Voci

Women's Vocal Ensemble

Launch into the Light



Choral works inspired by the paintings of J. M. W. Turner

Saturday, November 14, 2026 • 5:00 pm
Piedmont Center for the Arts
801 Magnolia Avenue, Piedmont

Sunday, November 15, 2026 • 5:00 pm
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda

Terry Alvord, Artistic Director
Matt Bourne, Accompanist

Welcome to Launch into the Light!

This concert is a dream come true. It is a culmination of my desire to bring my love of choral music together with my love of fine art. I have curated a selection of extraordinary paintings of romantic landscape artist J.M.W. Turner. During today's concert, you will see what an integral part light played in Turner's work and similarly hear how this use of light influenced my musical selections. I hope this merging of fine art and choral music brings light into your life!

To get you started on our journey, here is a brief biography of J.M.W. Turner written by John Seed: Joseph Mallord William Turner, born in London (1775-1851) was a painter whose dramatic landscapes and seascapes evoked the moods of nature. A prodigy who joined the British Royal Academy at the age of 14, he achieved wealth and fame in his early twenties. In his thirties, he took his art in new directions, creating canvases that were increasingly inventive and luminous. Turner traveled extensively and painted Scottish castles, Swiss lakes and scenes of Venice. Although many of his paintings had historical references and included architecture and human figures, it was his ability to depict skies, sunsets, fog, storms and water that mesmerized the public. A Romantic who appreciated the raw power of nature, Turner painted weather as a way of expressing emotion.

Terry Alvord, Artistic Director

Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble, founded in 1991, champions music by women and for women, from all parts of the world and every century. The group's size 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
Angie Doctor
Cassandra Forth
Carol Paxton
Debra Crandall
Hannah Parilla
Heather Roman
Jennifer Dix
Karla Sagramoso
Kathy Walrath
Lezlee Flagg
Lisa Sanders
Nicky Deremiah
Pauline Ma-Senturia
Samantha Graff
Terry Meyers
Victoria Skerritt
Lucy Williams

Voci Board of Directors

Karla Sagramoso, *President*
Lezlee Flagg, *Vice President*
Jennifer Dix, *Secretary*
Lisa Sanders, *Treasurer*
Nicky Deremiah, Lucy Williams, Pauline Ma-Senturia, *Members at Large*

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 is a pianist active throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. He works in many genres, particularly in vocal music, where he is pianist for several choral, opera, and musical theatre groups. A Bay Area native and a graduate of the music program at UCLA, he is a composer and teaches piano. He is the music director, pianist, and organist for the Castro Valley United Methodist Church and has served as music director and conductor for many local theatre companies.

Canticle of the Sun (from Laudes Creaturarum) — Carl Orff

Launch into Luminosity

Can We Sing the Darkness to Light — Kyle Pederson

Amy Brodo, Cello

Lux Aeterna — Ēriks Ešenvalds

How Sweet the Moonlight Sleeps — Robert Young

Hannah Parilla, Heather Roman,
Samantha Groff, Alissa McLean

Stormy Light

Storm Comin' — Ruth Moody

Hurricane (from Unsung: If the Earth Could Sing) — Katerina Gimon

Speaker: Jennifer Dix *Chaos:* Kathy Walrath *Cello:* Amy Brodo

Iron Rain — Z. Randall Stroope

Fire Light

Fire, Fire — Thomas Morley

Lucy Williams, Karla Sagramoso, Lezlee Flagg, Kathy Walrath,
Terry Meyers, Lisa Sanders

Day of Fire and Sun — Kate Crellin

Swifter than Flame — Elaine Hagenberg

Launch into the Light

Where the Light Begins — Susan LaBarr

Amy Brodo, Cello

Les Collines d'Anacapri (The Hills of Anacapri) — Claude Debussy

Matt Bourne, Piano

The Sun Never Says — Dan Forrest

Amy Brodo, Cello

Light, My Light — Scott AuCoin

Cellist Amy Brodo's extensive 30+ year performing career has taken her all over the world. She has played as a member of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and as assistant principal cellist of the Orchestra del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. She has toured with the Israel Chamber Orchestra, I Solisti Veneti, La Nuova Orchestra Italiana, La Filarmonica de Valencia, Musica Angelica together with the Vienna Akademie Ensemble, Lux Musica, Taverner Players and Consort, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and the City of Birmingham Touring Opera Company among many others. Amy has played under nearly every famous conductor and with many first-class soloists and has performed numerous concertos as a soloist with orchestra.

John Seed, art advisor for this concert, is professor emeritus of Art and Art History at Mt. San Jacinto College and holds degrees in Studio Art from Stanford and UC Berkeley. His writings about art and artists have appeared in the *Huffington Pos*t, *Hyperallergi*c, and *Arts of Asia*. He is the author of *Disrupted Realism: Paintings for a Distracted World* and *More Disruption: Representation in Flux.*

Laudes Creaturarum *

Altissimu, onnipotente, bon signore, tue sole laude la gloria e l'onore et onne benedictione. Ad te solo, altissimo, se konfanno et nullu homo ene dignu te mentovare.

Laudatu si, mi signore, cum tucte le tue creature spetialmente messor lo frate sole, lo quale lo iorno allumeni per nui, et ellu è bellu e radiante cum grande splendore, de te, altissimu, porta significatione.

Laudatu si, mi signore, per sora luna e le stelle; in celu l'ai formate clarite è pretiose e belle.

Laudatu si, mi signore, per frate focu, per lu quale n'allumeni la nocte, e ellu è bellu e iocondu e robustosu e forte. Laudatu si, mi signore.

Laudate e benedicete lu mi signore e rengratiate e servite a lui cum grande humilitate. Amen

- St. Francis of Assisi

* First known example of a poem written in the vernacular Italian Umbrian dialect

Canticle of the Sun

Most high, all powerful, all good Lord. All praise is yours, all glory, all honor, and all blessing. To you, alone, Most High, do they belong. No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce your name.

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures, especially through my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day; and you give light through him. And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor! Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars; in the heavens you have made them, precious and beautiful.

Be praised, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you brighten the night. He is beautiful and cheerful, and powerful and strong.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give thanks, and serve him with great humility. Amen

Can We Sing the Darkness to Light?

What if instead of more violence,
we let our weapons fall silent?
No more revenge or retribution;
no more war or persecution.
It could be beautiful.

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What if instead of our judgment,
we soften our hearts that have hardened?
Instead of certainty and pride
we love and sacrifice.
It could be beautiful.

Can we see the other as our brother?
Can we sing the darkness to light
sounding chords of compassion and grace?
Set the swords of judgment aside,
let mercy's eyes see the other human face.
It could be beautiful.
Can we sing the darkness to light?
Can we sing?

- Kyle Pederson

Lux Aeterna

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine,
cum sanctis tuis in aeternum,
quia pius es.
Et lux perpetua luceat eis, Domine.
Requiem aeternam dona eis,
Domine, dona eis requiem.

Eternal Light

May eternal light shine on them,
Lord, with your saints forever,
for you are merciful.
Grant them eternal rest, Lord.

How Sweet the Moonlight Sleeps

How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!
Here we sit and let the sounds of music creep in our ears:
Soft stillness and the night become the touches of sweet harmony.
Look how the floor of heaven
is thick inlaid with patines of bright gold:
There's not the smallest orb that thou behold'st
But in his motion like an angel sings
Still quiring to the young-eyed cherubim;
Such harmony is in immortal souls.
But while this muddy vesture of decay
Doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it.

- Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*

Storm Comin'

When that storm comes,
Don't run for cover.
Don't run from the comin' storm
'Cause there ain't no use in runnin'.

When that rain falls,
Let it wash away,
that fallin' rain,
the tears and the trouble.

When those lights flash,
You hear that thunder roar.
Will you listen to that thunder roar
And let your spirit soar?

When that love calls
Will you open up your door?
Stand on up and let it in
You gotta let love through your door.

When that storm comes,
don't run for cover,
No, don't run from the comin' storm
'cause you can't keep a
storm from comin'.

- Ruth Moody

Hurricane

"Hurricane" is the opening movement of *Unsung: If the Earth Could Sing,* a five-movement environmentally inspired choral cycle and collaboration between the composer, poet Lauren Peat and conductor Elise Naccarato. The powerful first movement speaks to the worsening hurricane impacts on the Canadian East Coast and their ever-increasing destruction.

Iron Rain

In the irascible search for life
the faint twinkling of distant
stars expose giant globes of
gaseous ferocity;
their inferred magnitude
drifting too close to their sun,
falling like Icarus into
a labyrinth of tidal force.

As the searing heat
scorches the barren sky,
estranged metals disperse into
the turbulent atmosphere,
carried by Khamsin to
the cool, crisp nights,
where they tumble
to the surface
as a cooling balm of
ferrous mist.
Lost in time. Like rust in rain.

- Sam Illingsworth

Fire, Fire

Fire, fire my heart. Fa la la la…
O help! O help! Alas! O help! Ah me!
I sit and cry me and call for help.
Alas! but none comes nigh me.
Fa la la la…
- Michael Drayton

Day of Fire and Sun

Oh day of fire and sun,
Pure as a naked flame,
Blue sea, blue sky and dun,
Sands where he spoke my name.

Laughter and hearts so high
That the spirit flew off free,
Lifting into the sky
Diving into the sea.

Oh day of fire and sun
Just like a crystal burning,
Slow days go one by one,
But you have no returning.
- Sara Teasdale

Swifter than Flame

Swifter than flame, prevailing tempests race
Along the lifted steel that bars their way.
From solid street up to the shore of space,
Each granite edifice transcends the day.

Tower on tower reach a final rung
From which winged feet step upward out of night -
To find again forgotten planets hung
In orbits measuring a timeless flight.
- Carl John Bostelmann

Where the Light Begins

Perhaps it does not begin,
Perhaps it is always.

Perhaps it takes a lifetime
to open our eyes,
to learn to see

the luminous line
of the map
in the dark

the vigil flame
in the house of the heart

the love
so searing
we can't keep
from singing,
from crying out.

Perhaps this day
the light begins in us.
We are where
the light begins.
Perhaps it does not begin.
Perhaps it is always.

- Jan Richardson

The Sun Never Says

Even
After
All this time
The sun never says
To the earth

"You owe
Me."

Look
What happens
With a love like that,
It lights the
Whole
Sky.

Daniel Ladinsky

For composer bios
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For singer bios
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vocisings.org/singers

Light, My Light

Light, my light,
the world-filling light,
the eye-kissing light,
heart-sweetening light!
Ah, the light dances, my darling, at the center of my life;
the light strikes, my darling,
the chords of my love;
the sky opens, the wind runs wild,
laughter passes over the earth.

The butterflies spread their sails
on the sea of light.
Lilies and jasmines surge up
on the crest of the waves of light.

The light is shattered into gold
on every cloud, my darling,
and it scatters gems in profusion.

Mirth spreads from leaf to leaf, my darling,
and gladness without measure.
The heaven's river has drowned its banks
And the flood of joy is abroad.

- Rabindranath Tagore

VOCI DONATIONS

As with all non-profits, ticket sales do not cover the cost of creating concerts such as today's. If you would like to contribute to Voci, use the QR code to the right.

Voci is a 501c3 not-for-profit charitable organization

Voci Remembers: 35th Anniversary Concert

Join Voci for our spring concert

April 25 and May 2, 2027

We are excited to premiere

two new commissions

by Ann Callaway and Stacy Garrop

alongside previous Voci commissions

and a few choir favorites

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