



VOX GRATA
WOMEN'S CHOIR

BREAKING THE MOLD

Songs Honoring Extraordinary Women

THU **MAY 1**
7:30 PM

TUE **MAY 6**
7:30 PM

To benefit
GIRLS WRITE NASHVILLE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NASHVILLE

Conducted by
JEANETTE MACCALLUM, SUSAN KELLY

JOHN SEMINGSON, accompanist

BREAKING THE MOLD

Rise Up Jake Runestad, composer Text taken from speeches and writings by Susan B. Anthony

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.
Rise up!

The Beauty of Your Dreams Joan Szymko, composer Text adapted from the words of Eleanor Roosevelt

I will make a prayer to ask what I can do,
I will make a prayer to ask for courage to follow
the light as it is given to me.
You gain courage and strength and confidence
every time you look fear in the face.
You must do the thing you think you cannot do.
Life must be lived!

Cast out fear and face the unknown.
Face the unknown with courage and integrity
and a high heart.
Believe in your dreams, believe in the beauty of
your dreams.
The future belongs to those that believe in the
beauty of their dreams.

The Girl with the Numbers Marie-Claire Saindon, composer

Can a Black student
take part
as a scholar, a classmate
can "separate but equal"
finally unite?
Why not?
I am no better than anyone,
but no one is better than me.
Can a woman
pioneer

as an expert, a master
can a "computer in skirts"
change the script?
Why not?
Can a Black woman
challenge
as a colleague, an equal
can the "girl with the numbers"
balance the question and reach for the moon?
Why not?

When the Dust Settles Mari Esabel Valverde, composer
Text by Amir Rabiya

You opened your arms for the forgotten ones
the discarded and misunderstood
you showed them a mother's love
enveloped them in a delicate
and powerful embrace, beautiful star
when the dust settles, we'll always remember
how you showed us how to fight
even while the jagged blade of sorrow
pressed on us, to fight
ceaselessly, to tend to one another
You said, when the dust settles
I hope my girls will be okay
You cried out from the cells of Attica
And outside Stonewall's battered streets
Do you hear me? Are you listening?
How many more have to die?
your heart bigger than any cage

even in the midst of so much loss
you remind us to dream
to hold tomorrow between our lips
we deserve to kiss without fear
to grow old
to sway our hips
to wear what we wish
to relish in the pleasure of our bodies
the seeds you planted continue to grow
into blooming song
when the dust settles, we will raise our voices
just as you have always done,
in glorious proclamation
we will let everyone know –
We are still here!
We are still here!

Remarks from Girls Write Nashville

Remember the Ladies Carol Barnett, composer
Text adapted from letters Abigail Adams wrote to her husband, John,
during his attendance at the Second Continental Congress

I long to hear that you have declared an independency – and by the way, in the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies. Be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could; that your sex are naturally tyrannical is a truth so thoroughly established as to admit of no dispute. Why then not put it out of the power of the vicious and the lawless to use us with cruelty and indignity. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation. But such of you as wish to be happy willingly give up the harsh title of master for the more tender and endearing one of friend. Adieu, I need not say how much I am your ever faithful friend.

SCAN HERE TO ENJOY READING
ABOUT THE EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN
WHO INSPIRED THIS CONCERT.



The Song of Miriam

Elaine Hagenberg, composer
Text by Rabbi Ruth Sohn

I, Miriam, stand at the sea
and turn
to face the desert
stretching endless and
still.
My eyes are dazzled
The sky brilliant blue
Sunburnt sands unyielding white.
My hands turn to dove wings.
My arms
reach
for the sky
and I want to sing
the song rising inside me.
My mouth open
I stop.
Where are the words?
Where the melody?
In a moment of panic
My eyes go blind.
Can I take a step
Without knowing a
Destination?
Will I falter
Will I fall

Will the ground sink away from under me?
The song still unformed –
How can I sing?

To take the first step –
To sing a new song –
Is to close one's eyes
and dive
into unknown waters,
For a moment knowing nothing risking all –
But then to discover

The waters are friendly
The ground is firm.
And the song –
the song rises again.
Out of my mouth
Come words lifting the wind.
And I hear
for the first time
the song
that has been in my heart
silent
unknown
even to me.

Malala

Joan Szymko, composer;
Text adapted by composer from quotes by Malala Yousafzai

Malala
I am Malala.
Their bullet did not stop me.
Their bullet gave me power to raise my voice.
I am afraid of no one.

She

Anthony Bernarducci, composer

Text by Langston Hughes

Chris Stenstrom, cello

She,
In the dark,
Found light
Brighter than many ever see.

She,
Within herself,

Found loveliness,
Through the soul's own mastery.

And now the world receives
From her dower:
The message of the strength
Of inner power.

Wild Embers

Melissa Dunphy, composer

Text by Nikita Gill

We are the descendants
of the wild women you forgot
We are the stories you thought
would never be taught.

They should have checked the ashes
of the women they burned alive.
Because it takes a single wild ember
to bring a whole wildfire to life.

VOX GRATA WOMEN'S CHOIR

Sopranos

Nicole Allen
Jan Allison
Bailey Anderson
Hannah Baisley
Sydney Campbell
Brittany Carnegis
Sara Cooper

Amanda Craft
Kathryn Duncklee
Joslyn Ellis
Kathleen Fink
Kimberley Hamilton
Isabella Hord
Katherine Kimbrough

Kyla Mahaffey
Diana Neely
Kathryn Nobbe
Emma O'Neal
Isabella Ortiz
Anne Reeve Osborne
Alex Renna

Kara Richardson
Sandra Shepherd
Beth Thorneycroft
Deborah Torgersen-Paul
Bronwen Yoncak

Altos

Annabelle Absar
Elaine Bailey
Lauren Brennan
Kelly Christie
Jane-Coleman Harbison
Alice Corso

Hannah Elliott
Megan Hawkins
Kim Keller
Nicole Keller
Alyson Krokosky
Katelyn Lover

Colette Marcellin
Raynor Murphy
Lily Norton
Mareike Sattler
Molly Skaggs
Haley Smith

Rosie Smith
Suzanne Stiles
Karen Weir
Erica White
Becky Yates

FRIENDS OF

VOX GRATA

THE DOUGLAS W. MACCALLUM CIRCLE \$1,000+

Jill Austin
Sallie Bailey
Susan Carey

Kelly Christie
Jane Ferrell
Jeanette MacCallum

Sandra Shepherd
Martha Trammell

CONDUCTOR'S CIRCLE \$500–\$999

Janet Allison
William Harbison
Linda Koon
John R. Pooler
in honor of Bell Garden
Pamela Schneller
Karen Weir
Rebecca Yates

PLATINUM CIRCLE \$250–\$499

Hannah Baisley
in memory of Elsbeth Smith
Nora Beck
Hattie DeWalt
Sylvia Leins
Carla Lovell
Pamela Reese
Roberta Rodgers
Carson and Janet Salyer
Ann Soderquist
Beth Thorneycroft

GOLD CIRCLE \$100–\$249

St. Clair Blue
Susan Brantley
in memory of Doug MacCallum
Georgeanne Chapman
Laurie Cooper
Janet Davies
Eric and Kathleen Duncklee
Frances Duvall
in memory of Richard Duvall
Loucinda Elkins
Midge Folger
Jocelyn Kasper
Carie Lee Kennedy
Marcia Kirby
Mark J Koury
Katherine McElroy
Dusty Rose Miller
Juli Mosley
Teresa Rennirt-Elliott
Christine Romeo
Chip Smith
Christy Smith
in honor of Pam Schneller
Margaret Stephens
Lara Webb

SILVER CIRCLE \$50–\$99

Anonymous
Burkley and Newton Allen
Jeannette Ebelhar
Kim Ewell
Beverly Garrett
Guy and Amy Griffith
in honor of Susan Kelly
Cricket Handler
Anne Henderson
Nancy Holland
Suzie Lane
Terry Maroney
Brenda B Medlin
Diana Neely
Bunny Porter-Shirley
in honor of Jeanette MacCallum
Kara Richardson
Gay and Al Vekovius
Marie Winget
in honor of Edna Robert

Based upon gifts received between
May 1, 2024 through April 15, 2025

BRONZE CIRCLE

\$1-\$49

Jill Anderson
Mark and Kathy Banker
Carley Carder
Jan Davidson
Jane Doe

Janelle Edwards
Derik Harmer
Hannah Herner
Dorothy B. Jarrett
Lily Norton

Peggy Phelps
Anita Scales
Gloria Towner

The mission of Vox Grata Women's Choir
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.

VOX GRATA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jill Austin
Susan Carey
Hattie DeWalt
Janice Kemp

Jeanette MacCallum
Lea Maitlen
Dusty Rose Miller
Pam Schneller

Sandra Shepherd
Rosie Smith
Karen Weir
David Williams

Becky Yates

Please join us in supporting
our concert beneficiary, Girls Write Nashville!

A collection will be taken
following the concert at the exit doors.
Or you may contribute directly
by scanning this QR code:



We value your opinion!
Please use this QR code to take a brief concert survey.



BREAKING THE MOLD

This concert is supported by



NEWMUSIC
USA

and donors like you.

Did you know?

When you purchase an Arts Specialty License plate in Tennessee, your fee is supporting the arts in your state through the grants provided by the Tennessee Arts Commission.

Approximately 75% of all grant funding to Vox Grata and other arts organizations is provided through the specialty license program.

Learn more at <https://tnspecialtyplates.org>.



Special thanks to

Elizabeth Smith
Westminster Presbyterian Church
for the use of rehearsal space

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US
GIVE VOICE TO WOMEN IN SONG!

VOXGRATA.COM