

“Vox Femina sings with dramatic assurance and vocal poise.” —Los Angeles Times

**Vox Femina Los Angeles Presents**  
**SONGS MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME**



**Saturday, October 29, 8 PM,**  
Downtown LA  
**Sunday, October 30, 4 PM,**  
Altadena

Order tickets at:  
[www.voxfeminala.org](http://www.voxfeminala.org)  
or 310-922-0025

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- ◆ a subscription for the 2005/2006 season
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- ◆ a gift from VFLA's online auction (p.3)



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Fall 2005

VOLUME #4

ISSUE #1

# Vox Femina!

Los Angeles

**“NEWS AND NOTES” FROM VOX FEMINA LOS ANGELES**

## **Vox Femina Los Angeles in 2 Convenient Locations** **Songs My Mother Taught Me Opens 9th Season**

**2005/2006:**  
**1 Vox – 3 Visions**

*This season, Dr. Iris S. Levine, VFLA's Artistic Director, is on sabbatical. Vox Femina Los Angeles is pleased to be performing under the leadership of three distinguished conductors: Donald Brinegar, Jon Bailey and Nancy Sulahian. Each issue of the newsletter will feature our guest conductor's thoughts about the upcoming concert.*



Guest conductor, Donald Brinegar rehearses with Vox Femina LA.

Vox Femina Los Angeles opens its 9th season with *Songs My Mother Taught Me*. The title of the concert evokes fond memories among the women of VFLA and our guest conductor Donald Brinegar – memories which are shared throughout this newsletter.

**Donald Brinegar:**  
**Music, Memories, Family**

In the past weeks I have enjoyed the privilege of working within a wonderful community. Vox Femina is a formidable musical ensemble that sings of a world of love, peace, and supportive relationships. Every rehearsal fills the room with beauty of tone, laughter, exploration of musical ideas, discovery of singing techniques and a shared love of life. How lucky I am to be part of a world created by Iris Levine and the members and staff of this amazing ensemble.

The rehearsals remind me of family working and loving together towards the goal of serving others through a

shared activity. My own immediate family includes three grown men (Brian, David, and Paul), three grandchildren (Amanda Anne, Westley, and two month old Eleanor Elizabeth), one daughter-in-law Janet (second grade teacher extraordinaire), and daughter-in-law to be, Amanda (business woman extraordinaire)! They are loyal concert goers with joyful lives outside of music.

I grew up in Southern California where my parents, both career educators, created many opportunities for me to make music by supporting my passion for the trumpet and singing. We often sang as a family, especially at the holidays, and always sang in the car going from San Diego to Los Angeles to visit with friends and cousins. My Dad created the harmonies and my Mom taught us the melodies. She also filled in the harmonies by singing tenor. What memories!

So, in our first concert of the season we share *Songs My Mother Taught Me*. We celebrate community, friendship, and love through music – music that can only be made by my new family, Vox Femina Los Angeles.

**Mark Your Calendars**

*Songs My Mother Taught Me* will be performed at two convenient locations. **October 29:** pre-concert talk with Dr. Iris S. Levine and Donald Brinegar at 7:30 p.m.; concert at 8 p.m., Zipper Concert Hall, Colburn School of Performing Arts, 200 S. Grand Avenue in Downtown, LA.

**Sunday, October 30:** concert at 4 p.m. at Altadena Community Church, 943 East Altadena Drive, Altadena; post-concert reception with the singers and Donald Brinegar.

Tickets are \$20 in advance (\$15 students/seniors) and \$25 at the door. Order online at [www.voxfeminala.org](http://www.voxfeminala.org) or by phone, 310-922-0025.

# PROFILES

## GET TO KNOW MEMBERS OF THE VOX FEMINA LOS ANGELES FAMILY

In each issue, we introduce you to many of the "faces" you've seen smiling at you from the risers! Our singers, staff and volunteers come from widely diverse backgrounds, but we all share one thing in common — making the world a better place through music!

### — Meet second soprano ALLISON CROW



Allison is no stranger to the world of choral singing. In school she sang in mixed choirs, chamber groups and the all state choir in Virginia. But what do you do when school is over and you want to sing again? Exactly what Allison did: a Google search which linked her to Vox Femina Los Angeles.

One audition later, she's ensconced in her second soprano chair and "thoroughly loves being part of a choir again." Only a few weeks into her first season, Allison is already "having a lot of fun connecting with such a professional, talented and diverse group of women in L.A. I love meeting other singers and participating in a great organization!"

A USC film school graduate, Allison is an interactive game producer for a DVD production company and is involved in every aspect from writing to editing. In her down time Allison loves traveling, reading, knitting, and writing. French is also one of her interests which will probably come in handy for future Vox concerts!

So what song did Allison's mother teach her? None other than "You're Just in Love," the duet Ethel Merman and Donald O'Connor sang in "Call Me Madam." Allison recalls that she and her mom would trade off singing each part. Sounds like fun — and sounds like Allison definitely fits right into Vox.

Give Evi a song and she'll either sing it or play it on the piano, flute or piccolo. This multi-talented musician heard about Vox when a fellow singer in her temple's High Holy Day choir suggested she audition "because they needed altos." Having seen Iris conduct the South Bay Master Chorale, Evi followed up knowing she would be singing with a top notch director.

Evi brought to VFLA not only a wonderful alto voice, but also a vast musical background as an instrumentalist. Although she had sung in High Holidays choirs and her University Chorus, she says, "I've learned much about choral music on the job in Vox."

To Evi, Vox means "opportunity — to apply my talents and music training in new ways, even though I didn't choose a career in music. I

love the high-end music making and the musical challenges." She adds, "Of course, it doesn't hurt to be surrounded by supportive, intelligent, curious, passionate, and diverse women who have become my extended family and community."

As a nurse practitioner at the UCLA Student Health Center, Evi is a clinician, health educator, outreach and operations coordinator, and supervisor. She's a regular at the gym, loves to read about the world, current events and other cultures, and enjoys spending time with her partner of 19 years, Debbie.

The song Evi most remembers learning from her mother is "One Little Candle Fire," a Chanukah song. To our audience, Evi says, "I love making music for you — I'm sure you can see it on my face! Your presence and support means a lot!"

### — Meet first alto EVI DESSER



### — Meet second alto CAROL SCHERFENBERG



When Carol attended VFLA's very first concert, she said, "I'm going to sing with them someday." When her third child became a senior in high school — "the year they don't need you anymore" — she made good on her pledge. Six years later, VFLA audiences enjoy seeing her smile shining from the second alto section.

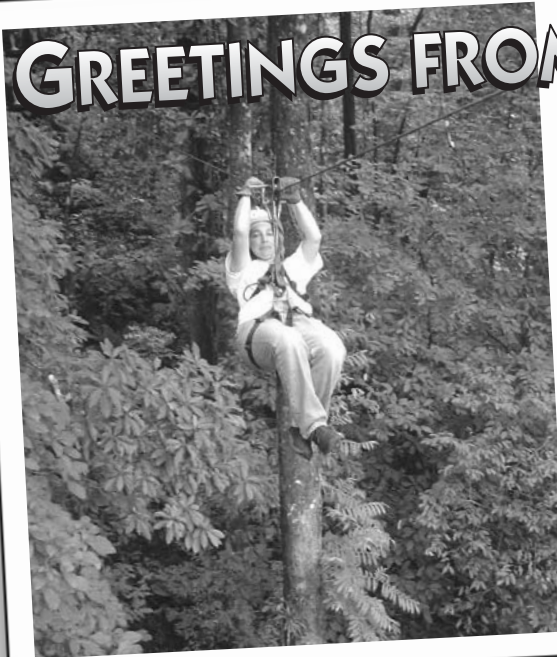
Throughout school, Carol played clarinet, oboe, tenor sax and flute and sang in choirs and choruses. But, when she entered medical school and later began her OB/GYN practice, she stopped all musical endeavors. Through VFLA, she rediscovered the joy music brings her and its balance against the stress of her work. "The chairman of my department at Kaiser told me

that joining Vox changed me. I was surprised others saw the difference I felt," said Carol.

VFLA highlights include "forgetting everything else when I'm singing, the camaraderie, and the road trips! The Las Vegas trip (to perform for ACDA Western Division) was a hoot!"

When not rehearsing or performing, Carol is very involved as a member of Metropolitan Community Church and with her three children, aged 28, 25 and 22, and "I'm in love with Bonnie, my partner of 21 years." Carol learned "You Are My Sunshine" when her mother sang it to her as a child — a tradition Carol continued with her own children.

## GREETINGS FROM COSTA RICA!!!



What an absolutely gorgeous country — rich in culture and in nature. I've learned about Latin rhythms and choral music from our host, El Café Chorale, had a FABULOUS two hour dance lesson in merengue, salsa and more, and went on a canopy tour in the rainforest - just incredible! That's me... on a cable, 100 feet off the ground going from one tree top to the next! That's it for now! Having a great time

See you soon!

Iris

### HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT VOX FEMINA LOS ANGELES?

Make a donation and become a member of OMNI VOCES, volunteer your time, or consider joining our board of directors!

Call 310.922.0025 or visit our website at [www.voxfeminala.org](http://www.voxfeminala.org) for more information!

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### Going, Going, Gone!

No, Vox is not going on tour — but we are holding an online auction, just in time for all your holiday shopping! You can help not only by shopping but also by donating an item or service. The generosity of your donation is tax-deductible and will help fund VFLA's 2005/2006 season. To discuss items for donation, please email [vfla@voxfeminala.org](mailto:vfla@voxfeminala.org) or call 310-922-0025 by November 6. For more information on shopping, watch for our email announcement. (Join our email list on our web site.) Thanks for all your help in making our online auction a successful and exciting event!



### Give Vox for the Holidays!

You can hire a select group of VFLA singers to call your nearest and dearest and sing them your holiday wishes! Last year's greetings were met with laughter, tears, thanks and gratitude. What could be a more beautiful way to celebrate the holiday season, tell others you care — and support your favorite chorus? For details, log on to [www.voxfeminala.org](http://www.voxfeminala.org) or call 310-922-0025.