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Coming in June...

VOX'S
first-ever
Online
Auction!

Bid on great items to support VFLA. Auction opens June 16; bidding ends on June 22, after the last performance of **All Aboard! Fiesta Bound!**

For more information, visit:
www.voxfeminala.org/auction.htm

Wish Vox Bon Voyage af...
All Aboard! Fiesta Bound!






Saturday
 June 21, 2008
 8 PM

Sunday
 June 22, 2008
 4PM

Photo by Kawabori Photography

The official newsletter of Vox Femina Los Angeles is published three times yearly. Contributors: Suzy Brown, Donna Burroughs, Laurie Fox, 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

NEWS AND NOTES
from



SUMMER 2008

VOLUME #6 ISSUE #3

Come Tour with Vox!
All Aboard! Fiesta Bound!
June 21-22, 2008

Reaching out...connecting...creating relationships. These words may describe your reaction to your favorite Vox Femina Los Angeles concerts. With *All Aboard! Fiesta Bound!* you'll experience them all over again.

"We are very excited to share this concert with our audiences," says Dr. Iris S. Levine, Vox Femina's Artistic Director. "It's our 'bon voyage' before we leave on our first-ever tour – as LA's cultural ambassadors to Mexico. The repertoire was chosen specifically to build bridges between our two cultures – to share the musical tradition of the United States and to honor the Mexican musical tradition."

On June 21 and 22, the journey begins as the women of Vox invite you to "Come Fly with Me." First stop, the U.S., where Vox shares its unique interpretation of familiar traditional songs. Selections range from Aaron Copland's "Ching-A-Ring-Chaw" and "I Bought Me a Cat" to the simply beautiful "Simple Gifts" and Gwyneth Walker's stirring arrangement of "How Can I Keep from Singing."

On tour, Vox will share the stage with Mexico's only women's chorus and with 32 girls from an orphanage. *All Aboard! Fiesta Bound!* honors our connection with them – as females, mothers and daughters - with works ranging from the tongue-twisting "A Girl's Garden," by Randall Thompson,

pieces by Ysaye Barnwell and a Stephen Sondheim medley, arranged by Iris.

We then bridge cultures of the United States and Mexico with several of the "Alarcón Madrigals," compositions by LA composer Roger Bourland set to the bilingual poetry of Mexican-American poet and educator Francisco X. Alarcón. Vox has a special relationship with these pieces, having commissioned and premiered two of the three books of these compositions.

We will end our travels together south of the border with a set of Spanish-language songs, combining Latin American rhythms with a diversity of themes. Our finale, "Las Amarillas," combines the words of a children's nonsense song with the complex and driving rhythms often heard in southern Mexico, showing Vox at its complex, dynamic best.

Bettie Teel, Co-Chair of the Vox Femina Board of Directors, says, "With this concert, Vox moves to a whole new level in its artistic interpretation – both of Vox signature pieces and those they're performing for the first time."



Photo by Kawabori Photography

Adds Gabi Yanuzzi, Co-Chair, "You won't want to miss this Vox love letter – to you and to the people of Mexico."

Tickets:
www.voxfeminala.org
 or 310-922-0025

- \$25 in advance / \$30 at the door
- Seniors/students \$20
- Special group rates available

Performances:
Saturday, June 21, 2008, 8 PM
 Zipper Concert Hall, The Colburn School
 200 S. Grand Ave.
 Los Angeles, CA 90012
Sunday, June 22, 2008, 4 PM
 Altadena Community Church
 943 E. Altadena Dr., Altadena, CA 91001

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

CAITLIN TABANCAY AUSTIN



What's a woman with a singing history dating from age 7, a Music History degree from UCLA and experience as a member of a Bulgarian Women's Choir to do when she's looking for "some quality choral sustenance" in LA? Join Vox Femina Los Angeles, of course! At least, that's what Caitlin Tabancay Austin did last fall.

Caitlin says, "I hold my musician father largely responsible for my early love of singing." Her musicality doesn't stop at singing however, but includes periodic attractions to "various instruments including violin, piano, Irish tin whistle, bandurria, guitar, and (currently) tenor saxophone."

"What I love most about Vox is the diversity of music and of people," says Caitlin. "I don't feel stuck in a bubble of 'Western Classical music' with 'Singers.' I get to experience a variety of styles and traditions with a bunch of awesome, musical women."

In addition to music, Caitlin is fascinated by language and ecology. During the day, Caitlin is a 5th grade TA and after-school chorus teacher at Kentner Canyon Elementary.

To our audience she says, "If you know anything about non-Western music, let's talk!"

When Starr Ahrens read Vox's mission statement on the Internet in 2007, she thought, "it could be a good fit." Having never heard Vox, "I had no idea what I was getting into. Now, I'm going to Mexico! My other chance was to go to Tijuana with Ed at 2 AM."

If that made you laugh, you're not alone. Starr performs improv and sketch comedy at various venues around LA. Those who came to Vox's production of *The Vagina Monologues* experienced her sense of humor and acting ability first hand.

Starr also brings to Vox a lifetime of singing experience in church, school and beyond. She likens being in Vox to "a world

music appreciation/sight reading/music terminology/ linguistics/vocal performance/ gender studies class."

For Starr, Vox is an antidote to the male dominated world of stand-up comedy.

"It's also great that the women do so many different things. Not everyone is an actor – it's like real life."

Starr's "day jobs" are working on the California Teachers Mammogram Study at USC, pet-sitting and hiking with dogs. She also hikes, writes and worries about the environment.

To our audience, she says "I am trying to exercise more and eat better."

— Meet first alto

STARR AHRENS



— Meet Stage Manager

CHERRYL WEAVER



Laurie Fox (Alto II) introduced Cheryl Weaver to Vox when they sang together in a church choir. Four years ago, Cheryl enthusiastically accepted when Vox Co-chair Bettie Teel asked her to be Vox's stage manager. Now, at every performance, the singers are treated to Cheryl's voice singing out "Bathroom call!" and "Ten minutes to curtain!"

Of her role with Vox Cheryl says, "My greatest joy is to have singers and Iris ask me to handle something and then watch them relax and forget about it." She adds, "I have to say that the hugs and kisses from the singers make my week."

Cheryl adds that concert night is "one of the few times in my life I get to slow down and take in music that transcends me to a different realm from my everyday life."

"Everyday life" includes a career as a Real Estate Consultant with RE/MAX. Her background in financial planning and entertainment industry sales enables her to help clients evaluate all aspects of the sales transaction.

Cheryl says, "Working with Vox has been a time of pure pleasure for me." We say, "The feeling is mutual, Cheryl!"

V-Day Success Gets Vox Closer to Mexico

by Lauren Schellenbach

Allison Crow, Vox singer Board representative, saw a room full of shocked faces when, at a Tuesday night rehearsal she announced, "The good news is, we were granted the honor of putting on a fundraiser production of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*." She added, "The bad news is, we have 3 weeks to do it."

This didn't stop the Voxies! They knew this was the perfect vehicle to help them raise much needed money for their upcoming tour to Mexico. The next week, 5 singers and director Jeni Rodrigues met to put a plan in action. With 2 auditions and 3 rehearsals, Vox's distinctive take on the award winning show became a reality.

"Directing this show has been a dream of mine for quite some time," says Jeni. Her unique vision was to showcase Vox by having the cast sing as well as act. This infusion of music added to the performance's powerful message. Jeni assembled a cast made up of Vox singers, alumni and friends and there were many spectacular performances.

The people came out in droves, quickly selling out the charming MACHA Theatre. During intermission Vox held a silent auction where audience members bid on everything from restaurant dinners to a week's vacation on Cape Cod. And if that wasn't enough, you could buy a limited edition Vox-V-Day t-shirt and chocolate candy vaginas!

The result? The V-Day cast got a standing ovation, met the event's fundraising goals and continued to fulfill Vox's mission of building bridges through music.

For more information:

- on V-Day: www.vday.org

- on Vox's Mexico Tour: www.voxfeminala.org/tour08.htm

June 26-July 3: Vox on Tour!

On June 26, just 4 days after *All Aboard! Fiesta Bound!*, Iris Levine, 29 singers, pianist Janet Noll, and our "crew" of Board members and partners, will depart LAX for Mexico City – the starting point for Vox's first-ever tour. We'll be taking you with us in our hearts as we journey through a small part of this fascinating country.

6/26-28: After touring some of Mexico City's historic treasures, we will join with Coro Karites, a chorus of six women led by Gabriela Franco – and Mexico's only all women's chorus – on Saturday evening for a joint concert in the Palacio de Arzobispado. This former palace of the archbishop, dating from the 16th century, also houses the Museo Antiguo.

6/29: A short drive will take us to Tepotzotlán, where we will sing a Sunday afternoon concert in the magnificent "ultrabaroque" Iglesia San Francisco. Vox had to apply for permission from Mexico's federal government to perform in this historic landmark, which has one of the finest façades and richest church interiors in Mexico. The church also houses the National Museum of Colonial Arts and Handicrafts.

6/29-7/1: We will proceed by coach to San Miguel de Allende, a city of artists that was declared a national monument in 1925. In this picturesque town, we will spend Monday afternoon in a workshop/rehearsal with the 32 girls of Casa Hogar Santa Julia, an orphanage and school. On Monday night, we will present a joint concert at the Teatro Angela Peralta, named for Mexican opera singer Angela Peralta (1825-82).

7/1-3: Our final stop will be Guadalajara. Although scheduled concerts will be completed, there's little doubt that Voxies will break into song on the bus and at the slightest provocation along the sightseeing route. We'll be home by evening July 3, enriched by our experiences and new musical friends and ready to celebrate our country's Independence Day.

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Thanks for your support!

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