

Laudate Pueri

Laudate pueri Dominum,
Laudate nomen Domini.
Sit nomen Domini benedictum,
Ex hoc nunc et usque in saecula. Alleluia

Felix Mendlessohn

Praise ye the Lord.
Praise the name of the Lord.
Blessed be the name of the Lord
From this time forth and forevermore. Alleluia

The Joy of Love and Life

O Love

Amy Brodo, Cellist

Elaine Hagenberg

O Love, O Love, that will not let me go,
O Love, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe
That in thy ocean's depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Love, O Love, that will not let me go,
rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe
And in thy ocean depths its flow
Shall richer, fuller be.

- George Matheson (1842-1906)

O Joy, O Joy, that seeks me through the pain,
O Joy, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.

Make a Joyful Noise

Kevin McNair, Percussion

Rollo Dilworth

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.
Break forth and sing for joy.
Rejoice and sing praises.
Praise with harp and voice and melody.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.

Rejoice with the trumpet and the sound of coronets.
Make a joyful noise to the Lord.
Let the sea roar and the fullness thereof;
All the world and they that dwell therein.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.

- based on Psalm 98

Gave the Date

*We hope to see you again at one of our next concerts, Spring is in the Air,
Sunday, April 12 or Sunday, April 19*

Come and sing with Voci

Do you love to sing? Want to make a whole new circle of amazing friends? Check out our website,
vocisings.org/about/audition to find information about setting up an audition appointment.

Voci
Women's Vocal Ensemble



Contemplating Comfort & Joy

A Journey Through Spirituality, Hope, Love and Life

Saturday, November 8, 2025 • 4:00 pm **Sunday, November 9, 2025 • 4:00 pm**

Montclair Presbyterian Church
5701 Thornhill Drive, Oakland

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda

Terry Alword, Artistic Director
Matt Bourne, Accompanist

The Season of Thanks and Change

Welcome to Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble's Fall concert: *Contemplating Comfort and Joy.*

I grew up in Chicago where Fall was my favorite season. It brought cozy sweater weather, hot cider and changing colors of leaves from shades of green to brilliant reds, oranges and golds. All it took was one windy day to empty those trees into a stunning carpet of leaves. This beauty signals the end of growth and prepares us for rest and introspection. The changing of the leaves reminds me of the cyclical nature of life, death and rebirth.

I chose pieces for the first part of our concert that will bring us all solace through its text and beautiful choral sonorities.

Within the seasons of Fall and Winter lies the seeds of life and new beginnings. My desire for the second part of our concert was to select music that represents these new beginnings through choral music about love and joy in anticipation of what is to come.

We know this music will help inspire your Fall season,

Terry Alvord, Artistic Director

Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble, founded in 1991, has won high praise from critics and choral musicians alike for its lush, ethereal quality. Voci champions music by women and for women, from all parts of the world and every century. The group's size of 20-28 voices allows for an unusual intimacy among chorus members and between chorus and audience. Voci singers are women who share a passionate love of music, fierce dedication to the ensemble, and deep commitment to the community.

Voci Choir

Alissa McLean
Anne Collins
Cassandra Forth
Hannah Parilla
Heather Roman
Jennifer Dix

Karla Sagramoso
Kathy Walrath
Kathryn Yoh
Lezlee Flagg
Lisa Sanders
Liz Binning
Lucy Williams

Malenca Logan
Nicky Deremiah
Susan Draeger
Terry Meyers
Vicky Faulk
Victoria Skeritt

Voci Board of Directors

Karla Sagramoso, *President*
Emily Kirk, *Secretary*
Nicky Deremiah, Lucy Williams, *Members at Large*

Lezlee Flagg, *Vice President*
Lisa Sanderson, *Treasurer*

Confitemini Domino

Alessandro Constantini

Confitemini Domino, quoniam bonus:
Quoniam in saeculum misericordia ejus.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good:
For his mercy endures forever.

Herbstlied

Autumn Song Felix Mendelssohn

Ach, wie so bald verhallet de Reigen,
Wandelt sich Frühling in Winterzeit!
Ach, wie so bald in trauern des Schweigen
Wandelt sich alle die Fröhlichkeit!

Oh how soon the season ends
Spring turns into wintertime!
Oh how soon all happiness turns to silence
the last sounds soon fade!

Bald sind die letzten Klänge verflogen,
Bald sind die letzten Säng' er gezogen!
Bald ist das letzte Grün dahin!
Alle sie wollen heimwärts zieh'n!

The last songbirds are soon flown,
Soon the last sounds vanish!
The last green is gone!
They all want to return home

Ach, wie so bald verhallet der Reigen
Wandelt sich Lust in sehnedes Leid.
Wär't ihr ein Traum, ihr Liebesgedanken?
Süss wie der Lenz, und schnell verweht?

Oh how soon the season ends
Pleasure turns into pain.
Were you a dream, your thoughts of love?
Sweet as the spring and fast disappearing?

Eines, nur Eines will nimmer wanken
Es ist das Sehnen, das nimmer vergeht,

Only one thing will never wane,
The longing that never goes.

Abschiedslied der Zuvögel

Farewell Song Felix Mendelssohn

Hannah Parilla, Soprano, and Malenca Logan, Mezzo-Soprano

Wie war so schön doch Wald und Feld!
Wie is so traurig jetzt die Welt!
Hin ist die schöne Sommerzeit
Und nach der Freude kam das Leid.

How beautiful were the forest and field!
How sad the world is now!
Gone is the beautiful summertime
and after joy - sorrow has come.

Wie wussten nichts von Ungemach,
Wir sassen unterm Laubes dach
Vergnügt und froh beim Sonnenschein
Und sangen in die Welt hinein.

We knew nothing of discomfort,
We sat under a leafy canopy
Content and happy in the sunshine
And sang out into the world.

Wir armen Vöglein trauern sehr,
Wir haben keine Heimat mehr,
Wir müssen jetzt von hinnen flieh'n
Und in die weite Fremde zieh'n!

We poor birds are now sad,
We no longer have a homeland.
We must now fly away
Pulled into wide, strange lands.

Comfort of Music

To Sing is to Fly

To sing is to love and affirm, to fly and soar,
To coast into the hearts of people who listen,
To tell them that life is to live, that love is there,
That nothing is a promise
But that beauty exists and must be hunted for and found.

- Joan Baez (b. 1941)

Muusika

Kuskil peab alguskokkukõla olema,
kuskil suures looduses, varjul.
On tema vägevas laotuses,
täheringide kauguses,
on tema päikese sära sees,
lillekeses, metsakohinas,
emakõne südamemuusikas
voi silmavees -
kuskil peab surematus olema,
kuskilt alguskokkukõla leitama:
kust oleks muidu inimese rinda
saanud ta -
Muusika?

- Juhan Liiv (1864-1913)

I Hate Music

I hate music!
But I like to sing: la dee da da dee, la de da dee.
But that's not music, not what I call music. No, sir!
Music is a lot of men in a lot of tails, making lots of noise like a lot of females.
Music is a lot of folks in a big dark hall, where they really don't want to be at all;
With a lot of chairs, and a lot of airs, and a lot of furs and diamonds!
Music is silly! I hate music!
But I like to sing: la dee da da dee, la dee da dee; la dee da dee.

Composer Biographies:

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

Voci Composer Bios Fall 2025



Gwyneth Walker

Music

Pärt Uusberg

Somewhere the original harmony must exist,
Hidden somewhere in the vast wilds.
In Earth's mighty firmament,
in the far reaches of swirling galaxies,
in sunshine,
in the little flower, in the song of a forest,
in the music of a mother's voice,
or in teardrops -
somewhere, immortality endures,
and the original harmony will be found.
How else could it have formed
in human hearts -
Music?

Leonard Bernstein

Artistic Director 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 of Trinity United Methodist Church in Berkeley for almost 20 years.

Ms. Alvord has prepared choristers for Bay Area opera companies including *The Shining* by Paul Moravec produced by Opera Parallele in 2024 and for a premiere production of the opera, *Prospero's Island* by Allen Shearer and Claudia Stevens in collaboration with Ninth Planet. As Director of Special Projects for San Francisco Girls Chorus, Ms. Alvord prepared singers for performances of Opera Parallele's premier of *The Pigeon Keeper* by David Hanlon as well as for San Francisco Opera's productions of *Carmen* (2024) and *La Boheme* (2025).

In addition to conducting, Ms. Alvord has been an active soloist and choral singer. She has appeared as a soloist with 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.

Voci extends a warm thank you to The Alameda County Arts Commission, the Reed Family Foundation, Don H. Miller and 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 without whom these concerts could not happen.
Thank you ALL!

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 the QR code at the right. And THANK YOU!

Voci is a not-for-profit 501c(3) organization

Voci Website Donation Link



Program

Ad Amore

Kevin McNair, Percussion

Quello infinito e ineffabil bene
Che là sùè, così
Corre ad amore
com' a lucido corpo raggio vene.
- Dante Alighieri (1265-1321)

Toward Love

Lee Kesselman

That infinite and ineffable Good,
which dwells on high
speeds toward love
as a ray of sunlight to a shining beauty.

Spiritual Comfort

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

If Ye Love Me

Eleanor Daley

If ye love me, keep my commandments,
And I will pray the Father,
And God will give to you another comforter,
That he may abide with you forever.
E'en the spirit of truth
Peace I leave with you,
My peace I give unto you.
Not as the world giveth, I give unto you.

Let not your heart be troubled
Neither let it be afraid.
I will not leave you comfortless.
I will come to you and your heart will rejoice.
Alleluia.
- John, Chapter 14

Psalm 23

Daniel E. Gawthrop

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want,
He makes me down to lie in pastures green;
He leadeth me the quiet waters by.
My soul he doth restore again;
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for his own name's sake.
Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill,
For thou art with me;

Thy rod and staff me comfort still.
My table thou hast furnished
In the presence of my foes;
My head with oil thou dost anoint,
And my cup overflows.
Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place will be.
- Scottish Psalter, 1650

Festival Gloria

Ola Gjelo

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Et in terra pax hominibus
bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te
Glorificamus te, cum Sancto Spiritu
In gloria Dei Patri. Amen

Glory to God in the highest
and peace on earth
to men of goodwill.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you
We glorify you, with the Holy Spirit
In the glory of God the Father. Amen

The Comfort of Hope

The Beauty of Your Dreams

Joan Szymko

I will make a prayer to ask what I can do.
I will make a prayer to ask for courage to follow the light as it is given to me.
You gain courage and strength and confidence every time you look fear in the face.
You must do the thing you think you cannot do.
Life must be lived!
Cast out fear and face the unknown.
Face the unknown with courage and integrity and a high heart.
Believe in your dreams, believe in the beauty of your dreams.
The future belongs to those that believe in the beauty of their dreams.
- Eleanor Roosevelt (1884 - 1962)

Still I Rise

Rosephanye Powell

Though I have been wounded, aching heart full of pain.
My pray'r and faith uphold me 'til my courage arrives,
Still I rise, yes, still I rise.
Just like a budding rose, my bloom is nourished by rain.
Haven't time to wonder why, though fearful I strive.
My pray'r and faith uphold me 'til my courage arrives.
Still I rise as an eagle, soaring above ev'ry fear.
With each day I succeed, I grow strong an' believe
That it's all within my reach; I'm reaching for the skies,
Yes, still I rise.

Gentle as a woman; tender sweet are my sighs.
Still I rise, yes, still I rise.
Strength is in my tears and healing rains in my cries.
Plunging depths of anguish, I determine to strive.
My pray'r and faith uphold me 'til my courage arrives.
Though you see me slump with heartache;
Heart so heavy that it breaks.
Be not deceived I fly on bird's wings,
Rising sun, its healing rays.
Look at me, you see a woman; gentle as a butterfly.
But don't you think, not for one moment,
That I'm not strong because I cry.
- Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)