

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

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 866
LOS ANGELES, CA



Music for a While
The women of Vox Femina Los Angeles present music of joy, laughter, tears and reflection... featuring traditional, Broadway and contemporary works with special guests and surprises.

TICKETS
In advance \$20/\$15 (Seniors/students) • \$25 at the door
Internet Orders/Directions: www.voxfeminala.org
Phone Orders: 310-922-0025



Photo: Craig Schwartz



The official newsletter of Vox Femina Los Angeles is published three times yearly. Contributors: Jon Bailey, Suzy Brown, Donna Burroughs, Phil Hettrema. Vox Femina Los Angeles: 3341 Caroline Avenue, Culver City, CA 90232. Phone 310.922.0025. Email vfla@voxfeminala.org. Website www.voxfeminala.org

Spring 2006

VOLUME #4

ISSUE #2

Vox Femina!

Los Angeles

“NEWS AND NOTES” FROM VOX FEMINA LOS ANGELES

“Music for a While” Celebrates the Human Heart World Premier of New Composition by Jon Bailey

It can be simple to focus on the differences that divide us. It can be glorious to experience an event that reminds us of the similarities we all share. VFLA and Dr. Jon Bailey, guest conductor, invite you to join us in celebrating our shared human-ness in “Music for a While...” on Saturday, March 25, and Sunday, March 26.

“As with all art, I believe that a concert should leave people changed – audience, singers – and maybe even the conductor,” says Bailey with a smile. “Music can reach that place in each person’s heart that will move them to joy, to reflection, to laughter, to tears, to relationship.”

“Music for a While...” has been designed as a journey that we will all take together through the terrain of the human heart. Bailey says, “Although we will all hear the same music, we will each bring to it our individual experiences and beliefs. When the energy of the music, the singers, the musicians, the conductor and the audience combine, then something absolutely unpredictable and magical will happen.”

In addition to performing music by composers as diverse as Benjamin Britten, Joan Szymko, Stephen Sondheim, Gwyneth Walker and Bobby McFerrin, VFLA will premier a new composition by Jon Bailey. “I wanted to write a piece especially for Vox and I thought it could be based on women’s poetry. So, last June, five singers came to my house, we brainstormed about the kind of piece this could be, and we read lots of poetry. Then, Stephanie (founding member Stephanie Roth) read a poem by Eloise Klein Healey and we were all astounded by the music in the words.”



Meet Jon Bailey

Jon Bailey is a firm believer in the power of music. “From the time I was a small boy, making music was a special and secure place where I could be with my own thoughts, fears and feelings. No matter what else is going on in my life, music is always there, an amazing gift with the power to inspire and heal.”

Throughout his illustrious career, Jon has shared that gift with countless others. With an education in both music and theology, his approach to music always combines the physical and the spiritual. He’s taught at the most prestigious schools of music in the country, including Yale, Westminster Choir College, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and Pomona College, where he served as chair of the Music Department and still teaches today, and served as conductor and artistic director of the Gay Men’s Chorus of Los Angeles for fourteen years. As anyone who has sung in one of Jon’s choruses will attest, you learn about a lot more than music when Jon is on the podium.

In recent years, Jon has focused much of his time on composing new music. “My greatest joy and challenge in writing music is to find that place where the music and the text combine to express something greater, illuminating the spirit of both the singer and the audience. That’s the power and the gift of music.”

Undone Silence, based on Klein Healey’s poem “To Speak for Human Feelings,” is an exploration of the courage it takes to live fully as a human being. “We are particularly honored that Eloise will not only attend the concert but will also read several of her poems, including this one.”

Jon, Artistic Director Emeritus of the Gay Men’s Chorus of LA, said of working with VFLA, “I have been so looking forward to spending this much time with women! There’s a ‘women’s voice’ in music that comes from openness. It is a special gift that I am honored to share.”

You will have two opportunities to share “Music for a While...”

Saturday, March 25, 8 PM (pre-concert discussion with VFLA Artistic Director Dr. Iris S. Levine and Dr. Jon Bailey at 7:30 PM), at Zipper Concert Hall, Colburn School of Performing Arts, 200 S. Grand Avenue, in downtown LA, and

Sunday, March 26, 4 PM at Altadena Community Church, 943 Altadena Drive, Altadena, with a post-concert reception with Jon Bailey and the singers.

Tickets are \$20 in advance (\$15 for students and seniors) and \$25 at the door. Order online at www.voxfeminala.org or by phone at 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 GAIL SCHWARTZ



What would you do if you needed a break from five years of singing Bulgarian and Croatian choral music? Gail Schwartz answered VFLA's ad "without a clue what I was getting into. I decided to give it a try for one season...and the rest is history."

In addition to being a founding member of VFLA, Gail is proud to be a charter member of the Vox Femina Crone's Club, for the over-50 set. "Our motto is 'Crones Rule!' We wear purple at random and are Absolutely Fabulous!"

After nine years, Gail still calls Vox "my mainstay and my greatest joy, a source of fun and friendship, musical challenge, growth and rewarding performance opportunities." She also loves the "sisterhood and pride — and the jokes.

We do some serious laughing in this group."

Gail brings a diverse array of musical talents to Vox: her degrees in musical performance and ethnomusicology, with a specialty in music of the Middle East; a background of performing in musical theatre as well as choirs; and the ability to play the doumbec and a mean pair of finger cymbals, a carry-over from her days as a professional belly dancer (now retired).

In addition to running a grant writing consultancy and a pet sitting business, Gail's interests range from real estate investing to "chocolate, preferably dark." To our audience, she says, "I feel so fortunate to be part of a group that has such a warm, responsive and supportive audience. Thank you so much!!!"

When studying music at USC, Lindsey was introduced to VFLA by fellow student (and VFLA second alto) Carol Lisek. She came to one concert and was thrilled, auditioned last August and is now half way through her first season in VFLA.

Lindsey "began singing in choirs in 6th grade and began studying piano when I was thirteen. I have been hooked ever since!" No kidding! Lindsey has a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies from USC, where she studied voice and piano. She is a professional musician who performs "a variety of musical styles, including jazz, Brazilian, salsa, classical and pop." She is musical director and accompanist for San Dimas Community Church, and she teaches private piano and voice lessons.

For Lindsey, Vox has helped "bring more joy into performing music. Since joining Vox, I have

moved from a place of frustration with music to the love that I initially felt for music. For this I thank the members of Vox and the superb conductors that I have worked with so far."

In addition to the music, "I enjoy the sense of community I feel by being part of Vox. I have made many wonderful friends who are important to me." Outside of Vox, Lindsey enjoys writing, reading, skiing and "listening to live music, finding neat coffee houses and quiet places to relax."

Among her favorite CDs is Luciana Souza's album "Neruda," which is several of Neruda's poems set to music. Her favorite is "We Are Many," which is about "the ongoing struggle one goes through in discovering herself and the various versions of that self." VFLA feels lucky that Lindsey is sharing this version of herself with us.

— Meet first alto

LINDSEY HUNDLEY



— Meet first alto

MEGHANA BHATT



The time: three years ago. *The scene:* a party. *The conversation:* Meghana: I'll be moving to LA soon. Chance Acquaintance at Party: You should audition for VFLA. *The result:* She took the advice, and VFLA is happy that this is Meghana's third season as a first alto.

Even though she took piano lessons as a child, "I always preferred to sing. I was in a mixed chorus in college, and in the Lesbian and Gay Chorus of San Francisco when I lived there." Demonstrating her range — as well as her sense of humor — Meghana adds "I was in productions of 'Der Freischutz' and the Wagner/Hip-hop inspired 'King Kong the Musical: Part I Lohengrin' in college."

Meghana is a graduate student at Caltech who spends "most of my time doing research in economics and neuroscience, and worrying about politics." She credits Vox with playing "a major part in keeping me sane through graduate school." When asked what she likes best about Vox, Meghana says "The music is amazing, but my favorite thing still has to be the people I've met through this group."

In her spare time — do graduate students at Caltech have spare time? — Meghana likes to rove around finding good food in LA, dancing, and listening to new music.

GREETINGS FROM



No exotic travel this time. Instead, I've been spending lots of time reviewing new repertoire and planning our exciting 10th Anniversary! All I can say is... it's going to be fabulous! Looking forward to the upcoming concert under the direction of Jon Bailey - see you there!

Love,
Iris

Starr & Company
Certified Public Accountants
Mark B. Starr, C.P.A.

280 So. Beverly Drive
Suite 502
Beverly Hills, CA 90212-3908
TEL: (310) 858-7777
FAX: (310) 858-7809
E-MAIL: mstarrcpa@sbcglobal.net

Opportunities Abound!

Always wanted to be part of Vox? Can't sing? No problem!

You can be part of the VFLA family by volunteering. So, if you love Vox and want to be part of it, here are some possibilities to consider:

- join the super-duper mailing team — several times a year, this merry band gets together to apply labels and postage, stuff envelopes — and laugh a lot!
- help at concerts — you can usher, distribute tickets, help set up receptions, etc. — and get free admission to LA's premier women's chorus!
- be a fundraiser crew member — once a year, a large number of people gather to set up tables and food, help sell VFLA merchandise, greet guests, etc. — and get to attend VFLA's major fundraiser (typically \$100 a ticket) for free!

In addition, as a VFLA volunteer you'll meet interesting and fun people, be invited to a volunteer appreciation event where you'll socialize with the singers, and be thanked profusely and repeatedly by a very grateful organization.

As you can see, there's a lot to do and there are lots of benefits to helping get the job done. **It's easy to join the VFLA family — just call Maureen Peterson at 626-440-9959 or Janet Weber at 323-225-7469 and say "I want to volunteer!"**

Holiday Greetings A Great Success

For the second year in a row, many of you hired a select group of VFLA singers to deliver live holiday greetings to friends and family throughout the country. This year, the volume of orders necessitated two groups of singers calling from different locations on four separate dates.

A sampling of some responses: "This made my day!"—"Do you have his [or her] number? It's been a while and I'd love to get in touch."—"Can you come in for hot chocolate and cookies?" (VFLA singers are working on the art of bi-location so that next year maybe we can come in for treats!)

Thanks to everyone who supported us by sending VFLA holiday greetings to those you love. It gave us great joy to be able to deliver such a meaningful gift.



Vox Femina Los Angeles' 2005/2006 Concert Season is partially supported by a grant from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission

The upcoming concert is sponsored, in part, by the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department.



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 for more information!