

Rainbow Women's Chorus
presents

LUMINARIA



December 4th, 2010 at 8 PM
December 5th, 2010 at 3 PM

At Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
1550 Meridian Avenue, San Jose

Artistic Directors:
Ruth Huber and Betsy Wagner

Funded in part by
a grant from
Arts Council Silicon Valley



Our Mission

The Rainbow Women's Chorus works together to develop musical excellence in an atmosphere of mutual support and respect. We perform publicly for the entertainment, education and cultural enrichment of our audiences and community. We sing to enhance the esteem of all women, to celebrate diversity, to promote peace and freedom, and to touch people's hearts and lives.

Our Story

Rainbow Women's Chorus is a nonprofit corporation governed by the Action Circle, a group of women dedicated to realizing the organization's mission. Chorus members began singing together in 1996, presenting concerts in venues such as Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Le Petit Trianon Theatre, Triton Museum, and for Festival 2000, the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. The chorus also performs at church services, diversity celebrations, awards ceremonies, community meetings and private events.

Rainbow Women's Chorus is a member of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses and was the proud cohosts of GALA's Festival 2000 here in San Jose—ten days and over 5000 singers. RWC has since participated in GALA Festivals in 2004 (Montreal) and 2008 (Miami). In February 2006, members of RWC sang with a dozen other choruses at a benefit at Carnegie Hall in NYC, Timothy Selig conducting. In July 2010, members of RWC attended the Sister Singers Women's Choral Festival in Chicago.

Support the Arts

Rainbow Women's Chorus and other arts organizations receive much valued support from Arts Council Silicon Valley and the City of San Jose, not only in grants, but also in training, guidance, marketing, fundraising, and more. Arts Council Silicon Valley also produces Artstopolis, an online, up-to-date listing of arts events in Silicon Valley. Visit them at www.artstopolis.com. Horizons Foundation supports LGBTQ projects.

Keep the Arts alive! Please support Rainbow Women's Chorus, Menharmonics, Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus, Arts Council Silicon Valley, and other arts organizations with your generous donations. Visit www.rainbowwomen.org, www.svgmc.org, and www.ACSV.org for more information.

JOIN THE CHORUS!

Our chorus needs not only singers but also support staff and funding in order to continue to bring you beautiful music. The members of Rainbow Women's Chorus encourage you to join us and share in our joy of singing and entertaining you.

Visit our web site, www.rainbowwomen.org, or call (408) 374-5228 for more information.



Rainbow Women's Chorus Staff



Ruth Huber, Co-Director, Composer-in-Residence

Ruth Huber was instrumental in founding both RWC and Tapestry Singers (the Austin Women's Chorus). She holds three music degrees, including a Masters in Composition from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and has studied conducting at San Jose State University. Her compositions and songs have won awards from the American Choral Directors Association, the San Francisco ArtSong Competition, and the Austin Music Umbrella Songwriters Competition, and she has received commissions from choral groups around the country. She is a certified member of Music Teachers National Association, serves as musician for the Metropolitan Community Church, and resides in San Jose with her wife, Brenda Meng, and an assortment of adorable cats.



Betsy Wagner, Co-Director, Choralographer

Betsy Wagner has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education with a dual major in voice and piano from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, LA. She has been teaching music to students in grades K-12 since 1978. Since coming to the Bay Area in 1990, she has built an award-winning choir program at Morrill Middle School in San Jose. Betsy has been singing with Rainbow Women's Chorus since 1997 and has been co-director since 2000. She creates the choralography for RWC performances and, in the fall of 2003, helped found RWC's small ensemble, Vocal InFusion. According to her mom, her natural musical ability showed up at the early age of two, when she played "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" by ear on her toy piano.



Kathy Disney, Accompanist

Kathy Disney, accompanist, has a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from San Jose State University. She currently teaches general music to students in grades K-3 at Eaton and Collins Elementary Schools and serves as director for the children's choir and substitute pianist/organist at her church in Cupertino. She is a member of MENC and CMEA (National and California Associations for Music Education), and NCAOSA (Northern California American Orff Schulwerk Association), with a Level II certification in the Orff Schulwerk. She is currently completing the requirements for the California single subject teaching credential in music.

Singers

Sopranos

Betsy Wagner*†
Gloria Perkins†
Jan Blossom†
Kathleen Eagan
Lisa Cummings
Margaret Lindberg
Marjorie Pearson
PJ Turnham
Ruth Huber*
Sari Van Otegham†

Altos

Danni Mestaz**
Donna Hazel**
Eileen Hamper
Jean Hogan
Joanna De Sa†
Judy Kupfer
Kim Daniel
Kim Wallace†
Laurie Pepin†
Laurie Willis†
Marnie Singer

* *Artistic Directors*

† *Vocal InFusion*

***On leave*

Chorus Volunteers

Chorus Contact: Eileen Hamper

Database: Evon Wise

Fundraising and Grants: Margaret Lindberg,
Eileen Hamper, Donna Hazel

Membership: Laurie Pepin

Music Librarian: Gloria Perkins

Performance Booking: Jan Blossom

Tax Returns: Sally Cooperrider

Wardrobe Mistress: Jan Blossom



RWC Action Circle

(Board of Directors)

Kim Wallace, *President*

Margaret Lindberg, *Vice President*

Eileen Hamper, *Treasurer*

Laurie Willis, *Secretary*

Danni Mestaz, *Member at Large*

Kim Daniel, *Member at Large*

Donna Hazel, *Member at Large*

Staff

Stephanie Hancock, *Bookkeeper*

Greg Elmendorp, *Web manager*

Concert Production Volunteers

Concessions Manager: Danni Mestaz

Ticket Manager: Jean Hogan

Lobby Ticket Sales: Al Bonvouloir and
Winn Crannell

Production Manager: Kim Wallace,
Gloria Perkins

Program Design: Eileen Hamper

And of course, we always depend on the unflagging support of our friends, family, partners, spouses, and many others.

2009-10 Donors

Thanks from the bottoms of our musical hearts to the following donors for their support:

Every Dollar Counts:

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Donations-in-Kind

Kathy Disney
Donna Hazel
Kim Wallace and Laurie Pepin
Eileen Hamper,
Hobee's Restaurants and more.



We also thank the many members and friends of RWC who donated items for our Flea Market Fundraiser last October.

Grants:

Arts Council Silicon Valley
The City of San Jose
Horizons Foundation

Matching funds:

Becton Dickinson
Lam Research

We apologize if we left your name off this list. We couldn't do this without your help.

LUMINARIA

PEACE - SALAAM - SHALOM

Words and music by Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow

Solo: Joanna De Sa

THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

Words and music by Eddie Pola and George Wyle; arranged by Mark Al Brymer

CHAPUA KALI DESEMBA

Words by John Parker; music by David Lantz III

Solo: Gloria Perkins

SOLSTICE CAROL

Words and music by Diane Benjamin

THE HANDS OF WINTER

Words and music by John Parker and Mark Haynes

A LA MEDIA NOCHE

(At Midnight)

Traditional, Puerto Rico; arranged by Joan Szymko

Solo: Marjorie Pearson



GESU BAMBINO

Words and music by Pietro Yon; arranged and orchestrated by Bob Krogstad

WHISPER! WHISPER! (BABY BORN TODAY)

Sung by Vocal InFusion

Words and music by Jay Althouse

HOLIDAY ROMANCE

Words and music by Jay Althouse

INTERMISSION

Enjoy refreshments provided by the singers, friends and family of Rainbow Women's Chorus. The coffeecake has been generously donated by Hobee's Restaurants.

HOLD THE LIGHT

Traditional. Additional words and music by Rollo Dilworth

HANEROT HALALU

Traditional Chanukah Text; music by Ronna Z. Honigman

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Words and music by Peter Yarrow; arranged by Ruth Huber

THE CHRISTMAS SONG (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)

Words and music by Mel Tormé and Robert Wells; arranged by Kirby Shaw

Solo: PJ Turnham

JINGLE BELL ROCK

Words and music by Joe Beal and Jim Boothe; arranged by Michele Weir

ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Sung by Vocal InFusion

Words and music by Johnny Marks; arranged by Kirby Shaw

JEANETTE ISABELLA

Sung by Vocal InFusion

Traditional music; words by Laura Love; recorded by the group *Venus Envy*

SISTERS

Words and music by Irving Berlin; arranged by Kirby Shaw

LET THERE BE LOVE

As sung by Anne Murray and Dawn Langstroth; written by Amy Sky and Steven MacKinnon; arranged by Dan Lauterbach for the Vancouver Women's Chorus



PERFORMANCE CREDITS

Piano accompanist: Kathy Disney

Percussion: Kim Wallace and

Reece Disney

Choralography: Betsy Wagner

Flute: Laurie Willis

ASL Signer: Alisia Sutherland

Program Notes

Luminaria is a Spanish word that entered the English language in New Mexico. A luminaria is a traditional small bonfire or brazier fire typically used during Las Posadas, a nine-day celebration culminating on Christmas Eve. The word *luminaria* is often also used to describe paper lanterns consisting of a brown paper

bag containing sand and a candle, traditionally known as *farolitos*. RWC chose *Luminaria* as the title for our holiday concert because it represents to us the universal human need to bring light into the darkness, especially during December, the darkest month of the year.

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

First recorded in 1963 by Andy Williams, this song has become a holiday standard. It wasn't until 1999, however, that the song hit the Billboard charts in Garth Brooks' country version. The song has been featured by many popular artists including Amy Grant, Dionne Warwick, and Harry Connick, Jr.

Chapua Kali Desemba

In this African winter carol, the English/ Swahili text describes the joy of children running on the plains of Mount Kilimanjaro "chasing the wild, wild winds of December."

Solstice Carol

Diane Benjamin's Solstice Carol is a straightforward and tuneful work celebrating winter solstice. Its beauty is in the simplicity of line and message, devoted to the subject of darkness, light and renewal.



The Hands of Winter

In this evocative tone poem drawing us into the sights and sounds of winter, the text calls us to feel the embrace of winter in all its icy mystery. The haunting, yearning melody is filled with reflection and passion. The piano accompaniment is as delicate as an icicle at times, and also as deep and profound as a heavy snow. After the final full-voiced chorus, the piece ends quietly, with a whisper from the choir.

A la Media Noche

"A la Media Noche" is a Puerto Rican Christmas carol about the birth of Jesus in the manger. This dramatic contemporary setting is by one of RWC's favorite choral arrangers, Joan Szymko.

Gesu Bambino

"Gesù Bambino" is an Italian Christmas carol composed by Pietro Yon in 1917. It was translated to English by Frederick H. Martens. The verses talk about the birth of

Jesus, “the Christmas Rose,” while the chorus is the familiar carol “O Come, All Ye Faithful.”

Whisper! Whisper! (Baby Born Today)

Sung by Vocal InFusion

“Whisper! Whisper!” is an upbeat contemporary Christmas spiritual. Strong dynamic contrasts from a whisper to a shout keep the listener’s attention.

Holiday Romance

This doo wop song by Jay Althouse reminds us of the joy—and pain—of falling in love during the holidays.

Hold the Light

“Hold the Light” is an original gospel-style piece that incorporates the familiar and popular spiritual “This Little Light of Mine.” The piece opens with the word “lux,” which is Latin for “light,” and continues with the theme of light overcoming darkness as the voices of the past offer encouragement to the current generation to be courageous when confronted with adversity.

HaNerot Halalu

HaNerot Halalu, an ancient Jewish chant mentioned in the Talmud (Soferim 20:6), is a reminder of the sacred nature of the Hanukkah lights that are lit to commemorate and publicize the Hanukkah miracles. The text states that the sole intent in kindling Hanukkah lights is to publicize the miracle, and thus it is forbidden to use the lights for any other

purpose. This contemporary setting by Ronna Z. Honigman carries the flavor of generations of remembrances.

Light One Candle

This song by Peter Yarrow, of Peter, Paul, and Mary, is about the light of the Menorah that welcomed the Macabees back from battle and burned for eight days on one drop of oil, thus beginning the feast of Hanukkah. This arrangement is by RWC’s own Ruth Huber.

The Christmas Song

This perennial favorite was written by Mel Tormé and his friend Robert Wells on a hot July afternoon in the San Fernando Valley. Stifling in the heat, Wells started writing a poem to cool himself off. Tormé jumped in and in the space of 45 minutes a beautiful song was created.



Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree

Sung by Vocal InFusion

Brenda Lee first recorded “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree” in 1958 when she was 14 years old. It has been a holiday favorite since it first hit the Billboard charts in 1960. An instrumental version of the song appears as background music in the 1964 television special *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.

Jeanette Isabella

Sung by Vocal InFusion

Singer/songwriter Laura Love wrote the hilarious words to this lesbian Christmas song set to the tune of a familiar carol. It was recorded in 1995 by the group Venus Envy on their album *I’ll Be a Homo for Christmas*.

(continued on next page)

Sisters

Irving Berlin wrote “Sisters” for the 1954 movie musical *White Christmas*. It was originally sung by Rosemary Clooney and Vera Ellen, who played the singing Haynes sisters in the movie.

Let There Be Love

Canadian singer/songwriter Amy Sky wrote “Let There Be Love” as a duet for her daughter, Dawn Langstroth and Anne Murray, after Sky saw the two in a television interview about anorexia. This song is an RWC favorite and can be heard on our CD, *Rainbow Women Comin’ Home*.

Jingle Bell Rock

This popular Christmas song was first recorded by Bobby Helms in 1957. Some consider it to be the first mainstream Rock ‘n’ Roll Christmas song. It has been featured in the films *Lethal Weapon* and *Mean Girls*, and recorded by artists as divergent as Brenda Lee, Hall & Oates, Lou Rawls, The Fall, Ashanti, The Ventures, The Chipmunks, Brian Setzer and Hillary Duff.



Translations

A La Media Noche (At Midnight)

At midnight, amidst the severity of the cold is born Jesus Christ, redeemer of the heavens.

At midnight the rooster was singing and in his voice was saying already that Christ has been born.

In the straw He is born from the heavens, great King. At his side he has the donkey and the ox. The ox, how humble. The straw was thrown about. The naughty mule was uncovering him. His mother is looking at him without being able to give Him neither bed nor cradle where to rest.

Tender Little Babe, my Jesus, my God. You are gentle and sweet. You are all love.

HaNerot Halalu

We light these lights for the miracles and the wonders, for the redemption and the battles that you made for our ancestors. During all eight days of Hanukkah we use these sacred lights only to express thanks and praise to Your great Name.

Mark Your Calendars for Early 2011



Saturday, February 26

RWC joins the Peace Chorale in a benefit concert for Next Door *Solutions to Domestic Violence* at Campbell United Methodist Church on Winchester near Hamilton.

Sunday, March 6 Tuesday, March 8

RWC joins the orchestra as their special guest for two performances of their International Women's Day Concert.



**COMMUNITY
WOMEN'S
ORCHESTRA**



June 17 and 18 at 8 pm June 19 at 3 PM

RWC and SVGMC reunite in song to make the summer sizzle! Our June pride concert will be a celebration of the ties that make life meaningful and encourage us to live out, loud and proud.

Performances are at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in San Jose.