Women’s Voices CHORUS
Laura Sam, Artistic Director
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.
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 Borras (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.

Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kay Johnson, President</th>
<th>Laura Sam, Artistic Director</th>
<th>Rah Bickley, Fund Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marsha Ferguson, Vice President</td>
<td>Brenda Edwards, Membership</td>
<td>Janet Huebner, Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane Wold, Secretary</td>
<td>Karla Byrnes, Treasurer/Operations Manager</td>
<td>Jasmine Trinks, Public Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelley Hedtke, At Large</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Women’s Voices Chorus
## 2021 Virtual Season Members and Guests

**Artistic Director:** Laura Sam  
**Pianist:** Deborah Hollis  

**Director’s Assistant:** Laura Delauney

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soprano 1</th>
<th>Soprano 2</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kate Berreth</td>
<td>Kathleen Jasinskas</td>
<td>Katherine Lainhart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Delauney</td>
<td>Brystana Kaufman</td>
<td>Kimberly McCorkle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deb Gauldin</td>
<td>Lauren Keller</td>
<td>Franziska Rokoske</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claire Hermann</td>
<td>Britt Kelly</td>
<td>Katie Shrievs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Hua ⭐</td>
<td>Kim Kingsley</td>
<td>Trisha Rae Socias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rachel Spencer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shelley Turkington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Barrie Wallace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Carli Webb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alto 1</th>
<th>Alto 2</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rah Bickley ⭐</td>
<td>Leah Fell</td>
<td>Mary Hoover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Cartier ⚜</td>
<td>Jan French</td>
<td>Kay Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randi Chalfant</td>
<td>Martha Gettys</td>
<td>Diane Kirkman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeanne Condren</td>
<td>Susan Gidwitz</td>
<td>Jacqueline Little</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl Denardo</td>
<td>Ann Harrison</td>
<td>Lara Olson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Donny</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jen Weld</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Susan Regier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pauline Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Clare Strayhorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jasmine Trinks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alto 2</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meg Berreth</td>
<td>Elisabeth Curtis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan E. Brown</td>
<td>Melaina Dyck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karla Byrnes</td>
<td>Joan Marie Holland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana Coble</td>
<td>Patti Holland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marty Crank</td>
<td>Janet Huebner ⚜</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Section Leader**  
**Membership Liaison**
The Women's Birth and Wellness Center

Providing people of diverse backgrounds with:
comprehensive wellness, maternity, lactation, and preventative healthcare throughout the life cycle.

930 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(919) 933-330
www.ncbirthcenter.org

Firsthand Foods is passionate about producing the finest humanely-raised, local meats and connecting you to family farms that share our values and standards. Visit the following retailers to find delicious local, pasture-raised pork, beef, lamb and specialty sausages.

WEAVER STREET MARKET • DURHAM CO-OP MARKET • CHATHAM MARKETPLACE
DEEP ROOTS MARKET • BULLDEGA URBAN MARKET • MAE FARM MEATS
SAXAPAHAW GENERAL STORE

And order online for home delivery through Bella Bean, The Produce Box and Papa Spuds.

(m)eat local

Learn more about our mission at firsthandfoods.com
Owning the Dash
Applying the Mindset of a Fitness Master To the Art of Family Financial Planning

Owning the Dash is a finance self-help book designed to help families make sense of and manage their financial lives.

Learn more at:
Owningthedash.com

The Medical Massage Clinic of Durham, LLC
Put your body in good hands.
We specialize in advanced therapeutic massage. Our training allows us to help with chronic pain, injury relief, lymphatic drainage and the best relaxation massage in town. Let us know how we can help you.
(919) 824-6838
rkmanitsas@gmail.com
www.themedicalmassageclinicofdurham.com

Help us help them
ADOPT ...
VOLUNTEER ...
DONATE ...
Goathouse Refuge
680 Alton Alston Rd.
Pittsboro, NC
919-542-6815
GoathouseRefuge.org

Susan's Fiber Studio
Fiber Artist
Art Quilts
919-544-5950
www.susansfiberstudio.com
Thanks to Our Donors (May 2020 – April 2021)

Angel ($1,000+)
Anonymous x3
Judy and Richard Gidwitz
Sue Gidwitz
Kay and F. Reed Johnson
Pauline Robinson
Sharon Smith

Patron ($100-$249)
Rah Bickley and John O'Brien
Laura Cartier
Jenn Collins
Jeanne and John Condren
Cheryl Denardo
Muriel Easterling
Jane Fellows
In Honor of Patty Daniel
Shelia Geoffrion
Stephen T. Gheen & Cathy Lynn Moore
Barbara Holbrook
Ann Huessener
In Working Order/Jan Obrad
In Honor of Gail Freeman
and Sue Gidwitz
Dr. M. Louise Markert
Melissa Nolan
Lara Olson
Judy and Brett Pope
Franzi and Keith Rokoske
Doris Sigl
Trisha Rae Socias
Rachel and Matthew Spencer
Ann Stock
Sue Tolleson-Rinehart
In Memory of Ruth Bader Ginsberg
Jackie & Jim Walters

Friend (cont.)
Julie Dana
Leigh and Clyde Denny
JoAnne and Shelley Earp
Karen and Ed Gill
Scott & Richard Hill
Myra Kornbluth
In Memory of George Kornbluth
Marlene Koschmann
Erika Lindemann
Tricia Parish
In Memory of Harry Phillips
Peggy and Ted Pratt
In Honor of Barbara Tremblay
Carol Prokop and Woody Setzer
Patricia R. & Thomas L. Rokoske
In Honor of Franzi Rokoske
Marywinne Sherwood
Albert Zabolitzki
Sarah M. & Richard Zink

Benefactor ($500-$999)
Anonymous
Sydney and David Atkinson
In Memory of Bob Schmidt
Laura & Tony Delauney
Ken Gray
Shelley and Steve Hedtke
Virginia Byers Kraus

In Honor of Patty Daniel
Sheila Geoffrion
Stephen T. Gheen & Cathy Lynn Moore
Barbara Holbrook
Ann Huessener
In Working Order/Jan Obrad
In Honor of Gail Freeman
and Sue Gidwitz
Dr. M. Louise Markert
Melissa Nolan
Lara Olson
Judy and Brett Pope
Franzi and Keith Rokoske
Doris Sigl
Trisha Rae Socias
Rachel and Matthew Spencer
Ann Stock
Sue Tolleson-Rinehart
In Memory of Ruth Bader Ginsberg
Jackie & Jim Walters

In Honor of Eliabeth Curtis

Sponsor ($250-$499)
Hannah and Pete Andrews
Susan Berkel
Meg Berreth
In Memory of Josephine Behrendt
In Honor of Elizabethe Curtis
Susan E. Brown
Nancy Donny
Bruno Freeman
Amy Glass
Joan Marie Holland
Janet Huebner
Diane Kirkman
Laurie McNeil & Patrick Wallace
Sue Regier
Laura and Andrew Sam
Charlotte Thomas
Shelley Turkington
In Honor of Wendy Hua
Diane Wold
Youth Pro Musica Fund of
Triangle Community Foundation

In Honor of Deb Hollis
Jane and Robert Byrd
In Honor of Barrie Wallace

In Memory of Harry Phillips
Peggy and Ted Pratt
In Honor of Barbara Tremblay
Carol Prokop and Woody Setzer
Patricia R. & Thomas L. Rokoske
In Honor of Franzi Rokoske
Marywinne Sherwood
Albert Zabolitzki
Sarah M. & Richard Zink

Associate (< $50)
Anonymous
In Honor of Sharon Smith
Howard Aronowitz
Esther Booker
Mary Bushnell
In Honor of Elisabeth Curtis
Lori Drum
In Honor of Doris Sigl
Alana and Fred Friedman
Joanne Harrell
Janet Holderness
Perrin Rubin
In Honor of Susan Brown
Maria Tax
Julia Trimmer and Keith Glidewell
Carmen I. Ward
Dot Wilson
In Honor of Sharon Smith
Special thanks to:
Bonnie Burton, photography consultant
Our advertisers—please patronize them
Our numerous volunteers, within and outside the chorus

Support Women’s Voices Chorus

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.
P.O. Box 2854, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2854
contact@womensvoiceschorus.org, www.womensvoiceschorus.org

Women’s Voices Chorus, Inc., is a private, nonprofit organization, tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 919-814-5400. The license is not an endorsement by the State.