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ODYSSEY
A Musical Journey

San Francisco Winds of Freedom
&
Voices:
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The Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts presents...

ODYSSEY:
A Musical Journey

featuring
The San Francisco Winds of Freedom
&
Voices:
BAY AREA LESBIAN CHORAL ENSEMBLE

Saturday, April 20, 1991
Cowell Theatre, Fort Mason
8:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 21, 1991
Julia Morgan Theatre, Berkeley
7:30 p.m.
THE JON SIMS CENTER
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

We are a community of women and men who use the power of performance as a multi-disciplinary force to promote artistic freedom and cultural democracy. Beginning with our core constituency, the lesbian/gay community, our performers reach out as "Ambassadors of Joy" to a cultural rainbow of diverse people. Our heart-lifting work is a mosaic of compassion, strength, hope, and love. We celebrate, empower and transform the lives of all people.

The Center is the largest lesbian/gay arts organization in the world. Our founder, Jon Sims, was a visionary musician who founded the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps in 1978. The Band was the first lesbian/gay musical organization in the world. Inspired by the force of his genius, musical organizations in the City were revolutionized. Thus a national and international movement was begun in the Bay Area.

The inclusiveness of our work makes us a unique community arts resource. Our Board and Artistic Directors take pride in the community outreach of our programs. We welcome and look forward to working with people who represent the extraordinary cultural diversity of the Bay Area. We currently sponsor six performing arts groups, one production support unit, and are home to over twenty different artists who provide some of the best dance and music training in the Bay Area. If you would like further information about our membership activities, educational programs, or performance opportunities, please call us at: 415-621-5619.

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PROGRAM NOTES

Overture to The Impresario
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
arr. by Clifford P. Barnes

Emperor Joseph II commanded him to provide music for Royal entertainment. “The Impresario,” consisting of only five numbers and an overture, caricatures the foibles of actors and singers, and the trials of a stage manager who forms a travelling company.

A Woman
Patricia Johnson and Connie Brooks

Born a slave, Sojourner Truth became a well-known abolitionist and women's rights activist. This piece draws its inspiration from her famous “Ain't I a Woman” speech made at a suffragist convention in 1851.

Tuxedo Junction
Words by Buddy Freyne
Music by Erskine Hawkins, William Johnson, and Julian Dash
arr. by Wayne Love

Notes by Wayne Love: “Tuxedo Junction” and “In The Mood” — the swing songs presented tonight — owe their recent popularity to two rather unusual sources, the Manhattan Transfer and Bette Midler.

“Tuxedo Junction” is a marvel of economy. Bordering on stark, its simple melody, in tandem with a simple harmonic background, combine to make a palpable two-in-the-morning mood, the perfect place where the townsfolk meet. This song, revived by the Manhattan Transfer on one of their early albums, is still one of their most popular numbers.

Ojos Claros (Clear Eyes)
Words by Gutierre de Cetina
Music by Francisco Guerrero

“Eyes so clear and filled with beauty,
If for your glance so sweet you are esteemed,
Why, then, when turned on me, must they be angry?

“If, when you are more gentle,
More lovely you appear to your admirer,
Don't look at me with anger
For fear that thus your frown will mar your beauty.

“Ah, torments rage within me!
Eyes so clear and filled with beauty,
Though you thus look at me,
At least you see me, at least you see me.”

Flores de España
Pascual Perez Chovl
ed. by John Edmondson

“Flowers of Spain” is a magnificent example of the classic Spanish traditional dance, the “paso doble.” Meaning “double step,” the paso doble is most often associated with bullfighting: one dancer portrays the toreador while the other represents the cloak waved in front of the charging bull.

“Somewhere” from West Side Story
Words by Stephen Sondheim
Music by Leonard Bernstein
arr. by William Jonson

This poignant song reminds us how powerful love can be against the capriciousness of fate.

“The Great Lover” from On The Town
Leonard Bernstein
trans. by Marice Stith

On The Town (1944) tells the story of three sailors on 24-hour shore leave. Set against the background of vigorous and intoxicating New York City, this music showcases Bernstein's deep American roots.

With My Swag
Sean Thorne

Written in 1988 and first performed as the overture to the Australian Bicentennial Military Tattoo, “With My Swag” is based on the Australian folk tune “With my swag on my shoulder.” Somewhat like a bedroll, a swag carried all of an itinerant’s earthly possessions, and these jolly swagmen, sauntering down the road off into the Outback, have come to symbolize the country’s strength and fortitude.

Rozhinkes Mit Mandlen
(Raisins with Almonds)
Abraham Goldfaden (1840-1906)
New lyrics by Lil Moed
arr. by Sue Fink

“Rozhinkes Mit Mandlen” is a traditional Yiddish lullaby. Tonight, we will perform one verse of the original lyrics by Goldfaden and two new verses by Lil Moed, arranged by Sue Fink. Below are the translations.

“In a poor house
In a Russian village
Sits a poor widow, Rachel, alone.
She rocks her dear child
And sings a sweet lullalbye.

“Neath the cradle of my young son
Stands a goat, yes a pure, white one.
The little goat has been fated to wander;
That will be your fate, too.
Raisins sweet and almonds
Sleep, then, my little Jew.
Sleep, then, my little Jew.”
Program Notes, continued...

Rozhinkes Mit Mandlen (continued)

"Near Malke's crib is heard
A thousand voices of strong women
In the forest.
They call her to join their struggle
To live in freedom and love.
Sleep, my child, sleep."

Ache Moyuba Orisha (Highest Praises)

"This is Malke's destiny:
To live in freedom and love.
Sleep, my child, sleep."

Music by Norman Luboff
Adapted by Elizabeth Min
for women's voices

"Ache Moyuba Orisha" is from African Mass, written for chorus and tuned drums. Drawing from the West African Yoruba religion, "Ache" offers praises to many Orisha, the Yoruba word for god and goddess. The song offers praises to Elegua, the god of thresholds and crossroads; Oya, a weather goddess — sometimes violent, sometimes cleansing or fertile; Oshun, a beautiful river goddess, whose waters heal barrenness; Chango, Orisha of thunder and kingship; Ochossi, god of hunting, archery, and the forest; and Yemaya, goddess of fishes and mother of all Orisha.
Program Notes, continued...

Pavane

Gabriel Faure

arr. by Maurice Gardner

Written in 1887, the Pavane is based on a slow, dignified court dance of the 16th and 17th centuries. Faure is noted for having resisted the “new wave” of his time to search for clarity, simplicity and tuneful formality.

Bratec Kosi

Traditional Croatian

“Bratec Kosi” is a traditional women’s song from Croatia, the far western republic of Yugoslavia. The song tells the story of a young girl who successfully resists the sexual advances of her brother while bringing him lunch in the field.

In the Mood

Joe Garland

arr. by Wayne Love

Glenn Miller and his Orchestra may have unknowingly created a theme for the swing era, as this tune has been the de rigueur staple for every swing band from here to Budapest. Bette Midler, with Barry Manilow as arranger, came up with a brilliant, no-holds-barred, new/vintage arrangement of Glenn Miller’s classic. Our arrangement is an adaption of Midler/Manilow’s.

The African Trilogy

Neil Diamond

arr. by Marty Gold

Neil Diamond writes of the origins of “The African Trilogy” (1970): “When rhythm and blues lost its sensuality for me, I fell in love with a woman named Gospel. We met secretly in the churches of Harlem, and made love at revival meetings in Mississippi. And loving her as I did, I found a great yearning to know of her roots. And I found them. And they were in Africa. And they left me breathless. “The African Trilogy” is an attempt to convey my passion for the folk music of that black continent.”

Child Song

Weeping sky, we bring the sun,
To make you glad and fill you with
the day.

Quiet tree, we have the wind,
To make you dance and fill you with
our play.

And you shall be glad, and you shall
dance.

And you shall come to hear our song
And learn its tune before it fades away.

I Am the Lion

Hey, hey, hey, hey,
Babala dinga.

There was a flood,
And many poor people were killed.
And that is why our house is built on
the top of the hill.

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Program Notes, continued...

I Am the Lion (continued)
The plains are like a friend.  
Why can't we live on them?  
And if a flood should come,  
Why can't we run?  
Hey, hey, hey, hey, hey, hey,  
I am the lion!  
Hey, hey, hey, hey,  
Bellowing out at the night.
We had a cow.  
I left it alone to graze.  
And walked to the stream,  
And when I returned, it was stolen away.  
But now the cow is gone,  
And we don't need a farm.  
We have not one thing they would steal away.  
Hey, hey, etc.

Madrigal (Instrumental Only)
Soolaimon
Come she come say,  
Ride on the night.  
Sun become day,  
Day shall provide.  
Soolaimon.  
Soul of my want,  
Light of my need,  
Leading me on,  
On to the woman she dance for the sun.

Soul of my want,  
Light of my need,  
Seek for the way,  
Takin' me home.  
She callin'.  
Bring home my name  
On the wings of a flea,  
Wind in the plain,  
Dance once for me.

Missa (a cappella chorus)
Kristo
Nitatuka, nanayeye.
Seena budikwenda sasa.
Lazimani sichelewe.
Tohtoa mayza liwa.
Kristo Gloria.

African Suite (Instrumental Only)
Child Song (Reprise)

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## ODYSSEY: A Musical Journey
*featuring... The San Francisco Winds of Freedom with Guest Artists: Voices*

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### INTERMISSION

The Jon Sims Center Board of Directors would like to thank the Zellerbach Family Fund, Community Arts Distribution Committee, for their support of culturally diverse artists at these concerts.
LEADING US ON OUR MUSICAL JOURNEY...

Nancy Corporon
Conductor and Artistic Director, San Francisco Winds of Freedom

In January 1990, Nancy was named Artistic Director of the Winds of Freedom, the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band and the Lesbian/Gay Spirit Band. Her debut brought critical acclaim to the band, "an impressive performing troupe — as dynamic and finely tuned in serious repertoire as they appear in light classics and pops."

Nancy's involvement in the lesbian/gay music movement extends back to 1979 when, inspired by long-time friend Jon Sims, she founded and conducted the New York Gay Community Marching Band (now the Lesbian and Gay Big Apple Corps). Most recently Nancy was honored to conduct the combined Lesbian/Gay Bands of America in Vancouver at the 1990 Gay Games and Cultural Festival.

For 15 years Nancy freelanced as a French horn player and has performed with such groups as the Chicago Symphony, the New York City Opera Orchestra, the Brooklyn Philharmonic and the New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players. She also performed on Broadway in West Side Story, On Your Toes, and Tap Dance Kid.

Jay Kast
Assistant Conductor, San Francisco Winds of Freedom

A member of the Band for the past eleven years, Jay Kast has been active in a wide variety of artistic capacities with many different organizations in the lesbian and gay community. He was the Artistic Director of both the Jon Sims Center's production of "With The Greatest of Ease" in 1986, and of the Lesbian/Gay Band Association's production of "Let Freedom Ring" during the 1987 March on Washington. He has also served as the Conductor of the S.F. Gay Freedom Day Marching Band for two years, along with various other positions within the Freedom Band and the Jon Sims Center.

Melanie DeMore
Music Director, Voices

In the spring of 1990, Voices was joined by Music Director Melanie DeMore, whose musical experience runs the gamut from conducting and teaching to arranging and musical theatre direction. Melanie is also an accomplished songwriter and solo vocalist. Her music blends the rich hues of blues, folk, jazz, and gospel and is showcased on a recent recording of her original songs, called "Come Follow Me.” Melanie has shared the stage with performers Sweet Honey in the Rock, Buffy Sainte Marie, and John Prine, among others.
Leaders, continued...

Tracy Stark
Accompanist, Voices
The accompanist for Voices is Tracy Stark, who recently returned from a solo act on Carnival Cruise Lines. Tracy accompanies many vocalists and groups, playing music ranging from classical to blues to Persian rock, as well as writing songs for her own shows. She has been the musical director and/or pianist for the Bay Area Productions of Party of One, Suds, Jazz for the Eyes, West Side Story, and Really Rosie. You can see her regularly at the Mason Street Wine Bar with vocalist Diana Lynn, and hear her on Monica Grant’s upcoming CD, “The Heart of It.”

Marilyn Van Veersen
Interpreter
Marilyn is well-known for her artistic interpretation of a wide range of musical styles for a variety of performers and recording artists. She has interpreted at many women’s music concerts and festivals in the U.S. and Canada, as well as at numerous Bay Area performances. Marilyn focuses her work on helping to provide a linguistic and cultural bridge between the deaf and hearing lesbian communities. She is currently employed as an interpreter at Oakland’s Laney College.

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THE SAN FRANCISCO WINDS OF FREEDOM

In 1978, Jon Sims formed the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps to march in the Gay Freedom Day Parade. The Band has grown and expanded into three groups which reflect the diversity of music and places where they perform: the San Francisco Winds of Freedom performs in concerts, the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band performs in parades, and the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Spirit Band performs at smaller community events. In their quest for the development of an ever-larger and more diverse audience, the band remains dedicated to Jon Sims' vision — presenting lesbian and gay musicians as our community’s Ambassadors of Joy!

Flute/Piccolo
Jay V. Kast
Charles D. Klemm
Quentin

Oboe
Allen Goodrich
Keith Sklowar

Clarinet
Keith Deen
Kathy Henning
Douglas A. Litwin
Mark Nathan

Alto Clarinet
Beth Brown

Bass Clarinet
Richard M. Rowland

Bassoon
Jason Gibbs
Marcuselle Whitfield

Alto Sax
Jeff Foote
David Slattengren

Baritone Sax
Wesley J. Asakawa

Euphonium
Michael P. Ellard

Tuba
Michael L. Mehr

Trumpet
Bradley W. Connlain
Jamie Hops
Brian Klimkowsky
Loren McGlaide
Sue Shallenberger

Horn
Gary J. Bryan
Wendy H. Chinn
Franklyn P. Jones

Trombone
James French
David Malespin
Pat Mullen
Daniel Weinstein

Percussion
Robin Eig
Georjee Harcus
Loren R. Henderson
David Kelsey
Wayne Love
Jackeline Rago
Neila Waters
Linda Werner

Guitar, Cuatro,
Mandolin
Erica Lucket
Jackeline Rago

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Voices: Bay Area Lesbian Choral Ensemble was formed in 1988 with a dual commitment to attaining musical excellence and expressing lesbian strength and pride. We believe that ensemble singing can empower the individual singer and create group harmony. And, through our visibility, we hope to strengthen other lesbians as well.

Voices is fiscally sponsored by City Celebration and is a member of GALA choruses, an international alliance of over 85 men’s, women’s, and mixed choruses dedicated to providing leadership and inspiration to lesbians and gay men through excellence in the choral arts.

The members of Voices desire to explore the musical heritage of a variety of cultures and traditions, to perform music that is relevant to our lives as women and lesbians, and to share with our audiences music that is composed or arranged by women. Each member contributes not only vocally, but also through music research and education, concert production, or business management. Decision making is based on a modified consensus model, allowing each member a voice and encouraging individual responsibility and group cooperation. If you’re interested in auditioning for Voices, please call us at (415) 773-9181.

Soprano I
Kim Hargreaves
Cath Thompson
Carla Trujillo
Susan Wittcoff

Alto I
Claudia Dechow
Julie Dobkin
Amanda Newstetter
Annie Stuart

Soprano II
Leah Brooks
Susan Dolder
Lissa Searfoss
Miriam Smolover

Alto II
Valerie Brown
Laurie Silver
Dana Topping
Aimee Waldman

Doubletet

...The Force of Technology, The Art of a Flag...

Doubletet salutes the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts for their interest in promoting music to people of all cultures in Northern California.

We hope “Odyssey: A Musical Journey” will inspire people to a greater awareness for our world community, and we hope our flags will provide a tangible image of how beautiful all the colors of the world can be when they are in harmony.

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Special thanks to Clare Potter for assistance with the program notes, and to The Bruce Jewett Foundation for partially funding the Band's outreach efforts.

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