

# Women's Voices CHORUS

Laura Sam, Artistic Director

[womensvoiceschorus.org](http://womensvoiceschorus.org)



# Nature of the Heart

Sunday, May 23, 2021, 7:00 p. m.



This program is supported by the North Carolina Arts Council,  
a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.



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# Women's Voices CHORUS

Presents

## *Nature of the Heart*

Sunday, May 23, 2021, 7:00 p. m.

### ***Program Notes***

Featuring the music and poetry of women, *Nature of the Heart* vividly expresses emotions of love, hope, longing, and loss. Themes of remembering and renewal are revealed through melody, harmony, and verse as the imagery of earth's beauty illustrates the cyclical nature of life.

Our virtual spring season has been filled with music-making, despite the ongoing pandemic. Monday night rehearsals have continued via Zoom, with memorable and meaningful moments bringing joy during challenging times. Singers have continued to individually record their respective parts so that the Women's Voices Chorus could sing together and share our music with others.

A highlight of our season was the presentation of our commissioned piece, "What the Heart Cannot Forget," honoring one of our founding members, Elisabeth Curtis. Composer Grace Brigham was chosen to set music to Joyce Sutphen's poetry. Both composer and poet joined us from their homes in Washington D.C. and Minnesota for this wonderful evening celebrating song and spirit. In commissioning this work, Women's Voices Chorus continues our mission to promote choral works written by and for women.

As we look forward to a future of singing in person once again, it is with gratitude that we reflect on this past year, appreciating the unique experiences that have sustained and nourished us as a chorus. Although we have deeply missed our traditional ways of rehearsing and performing, our dedication and commitment to music and to each other remain strong.

*Laura Sam*

## ***Program***

### **I Started Out Singing**

Jocelyn Hagen (b. 1980)

Text by Naomi Shihab Nye (b. 1952)

*Narration: Betty Schumacher, Kimberly Slentz-Kesler*

I started out singing oh yes oh yes  
in a voice as clear as a penny and a dime  
in time in time I came to be  
as tall as a riddle as full as a shadow  
as far as the wind that blows itself alone to the sea  
I started out smiling oh yes oh yes  
with my face tipped up to the moon's soft stare  
a halo of giggles tied in my hair  
with a sleep as deep as desert sand  
my dreams were the stories that crossed the land

### **My River Runs to Thee**

Jayne Borrás (b. 1986)

Text by Emily Dickinson (1830–1886)

*Narration: Sue Gidwitz, Hannah Andrews*

My river runs to thee:  
Blue sea, wilt welcome me?  
My river waits reply.  
Oh sea, look graciously!  
I'll fetch thee brooks  
From spotted nooks  
Say, sea, Take me!

### **O ignee Spiritus**

Carlotta Ferrari (b. 1975)

Text by Hildegard von Bingen (1098–1179)

*Narration: Katie Shrieves, Diane Wold*

O ignee Spiritus, laus tibi sit,  
qui in timpanis et citharis operaris.  
Mentes hominum de te flagrant  
et tabernacula animarum eorum  
vires ipsarum continent.

*O fiery Spirit, praise to you,  
who on the timbrel and lyre work and play.  
By you the human mind is set ablaze,  
the tabernacle of its soul  
contains its strength.*

## Some Glad Morning

Carolyn Jennings (b. 1936)  
Text by Joyce Sutphen (b. 1949)

*Narration: Marsha Ferguson, Brenda Edwards*

One day, something very old happened again.

The green came back to the branches,  
settling like leafy birds on the highest twigs;  
the ground broke open as dark as coffee beans.

The clouds took up their positions in the deep stadium of the sky,  
gloving the bright orb of the sun before they pitched it over the horizon.

It was as good as ever: the air was filled with the scent of lilacs  
and cherry blossoms sounded their long whistle down the track.  
It was some glad morning.

## What the Heart Cannot Forget

Grace Brigham (b. 1998)  
Text by Joyce Sutphen (b. 1949)

***Commissioned by WVC in honor of Elisabeth Curtis***

*Introduction and Narration: Janet Huebner, Meg Berreth, Elisabeth Curtis*

*Soloists: Janet Huebner, Kate Berreth; Cello: Debbie Davis; Violin: Grace Brigham*

Everything remembers something. The rock, its fiery bed,  
cooling and fissuring into cracked pieces, the rub  
of watery fingers along its edge.

The cloud remembers being elephant, camel, giraffe,  
remembers being a veil over the face of the sun,  
gathering itself together for the fall.

The turtle remembers the sea, sliding over and under  
its belly, remembers legs like wings, escaping down  
the sand under the beaks of savage birds.

The tree remembers the story of each ring, the years  
of drought, the floods, the way things came  
walking slowly towards it long ago.

And the skin remembers its scars, and the bone aches  
where it was broken. The feet remember the dance,  
and the arms remember lifting up the child.

The heart remembers everything it loved and gave away,  
everything it lost and found again, and everyone  
it loved, the heart cannot forget.

## ***About Women's Voices Chorus***

Women's Voices Chorus has evolved into the premier Triangle chorus for sopranos and altos. While performing a wide and diverse repertoire, we remain steadfast in support of our threefold mission: to provide a welcoming place in the Triangle for women to share the joy of singing together, to promote choral works written by and for women, and to strive to achieve the highest standards of musical excellence. We rehearse from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Mondays from late August through late April, and give concerts in January and April or May. We invite sopranos and altos who are interested to consider auditioning in August 2021. Information will be posted on the 'Sing' page of our website.



**Artistic Director Laura Sam** began her tenure with the chorus in summer 2019. A North Carolina native, she has been a choral conductor and music educator for the past 35 years, directing choruses at Meredith College, North Carolina State University, Cary Academy, North Carolina Governor's School East, and Walter M. Williams High School. Laura received a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where she studied conducting, voice, and choral methods. When not immersed in choral music, she serves as the director of the North Carolina Governor's School East, leading a summer residential program for intellectually gifted high school students.



**Pianist Deborah Lee Hollis** is highly respected for her sensitivity and skill as a collaborative partner. In addition to working with many prominent music organizations in the Triangle area, Deb has conducted masterclasses with pianists and vocalists at Shenandoah, Furman, and Longwood Universities, served on faculty at Wheaton and Guilford Colleges and UNC-Greensboro, and as collaborative pianist/coach at Duke University and UNC-Chapel Hill. Hollis holds piano performance degrees from Oberlin Conservatory and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and received her Doctor of Musical Arts in Collaborative Piano from UNC-Greensboro. Deb is an active recitalist and maintains a private piano studio.

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# **Women's Voices Chorus**

## **2021 Virtual Season Members and Guests**

**Artistic Director:** Laura Sam

**Pianist:** Deborah Hollis

**Director's Assistant:** Laura Delauney

### Soprano 1

Kate Berreth	Kathleen Jasinkas	Katherine Lainhart	Rachel Spencer
Laura Delauney ☞	Brystana Kaufman	Kimberly McCorkle	Shelley Turkington
Deb Gauldin	Lauren Keller	Franziska Rokoske	Barrie Wallace
Claire Hermann	Britt Kelly	Katie Shrieves	Carli Webb
Wendy Hua ★	Kim Kingsley	Trisha Rae Socias	

### Soprano 2

Hannah Andrews	Marsha Ferguson	Anne J. Menkens	Julia Rogers
Jenn Collins	Amy Glass	Ayumi Nakamae	Amie Tedeschi
Patty Daniel	Shelley Hedtke	Shipra Patel	Darcy Wold
Brenda Dunn	Virginia Byers Kraus ☞	Lou Ann Phelps ★	Diane Wold
Brenda Edwards	Allison Mangin		

### Alto 1

Rah Bickley ★	Leah Fell	Mary Hoover	Susan Regier
Laura Cartier ☞	Jan French	Kay Johnson	Pauline Robinson
Randi Chalfant	Martha Gettys	Diane Kirkman	Clare Strayhorn
Jeanne Condren	Susan Gidwitz	Jacqueline Little	Jasmine Trinks
Cheryl Denardo	Ann Harrison	Lara Olson	Jen Weld
Nancy Donny			

### Alto 2

Meg Berreth	Elisabeth Curtis	Melissa Nolan	Sharon Smith ★
Susan E. Brown	Melaina Dyck	Tina Sanderford	Barbara Tremblay
Karla Byrnes	Joan Marie Holland	Betty Schumacher	Jaclyn Walters
Diana Coble	Patti Holland	Doris Sigl	Leslie Wicker
Marty Crank	Janet Huebner ☞	Kimberly Slentz-Kesler	Sarah Zink

☞ **Section Leader**

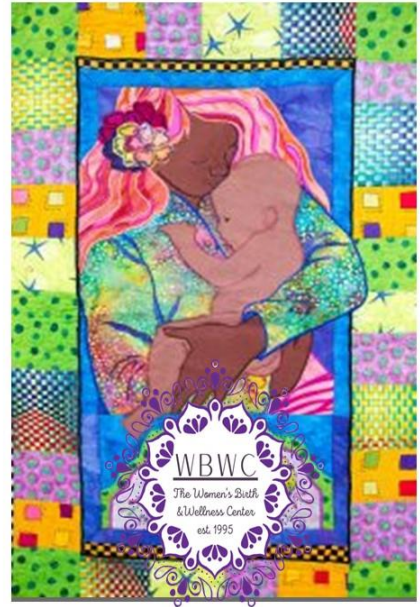
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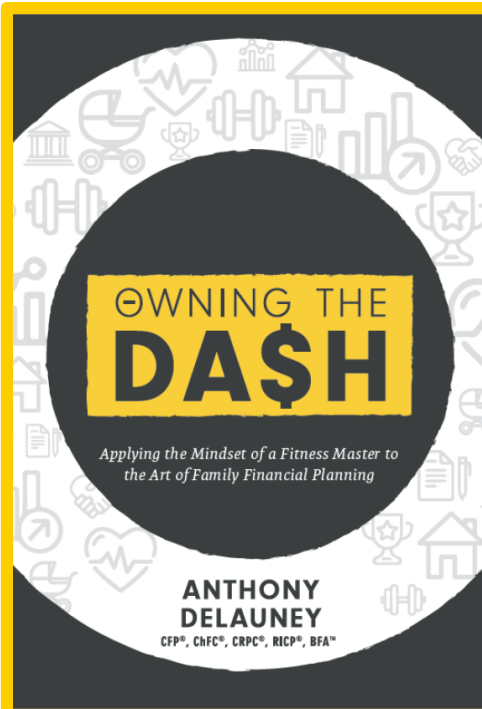
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It takes more than love of music to keep a chorus running. Ticket sales, grants, and singers' dues payments help pay the bills, but private donations, large and small, make the difference between merely surviving and truly thriving. With no in-person concerts, this year has been particularly challenging. If you would like to support WVC with a donation, visit the [donate page](#) of our website or scan this QR code.



This program is supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.



**Women's Voices Chorus, Inc.**  
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