



Women of Note

**I DREAM
A WORLD
OF LOVE**

3:00 PM

MAY 7, 2023

The United Church in Meadowood

www.womenofnote.ca

Women of Note

I DREAM A WORLD OF LOVE

*A reflection on the trials and tribulations of planet Earth
and her peoples in a spirit of hope and love.*

Founder/Artistic Director: Patricia Rabson
Accompanists: Kimberly Lapatha & Megan Dufurat

Choir Manager: Diane Cullen

Instruments:

Alexis Silver - percussion

Gabriella Costa de Oliveira - cello

Ruth Denton - oboe

WoN Massed Choir

I Dream a World.....Andre J. Thomas

The American Black Poet, Langston Hughes penned these words in the early 20th Century. Today, in a world still filled with angst, both manmade and natural, they continue to fill us with hope that someday, we will live in...

*“a world where man no other man will scorn,
And peace its paths adorn.
Where all will know sweet freedom’s way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul.
Where black or white, whatever race you be,
Will share the boundaries of earth.
And everyone is free.”*



Malala.....Joan Szymko

"Malala Yousafi was already known as an advocate for girls' education in her native Pakistan when she survived 3 gunshot wounds to the head at the hands of the Taliban in 2012. After the attack, young people around the world stood up in solidarity saying, "I am Malala." Since her miraculous recovery, she has become a global advocate for children's education and the youngest person ever to receive a Noble Peace Prize nomination."

Iraqi Peace Song.....arr. Lori Tennenhouse
(soloist: Jodi Robillard)

"Iraqi Peace Song is one of many songs recorded by Erik Hillstad, entitled Lullabies from the Axis of Evil, that contains 14 lullabies from Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Palestine, Syria, Afghanistan and Cuba. Each lullaby is presented in its original form sung by women from these countries, and then repeated in a western version with interpretations in English sung within a musical landscape. According to Hillstad: "Lullabies lead us to the deepest and most fundamental way of communication between human beings. It is where all sharing of ideas and feelings starts – between mother and child, between father and child. It is a universal culture."

WoN Chorale

Beneath the African Sky.....Caldwell & Ivory

"This piece was written to call awareness to episodes of genocide, particularly as they have impacted the lives of children. It tells the tale of 6-year-old Clementine, living an idyllic life with her parents in Kigali, Rwanda, when war broke out between the war lords of 2 ethnic groups. Her parents sent her and her older sister to their grandparents in the country for safety. But no place was safe. When the militia found them, the girls escaped by crawling through a bedroom window and fleeing through a corn field. Alone, they wandered and foraged. Eventually, they were swept into a sea of refugees and spent the next 6 years moving from one camp to another, spanning 7 African countries. At 14, Clementine immigrated to the United States with the assistance of the International Organization for Migration. Beneath the African Sky is actually more influenced by Clementine's experience living in refugee camps than by the Rwanda genocide. She recalls this as the most horrific of her experiences, even worse than the genocide itself."



WoN Chamber Singers

Refugee.....Moira Smiley

(soloist: Jodi Robillard)

“We are all much closer to being refugees than we want to imagine.”

“REFUGEE is about feeling bereft and misunderstood and inviting empathy. My world was blown open in summer 2016 while volunteering at Calais Jungle refugee camp in France. I woke to culture and language completely beyond my understanding, and the simple power of humans making beauty together – from nothing. It’s an honour to be with people when they have a life-or-death need for ‘perspective’ – that perspective mostly gotten through tenacity, openness, and wit. Through these people who had become refugees, I understood how deeply connected we billions of humans are, and how little we may know of one another.”
(a note from composer, Moira Smiley)

WoN Chorale

Be the Change.....Jacob Narverud

“Be the Change, with influences from world music and an upbeat rhythmic style is a socially responsive text of empowerment and peace.”

The Beat of a Different Drum.....Sarah Quartel

“This original composition by Canadian composer, Sarah Quartel, sets the composer's own text celebrating freedom of expression and the music within each of us.”

WoN Massed Choir

Watane.....Mark Sirett

“Watane is a soundscape constructed from fragments of an Iroquois lullaby combined with original material inspired by Iroquois chant. With its improvised birdcalls and the sounds of rustling leaves and rain, it is evocative of the eastern woodlands of Canada in summer.”



WoN Chamber Singers

Eagle Rounding Out the Morning.....Joan Szymko

Many Indigenous cultures believe the eagle is sacred because it flies closest to the Creator. It symbolizes respect, honour, strength, courage, and wisdom.

“In her poem, Joy Harjo, a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation – Oklahoma, the “eagle” is used as a symbol of joy. Its “circle of motion” is symbolized as the cycle of life. According to Harjo, one should enjoy their life like an eagle enjoying its circular flight in the rich, blue sky. Like an eagle keeps making arcs in the sky, the cycle of life will be in motion forever.”

Wind Song.....Richard Kidd

The text of Wind Song is a soundscape of different types and characters of winds found all over the globe: Aura (Greece), the faintest breath of air at sunrise; Cacimbo (Angola), a cold wind from the southwest; Vento Coado (Portugal), a gentle breeze; Pampero (Argentina), a fierce squall; Minuano (Brazil), a chilly wind; Sz (China), an autumn breath of air; Dzahni (North Africa), a warm southerly wind; Zephiro (Italy), a moderate warm breeze; Mbatis (Greece), a light evening breeze; Kokaze (Japan), a light breeze; Soyo Kaze (Japan), a very soft wind.

WoN Massed Choir

Lunar Lullaby.....Jacob Narverud

*The moon settles in the dusky sky,
You are not from the ground on which you tread, but of the stars!
You are my radiant, my celestial child.
As night is drowned by morning
You remain at my side, accompanying the sunrise.
Until night swells again across the sky!
Then, dreaming, you return to the stars.*



Moon Goddess.....Jocelyn Hagen

“Enheduanna, was the entu (high) priestess of the moon god Nanna (Sīn) in the Sumerian city-state of Ur in the reign of her father, Sargon of Akkad, the first King of the of the world’s first empire (ca. 2300 BC) . She was the first writer in history, male or female, whose name and work have been preserved. In her poems to the Sumerian goddess of love, Inanna, she speaks to a deity who has transcended to earth as an ally, as a friend to help her in her need. In the poems’ sensuality, surprising metaphors, and intimacy, they recall Sappho’s poem to her ally Aphrodite.”

WoN Chorale

Bright Morning Stars.....arr. Shawn Kirchner

"Bright Morning Stars" is a traditional Appalachian spiritual.”

Bright morning stars are rising, Day is a-breaking in my soul.

Oh where are our dear fathers?

They are down in the valley praying. Day is a-breaking in my soul.

Oh where are our dear mothers?

They have gone to heaven shouting; Day is a-breaking in my soul.

Bright morning stars are rising, Day is a-breaking in my soul.

WoN Chamber Singers

Unity.....Lisa Young

(soloist: Jodi Robillard)

A Twitter post by composer, Lisa Young

“Today I documented unity, empathy, and compassion for injustice against black people. What a powerful moment to be part of. I will never stop fighting for my brothers and sisters of color. I see you. I hear you. I will fight for you. I will forever stand by you.”

#blacklivesmatter @ United States”



WoN Massed Choir

Myr, Zaraz & We Are All Bound Up Together.....Joan Szymko

“American composer, Joan Szymko, composed Myr, Zaraz contemporaneously at the March 2022 outbreak of the war in Ukraine. The composer's heartfelt response is intended as a living, breathing vessel to hold collective grief and to feel in solidarity with brothers and sisters in Ukraine. It is dedicated to all those suffering anywhere in the world where violence dominates human discourse.” In performance with her own choir, Joan has coupled Myr, Zaraz with another of her compositions, We Are All Bound Together.... In one great bundle of humanity! She has graciously given us permission to perform these two pieces in a similar fashion.

I Love You/What a Wonderful World.....Craig Hella Johnson
(soloist: Elena Mallin)

“Known for his unique pairing of songs, Craig Hella Johnson has creatively combined the early contemporary Christian song by Larry Norman and Randy Stonehill with the popular favourite from the '60s made famous by Louis Armstrong.”

(Program notes have been copied from scores, composer notes and the website.)

Members of the Choir

WoN Chorale: Mélanie Boudreault, Amanda Burke, Anne Burns, Diane Clare, Marilyn Cozzuol, Doreen Craddock, * Linda Dooley, Margaret Hughes, Liz Kircher, Christina Lazar, Agnes Leung, Pat Malanchuk, Alison Mayes, Jennifer McSweeney, Christine Milberg, Kim Misko, Azuma Nkemjika, Diane Ramsey, Sheila Ray, *Shirley Render, Terry Seccombe, Bev Snell, Heather Stanus, Laura Tomilin, Allie Turnock, Suzanne Ullyot, Pat Walker, *Trish Wood, Misuk Yun

WoN Chamber Singers: Coleen Anderson, Natalie Chartier, Isabel Cheer, Diane Cullen, Jennifer Dumore, Lori Flood, Janine Guinn, Lindsay Hoffman, Meghan Jensen, Elena Mallin, Mary Melnychuk, Stacey Parlee, Christine Polimeni, Jodi Robillard, Anna Schaefer, Tracey Silagy, Dorothy Stephens, Laura Stephens, Karen Stuart, Teresa Sztaba, Diane Wreford

**Members of the choir not participating in this concert.*





ABOUT THE CHOIR

Women of Note is an auditioned community choir for women who aspire to musical excellence and are inspired to sing to their greatest potential. The choir provides an opportunity for women to come together to make beautiful music, develop musicianship and vocal/choral excellence in a high-calibre performance choir and foster friendship among choristers.

All members share a passion for creating beautiful music together with other women in a spirit of sisterhood and camaraderie. The choir includes three performance groups to facilitate the individual needs of choristers including WoN Chamber Singers, WoN Chorale and WoN Massed Choir (the combined Chorale/Chamber Singers).

Women of Note thanks all of its donors. Your generous support allows us to continue to
“**Make a Joyful Noise!**”
and to bring beautiful music to our audiences.

To become a donor go to the Women of Note website,
www.womenofnote.ca.

