is breaking;  
March, march, sing you along.  
Wide blows our banner, and hope is waking.  
Song with its story, dreams, with their glory,  
Lo! They call, and glad is their word!  
Loud and louder it swells,  
Thunder of freedom, the voice of the Lord.

Long, long, we in the past  
Covered in the dread from the light of heaven.  
Strong, strong, stand we at last,  
Fearless in faith and with sight newgiven.  
Strength with its beauty, Life with its duty,  
(Hear the voice, oh hear and obey!)  
These, these beckon us on,  
Open your eyes to the blaze of day.

Life, strife, these two are one,  
Nought can ye win but by faith and daring;  
On, on that ye have done  
But for the work of today preparing.  
Firm in reliance, laugh a defiance,  
(Laugh in hope, for sure is the end.)  
March, march, many as one.  
Shoulder to shoulder and friend to friend.  
- Cecily Hamilton

## *What Happens When a Woman?*

Alexandra Olsavsky

Chorus:  
What happens when a woman takes power?  
What happens when she won't back down?  
What happens when a woman takes power?  
What happens when she wears the crown?

Chorus

What happens when she rules her own body?  
What happens when she sets the beat?  
What happens when she bows to nobody?  
What happens when she stands on her own two feet?

Chorus

Whoa. We rise above;  
Whoa. We lead with love;  
We have won; we are one;  
We've just begun.

Chorus

Rise up!

There shall never be another season of silence.  
Deepen your sympathy then convert it to action.

Pray every single second of your life,  
not on your knees but with your work.

Think you best thoughts,  
speak your best words,  
do your best work.

There is so much yet to be done.  
Rise up!

- from speeches & writings of Susan B. Anthony

**COME AND SING WITH VOCI!**

Watch our website, [vocisings.org](https://vocisings.org), for details about summer auditions

***Voci extends a warm thank you to*** The Alameda County Arts Commission, the Reed Family Foundation, Don H. Miller & Margaret M. Fadely, and the Cameron & Jane Baird Foundation for their generous grants and donations. We are grateful to the Orinda Community Church, Montclair Presbyterian Church, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and Lake Merritt United Methodist Church.

*We also offer our immense gratitude to all our many other generous donors.*

***Thank you!***

As with all arts organizations,  
ticket receipts are not enough to  
sustain the choir's operations.

To support Voci with your donations,  
visit <https://vocisings.org/support/> or  
scan this QR code.

**And THANK YOU!**

Voci is a not-for-profit 501c(3) organization and welcomes contributions.



<https://vocisings.org/support/>

*In honor of women, Voci will be making a donation to the  
**Women's Daytime Drop-In Center** in Berkeley which provides a safe space, warm meals,  
counseling, and support to homeless women and children during the day, serving an  
average of 400 women and children each month.*

***When I Become an Old Woman***

**Sherry Blevins**

When I become an old woman,  
When I become an old woman,  
I'll be magnetic.

It's genetic.  
When I become an old woman,  
Oh, an old woman,  
I'll be vivacious,  
Extra loquacious.

I'll lose my filter,  
And say exactly what I'm thinking.  
I'll learn to tango,  
I will dance like nobody's watching.  
(Twirl like no one's watching.)  
I'll never worry when people pass judgement.  
Poor saps don't know what they're missing!

I'll give up plucking.  
And embrace my inner Yeti.  
I will wear stretchy pants,  
And never bother with zippers or button flies.  
(Who has time for buttons?)  
I'll toss my bras away!  
Say goodbye to my underwire prison!

When I become an old woman,  
My purse could hold the kitchen sink.  
(The whole sink!)  
It will be hot pink. (My purse will be hot pink!)  
When I become an old woman.  
Oh, an old woman,  
I will be brassy,  
And oh so sassy (oh, so very sassy!)

When I become an old woman,  
I will dance the tango!

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# Save the Date

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## *Sumer is Icumen In*

Join us for an afternoon of  
entertainment and refreshment

Sunday, June 22 at 4pm

St. Clement's Episcopal Church  
Berkeley



Sip wine and sample hors d'oeuvres  
as the women of Voci "strut their stuff."

We will perform a varied program,  
conducted by our own,  
with group pieces plus duets and arias from  
Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro"