



VOX GRATA

WOMEN'S CHOIR

WE
HAVE A VOICE

A Celebration of Women's Suffrage

To benefit

The Tennessee League of Women Voters' Education Fund

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

ALIAS Chamber Ensemble

W. Crimm Singers

FIFTEENTH AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH, NASHVILLE

CONDUCTED BY

Jeanette MacCallum, Susan Kelly, and Patrick Dailey

SUN OCT 27
3:00 PM

WE HAVE A VOICE

Rise Up Jake Runestad

Rise up! There shall never be another season of silence. Deepen your sympathy, then convert it to action. Pray every single second of your life — not on your knees, but with your work. Think your best thoughts; speak your

best words; do your best work. There is so much yet to be done.

— *Words taken from speeches and writings by Susan B. Anthony*

Anyhow arr. Evelyn La Rue Pittman

Striving After God Undine Smith Moore

Welcome Jill Austin, Vox Grata Board Chair

Message from Tennessee League of Women Voters Debby Gould, President

Suffrage Cantata Andrea Ramsey

1. One Day, It Is Coming

Nita Smith, *narrator* | Tamica Nicole, *soloist*

Early Women's Rights Perspectives

Deeply have I felt the degradation of being a woman. Not the degradation of being what God made woman, but what man has made her.

It will be said that the husband provides for the wife, feeds, clothes, and shelters her; yes, he keeps her, as he keeps a favorite horse. And by law they are both his property. Oh, the degradation!

I ask no favors for my sex, just take your feet from off our necks. Permit us to stand upright. It is time we gave man faith in woman, and still more, time we gave woman faith in herself!

One day, the women got tired enough to move. We have all been thrown down so low. We have been long enough trodden now. But we will have our rights, and you can't keep us from them; see if you can! It is coming, one day.

2. Failure Is Impossible Carole Bucy, *narrator*

Illegal Voting, Arrest, & Trial of Susan B. Anthony

Ask him for my fare!

We the people formed this Union. Women as well as men. It is mockery to talk of the blessings of liberty while we are denied the ballot!

Yes, your honor, I have many things to say: for in your verdict of guilty you have trampled every vital principle of government! Robbed of citizenship, I am degraded to the status of a subject under this so-called form of government!

I rebel against your man-made, unjust forms of law that tax, fine, imprison, and hang women, while they deny them representation in government. I shall urge all women: “resistance to tyranny is obedience to God!”

I am here for a little time only, and then my place will be filled. The fight must not cease, you must see that it does not stop. With such women consecrating their lives, failure is impossible.

3. A Woman’s Place Linda Furtado, *narrator* | Gwendolyn Brown, *soloist*

Ida B. Wells-Barnett and the 1913 Women’s Suffrage Procession in Washington D.C.

I stayed in Susan B. Anthony’s house, had a speaking engagement in Rochester. The next morning she had some errands in town, so she said I could use her stenographer. The stenographer never ventured upstairs, I simply assumed she was occupied. But when Susan B. Anthony got back from town, the mood intensified, and downstairs she went swiftly to ask the stenographer why she did not show.

Susan B. Anthony steeled her gaze, and she spoke calm and low: “An insult to my guest is an insult to me. Come get your bonnet, and go!”

A woman’s place is a clean train car, I paid thirty cents for my ticket. When the conductor tried to put me in the smoking car, I told him, “Sir, I won’t go in it!” And when he tried to move me, I bit his hand, bit it hard enough he had to get another man. And after the two of

them took me to the smoke and squalor, I sued the railroad, and won five hundred dollars. Yes, white women need the ballot, but my women even more. I’d like to buy a railroad ticket and choose my own car. When the men try to put you where you don’t belong, you square your jaw and fix your gaze, ‘cause a woman’s seat is the seat she bought, when a woman knows her place.

We demand an amendment to the United States Constitution enfranchising the women of this country. We march to give evidence of our determination that this simple act of justice be done.

A woman’s place is the ballot box, and we’re marching steady to win it. And when the people try to tell us we belong in the house, we say, “Yes, the House and the Senate!” Eight thousand women marching to take a

SCAN HERE TO ENJOY
READING ARTIST BIOS.



stand for the right to vote afforded every other man. A woman needs a ballot far more than a petticoat. Standing tall, we are marching steady for the right to vote.

When the world tries to put you where you don't belong, you square your jaw and fix your gaze, 'cause a woman's place is wherever she walks, when a woman knows her place.

4. Shall Not Be Denied Jayci Washington, *narrator* Bakara Anderson and Katherine Kimbrough, *soloists*

The Silent Sentinels, Arrest, Imprisonment & Abuse

It is our turn! What are we going to do in answer to the call of duty? When men are denied justice, they go to war. This is our war. We fight with banners instead of guns. Liberty must be fought for; you can not be neutral. You must join with us who believe in the bright future, or be destroyed by those who would return us to the dark past. Women of the nation, this is the time to fight!

Mister President, what will you do for woman suffrage? How long must women wait for liberty? Democracy should begin at home. We demand justice and self-government. To the Russian envoys, help us make this nation free. Kaiser Wilson! Twenty million American women are denied self-government. Take the beam out of your own eye. How long must women be denied a voice?

No fresh air, raw salt pork (one feels so forsaken); electric light sharp in my face (unremitting intimidation); investigation of my sanity; gasping, the agony (forced a tube down my throat); we hear them outside cracking eggs; everything turned black.

The warden threatened; men picked me up bodily. I heard the cries and the blows. They lifted her up, banged her down twice over an iron bench. She didn't move; we thought she was dead. The brace and the bit in our mouths; the straight jacket on our bodies. A cold wind blew; we were so terrified, we kept very still.

Shout the revolution of women, shout the revolution of liberty. Rise, glorious women of the earth, the voiceless and the free.

5. Forward Into Light L.B. Gaiters, *narrator* | Alysha Nesbitt, *soloist*

Ratification and the Journey Forward

By a miracle, the nineteenth amendment has been ratified. We women now have a weapon we have never possessed before. It will be a shame and reproach if we do not use it. Woman is no longer a servant, but equal to man. In her hands are possibilities. The hour of degradation is past.

Dear Son, hurrah and vote for suffrage! Don't keep them in doubt. I have been watching to see how you stood. I have not noticed anything yet. Don't forget to be a good boy, Your Mother.

Women, be glad today! Let your voices ring out! Though morning seems to linger, o'er hilltops far away, the shadow bears the promise of a brighter coming day.

Lifting as we climb, onward and upward we go; struggling and striving and hoping, we knock at the bar of justice, asking an equal chance. Forward out of darkness; leave behind the night; forward out of error; forward into light.

Special thanks to

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including Rev. Byron Jackson, Rev. Jalen Oliver, Israel Thomas, Phyllis Moore, and Nita Smith

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Wei Tsun Chang
violins

Seanad Chang
viola

Sari Reist
cello

Alan Fey
Todd London
timpani and percussion

John Semingson
Vox Grata accompanist

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Kearsten Hatch*

Jorian Johnson
Nicole Kindell*
Sa'Mia Mosely*
Bakara Anderson*

Nicole Simone*
Kenton Smith
Therry Thomas
Cameron Walls

* Also singing
"Suffrage Cantata"

VOX GRATA WOMEN'S CHOIR

Sopranos

Nicole Allen
Jan Allison
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Hannah Baisley
Sidney Campbell
Brittany Carnegis
Carissa Cascio

Amanda Craft
Kathryn Duncklee
Joslyn Ellis
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Janice Kemp
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Bronwen Yoncak

Altos

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Elaine Bailey
Lauren Brennan
Kelly Christie
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Emily Fenech

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Based upon gifts received between
November 1, 2023, and October 15, 2024

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is to empower women through provocative choral concerts.**

**Our vision is to be a preeminent community women’s choir, modeling
artistic excellence and a commitment to social justice and advocacy.**

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