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- ♪ Holiday Voices – December 12, 2009 at First Congregational Church, Pasadena
- ♪ Sister My Sister – March 20, 2010 at Zipper Concert Hall, The Colburn School
- ♪ Cool Blue: Songs for a Green Earth – June 26, 2010 at Zipper Concert Hall, The Colburn School

**Get a discount
and don't miss a note**

The official newsletter of Vox Femina Los Angeles is published three times yearly. Contributors: Donna Burroughs, Laurie Fox, Janet Joe, Cris Scaglione, Carol Scherfenberg. Vox Femina Los Angeles: 3341 Caroline Avenue, Culver City, CA 90232 Phone: 310-922-0025 Email: vfla@voxfeminala.org Website: www.voxfeminala.org

*What's sweeter than ribbon candy
and richer than Chanukah gelt?*

VOX FEMINA'S
HOLIDAY VOICES



Saturday
December 12, 2009
8 PM
First Congregational Church
of Pasadena
464 East Walnut Street
Pasadena, CA 91101
Free onsite parking!

Photo by KawaboriPhotography.com



A couple moves silently through the cold desert night to get to the city, their way lit only by the stars that fill the vast canopy of sky. They are poor, she's about to give birth and they have no place to stay.

What went through Mary's mind on the trip to Bethlehem? What did those who lived near the stable experience? And what about the proverbial "fly on the wall"?

These are just some of the themes explored in *Holiday Voices*, Vox's first ever holiday concert, which starts their 13th season on Saturday, December 12, at 8 p.m.

"In the first half of *Holiday Voices*," says Dr. Iris S. Levine, Artistic Director of Vox Femina Los Angeles, "we'll travel the road to Bethlehem

and we want the audience to share the journey with us. We'll explore the feelings of Mary and various members of the community through English and Spanish lullabies and carols. The music expresses the anticipation, wonder and joy of Jesus's birth, as well as hopes and prayers for the future."

In the second half of *Holiday Voices*, Vox moves to the more modern and varied celebrations of the season of peace, joy and renewal. The names of many selections are familiar – *The 12 Days of Christmas*, *S'vivon*, *Jingle Bells* – but don't expect the standard interpretation. Vox brings its own special twist to these and many other holiday favorites, including a vocal rendition of *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy*.

NEWS AND NOTES
from

VOX
femina
LOS ANGELES

FALL 2009

VOLUME #8 ISSUE #1

HOLIDAY TRAVEL WITH VOX

"In our 13th year, we're looking forward to sharing the holidays with the audience who's been with us on so many other journeys," says Iris, "and with those for whom this will be their first Vox experience."

It will be moving. It will be merry. It will be memorable. Don't miss a moment!

For more information about the concert repertoire, log on to www.voxfeminala.org/holidayvoices.htm

The Details

When: Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009, 8 p.m.

Where: First Congregational Church
464 E. Walnut Street
Pasadena, CA 91101

Tickets: Available online at www.voxfeminala.org
or by phone at 310-922-0025

Advance sale: \$30 premium seating
\$25 general admission

At the door: \$30 general admission

Students/seniors: \$20

For special group rates call 310-922-0025

GET YOUR HOLIDAY SEE'S!

Not only will you have a great time at *Holiday Voices* on December 12, you can also do some holiday shopping! Vox will have See's candy available for sale. You can get a special treat for those sweet people in your life.

PROFILES

GET TO KNOW MEMBERS OF THE VOX FEMINA LOS ANGELES FAMILY

In each issue, we introduce you to some of the faces you've seen smiling at you from the stage! 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

TONYA BENNETT



Photo: Russell Photography

We are pleased to welcome Tonya back this year. She is a second soprano who joined Vox ... “a bazillion years ago to be precise”, after seeing our opening concert with GMCLA. Unfortunately, she had to leave Vox when she returned to college and lived too far away to commute. She tried to return a couple of years ago. But when, after seeing Tonya's schedule, Iris asked, “Have you lost your mind?” Tonya reconsidered. Now, however, despite being in year two of a doctoral program, she has more control over her schedule and is happy to return to this group she loves – a “unique combination of passionate, dedicated, and musical women.”

Tonya has delighted audiences with her comedic and energetic performances, and

has sung as far back as she can remember – both in choirs and individually. She's done cabaret, musical theatre, and recordings for years, and after working with divas, drag queens, neuropsychologists, and Bill Rugh, she does not frighten easily.

In her spare time, she and her husband Jerry co-founded BMod Fitness Corp. based on their unique model of working with special needs children and adults in typical gymnastics gyms. She plans to continue this work in her doctoral research in neuropsychology. Tonya is also the grandmother of the two cutest little boys in the universe – noting (like grandmothers everywhere) that they are also smart, sweet, and precocious in every way.

Missy Nieto first joined Vox in 2006, but had to leave after only a couple of rehearsals. She is back with us this season, and though her life is not any more streamlined, she enjoys the singing too much to not “see this through.”

No one in her family knew she could sing until her 8th grade graduation ceremony where, to their astonishment and delight, she belted out “Somewhere Out There.” She continued singing in high school and college, earning B.A.'s in both American

History and Performing Arts. Recalling her enjoyment of her college women's choir, she was pleased to join Vox. She also sings with the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels Choir.

When not singing, she manages the LA office of a movie production company and plays softball in a league in Venice.

— Meet second alto —

MISSY NIETO



Photo: Donna Burroughs

Introducing Our New Singers

Here are the new faces you'll see singing to you this season. Please join us in welcoming them to the Vox family!



Photo: Carol Scherfenberg

L to R: Lydia Mulkey Soprano I, Julia Callander Soprano I, Marjorie Poe Alto II, Ivy Ellis Alto I, Jonnie Owens Alto I, Adrienne Hope Soprano II

Poetry in Motion

On June 23, thanks to a grant from the City of West Hollywood's Arts Commission, Vox introduced The Healy Madrigals, a new commission “in progress,” from composer Dr. Roger Bourland, professor of music at UCLA. The madrigals, based on the writings of Los Angeles poet Eloise Klein Healy, Ph.D., mesmerized the audience at Congregation Kol Ami. During the performance Dr. Healy read and discussed each poem. The chorus performed the corresponding madrigal and the composer offered his comments. Under the inspired conducting of Dr. Iris Levine, the chorus then reinterpreted some selections based on Dr. Bourland's comments. One audience member said, “It was amazing to watch music being created and seeing Vox Femina LA change a performance on the spot.”

You can experience the beauty of The Healy Madrigals at our Sister, My Sister concert on March 20, 2010.



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If you registered your Ralphs Club Card, indicating you want Vox to receive Ralphs Community Contributions each time you shop, we thank you! Ralphs sent a notice that everyone has to re-register their cards for organizations to continue receiving contributions. Please take a moment to re-register your Ralphs Club Card – or to register for the first time. In these tough times, every bit of income helps. Here's how:

- Go to www.ralphs.com and in the red bar at the top of the home page, scroll over “Services.”
- In the drop-down menu click “Community Contributions,” and follow the instructions.
- When asked for the organization, enter “Vox Femina LA (#NPO90199)”.

Thanks for your support!

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Going, Going... Green!

We want to save Mother Nature and our budget at the same time, so the February issue of the Vox newsletter will be the last one printed and mailed. But you can keep on top of all the news that's fit to print by subscribing to our email list. To sign up, simply go to our website at www.voxfeminala.org, and click on “Email list” in the left column. Or, sign up with the help of our volunteers at *Holiday Voices*, December 12. Get the latest and greatest news as well as many volunteer opportunities straight from our website. The earth thanks you and we thank you!

Give Vox for the Holidays!

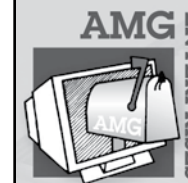
Surprise your family and friends with live singing telegrams from Vox for the holidays! Choose from Hanukkah, Christmas, and secular songs. Or give one or more Vox CD's as gifts. “Still I Rise” is a compilation of concert favorites and the award winning “Simply...Vox Femina LA” is a studio recording. See our store at www.voxfeminala.org to order.

What we did on our SUMMER VACATION



Photo: Maurine Dodge

On August 19, Vox Femina stepped onto the floor of the Staples Center and sang the National Anthem at the Sparks game. Participating in the Sparks “Awesome August” Inspiring Women night was, well, awesome! Singing at Staples was a thrilling experience and a dream come true. Not only did we get to rock the house, we got to meet the Ole Skool Crew dance team and enjoy an up close view of Halle Berry. Did we already say awesome? If you missed us on the Jumbotron head over to our website at www.voxfeminala.org and click on the video link. Feel free to sing along!



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