

Vox Femina Los Angeles

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you will receive by USPS!

June 26, 2010 concert :
Cool Blue: Songs for a Green Earth

Vox Femina presents **Sister, My Sister**



Saturday
March 20, 2010
8 p.m.

Zipper Concert Hall, The Colburn School
200 S. Grand Ave., LA, CA

Photo by KawaboriPhotography.com

The official newsletter of Vox Femina Los Angeles is published three times yearly. Contributors: Donna Burroughs, Frances Chee, Ivy Ellis, Laurie Fox, Janet Joe, Cris Scaglione, Lauren Schellenbach, 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



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WINTER 2010

VOLUME #8 ISSUE #2

Sister, My Sister

Vox Celebrates Women's Communities

Throughout the centuries, even as they were told that they and their contributions were less than those of men, women have come together to form supportive and caring communities that make a difference in the world. In *Sister, My Sister*, our second concert of the 2009-2010 season, Vox will celebrate this age-old phenomenon. The concert will be on Saturday, March 20, 8:00 p.m. at Zipper Concert Hall at The Colburn School.

"Although women's communities have existed throughout the centuries," says Dr. Iris S. Levine, Vox's Artistic Director, "they typically are not recognized by those in power. But they are vitally important for their members – these communities offer support, help and care, as well as opportunities for play, activism and making an impact on others. Vox is a natural outgrowth of this tradition, and we want to celebrate it."

As you might expect from Vox, the concert's repertoire is wide-ranging – with everything from chants by Hildegard von Bingen, parlor songs from Clara Schumann and Faustina Hasse Hodges, a vocal setting of Beethoven's *Minuet in G* sung

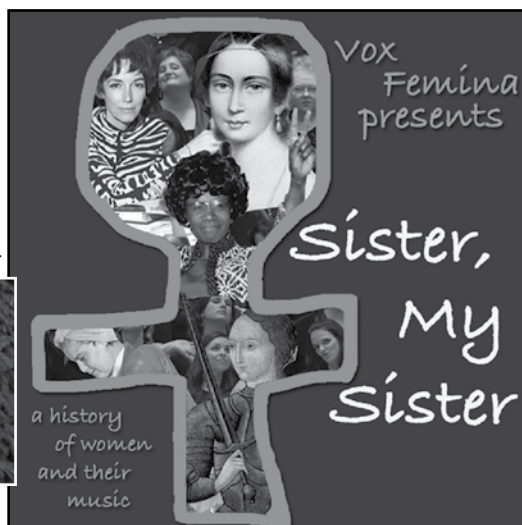
by women prisoners in Sumatran internment camps during World War II, to more modern selections such as *Lollipop*, *Mister Sandman*, Cris Williamson's *Sister* and a Vox favorite, *Still I Rise*. For more about the repertoire, visit www.voxfeminala.org.

"We'll also premier *Healy Madrigals* in this concert," adds Iris, "a new commission composed by Roger Bourland, based on the work of L.A. poet Eloise Klein Healy. After presenting this in June 2009 as a work in progress, it will be exciting to perform the finished piece." See an interview with Roger Bourland and Eloise Klein Healy at www.voxfeminala.org.

This musical journey through time, as seen and experienced by women who were there – and still are – will be a powerful event. We hope you will join us for this moving, fun, and inspiring evening.



Eloise Klein Healy



VOX
Femina
presents

**Sister,
My
Sister**

a history
of women
and their
music

Photo: Lauren Schellenbach

The Details

When: Saturday, March 20, 2010, 8 p.m.
Where: Zipper Concert Hall, The Colburn School
200 S. Grand Ave., LA, CA 90012
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



This concert is made possible in part by a grant from the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs.

Christmas Caroling with Tim Robbins

On December 18th, 2009, Vox Femina participated in the last night of the WTF?! Festival, produced by Tim Robbins and The Actors Gang Theatre Company. This month-long festival was created to raise money to keep the theatre alive.

We took to the stage that night in the 99-seat Ivy Substation Theatre and performed a set of our Holiday Concert repertoire. Then, like a combination drum major/pied piper, Tim Robbins lead about 100 people into the streets of Culver City to spread joy. Tim would yell the song title, Iris would give us a pitch and we would do our best to stay together.

There was chaos and a lot of laughing. We finished up in downtown Culver City. As we walked back to the theatre, most of the carolers went rogue, abandoning their song sheets. We moved on to *Jingle Bell Rock*, Handel's *Messiah* and, no joke, I heard some AC/DC. When most of the carolers and Vox were long gone, Tim was still in the lobby passing out cookies and cider and leading the the few remaining guests in more songs. It was a truly organic holiday moment, of which we see very few living in LA.



Iris Levine & Tim Robbins.

Photo: Frances Chee

Christmas Eve at the Dorothy Chandler

It was Christmas Eve and Vox Femina was performing in the LA County Holiday Celebration. All morning, facebook had been on fire. My loyal friends and new Vox fans were setting their DVR's or cuing up their browsers, so at 4:40pm they could watch their favorite women of song.

I arrived early - so far, so good. As we gathered and were whisked away to a series of holding rooms, all I could think of was the list of things I was not supposed to do. DON'T look at the camera. DON'T be boring. DON'T be too exciting. DON'T fidget. DON'T forget anything. Ah! My first few months with Vox were amazing - very challenging and very humbling. I did not want to screw up.

We walked on stage and the announcer shouted "Vox Femina Los Angeles." I focused on Iris and forgot why I was nervous. Our second song, *Go Where I Send Thee* had some fancy clapping at the end. After months of rehearsal, I finally had it down. But, as it happened, on stage, on live TV, I could barely remember what was coming. Go! Clap Go! Clap Go! Clap I DID IT! I was having an internal victory parade. Unfortunately my parade lasted long enough that I forgot the last clap of the song. Luckily, the women of Vox had my back. We looked great and sounded great and when I returned all of my 15 missed calls, not one of them mentioned my missing clap.

Ivy Ellis, Alto 1

We're Getting Greener

No we're not green with envy, we're doing what we can to save Mother Nature. In conjunction with our June environmentally themed concert *Cool Blue: Songs for a Green Earth* we will cease printing and mailing our newsletter. So this Issue #2, Volume 8 of the Vox newsletter is the last one you will receive by snail mail. We're going digital starting with Issue #3 in May 2010. But never fear - you can keep on top of all the Vox news that's fit to "print" by subscribing to our email list. To sign up for our future newsletters which will hit your inbox three times a year, simply go to our website at voxfemina.org, and click on "Email list" in the left column. Or sign up with the help of our volunteers at our upcoming *Sister, My Sister* concert. Get the latest and greatest news, as well as many volunteer opportunities straight from our website. The earth thanks you and we thank you!

FUNdraising Frolics

We've been busy, busy, busy, all for the love of Vox.

WE SANG - 151 Holiday Grams and raised \$2,265

WE SOLD - See's Candy and raised \$2,500

WE SUCCEEDED - in reaching our \$5,000 matching grant challenge.

BUT we couldn't have done it without YOU and our hearts are filled with gratitude. As a not-for-profit organization, Vox Femina relies heavily on individual contributions from our generous supporters, friends and fans. Donating to Vox helps us pay for new commissions, development and operating expenses. So, keep on keeping on. Bring another friend to our concerts or purchase some CD's from our website. You'll be supporting music and Vox Femina's dedication to giving women voice through song. Talk about a win-win situation!

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PROFILES

GET TO KNOW MEMBERS OF THE VOX FEMINA LOS ANGELES FAMILY

We've asked three of our singers who joined us in the 2009-10 season to each introduce themselves to you...

— Meet First Alto JONNIE DARSHAN-OWENS



I saw Vox Femina perform many years ago and Iris Levine kept inviting me to performances. I've been interested in singing with Vox for years, however time and distance prevented me from auditioning. I finally decided that those barriers could shrink with a little determination.

I have sung most of my life, first singing publicly at about age 8 or 9 in a duet at a Mother's Day tea at church. I took piano and flute lessons, and my family spent their evenings singing around the piano as my mother played. Just to keep my vocal chords warm, I have sung in numerous choruses all through my schooling, in addition to singing in a band, a women's trio,

and doing some solo work on occasion. I have also sung in church choirs and served as a minister of music.

I love having an outlet for my singing. I think and relate in terms of music so learning songs and rehearsing on a weekly basis adds to the richness of my life. I float home after rehearsals! The women of Vox are great. They all share a love of music and singing and there is such a feeling of community to enjoy. Perhaps the memorization will also help keep my synapses firing efficiently!

I work in community outreach at a state university and oversee a program that connects literacy and the arts. I have a wonderful partner of almost eighteen years, five wonderful grandsons and two sassy dogs. I enjoy snorkeling, kayaking, and walking for health and pleasure.

— Meet first soprano JULIA CALLANDER

I had some help finding Vox Femina. A friend of mine who's also a queer musician located Vox on the Internet and forwarded the website to me, saying, "I'm going to audition for this group; you should too!" My friend ended up being too busy to audition, but here I am.

I am a Ph.D. student in English literature at UCLA, specializing in 18th-century literature, with a particular focus on gender issues. I also teach undergraduate literature and composition. As an undergrad, I majored in

music, specializing in voice, and studied piano, voice, and flute for many years prior.

What does being in Vox mean to me? Besides karaoke, Vox is currently my principal musical outlet. It's a great reminder to myself of this huge part of me. As a sister Voxie said earlier this year, it's also a reminder to "just breathe!"



— Meet second alto MARJORIE POE



When I first heard Vox Femina, they were performing at the American Choral Directors Association convention in Los Angeles in 2004. It was very moving, not only the gorgeous singing but the joyous spirit behind the performance. I've made my living as a pianist/musical director/teacher but vowed that

if my schedule could ever allow it, I'd want to be a part of a group like Vox. Creating music in this community of women has enhanced my life. Iris inspires and Lisa astonishes us. In a word, it's just the best.

Photo: Frances Chee

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