

Chorus Notes

Winter Concert: Prelude to Season Fifteen

During the dark days of December, the holidays are coming towards us like a freight train and we're still not quite braced for the months of snow and ice ahead. Time to pull up a pew and relax into the heat and blazing light of the 2010-2011 edition of the Grand Rapids Women's Chorus, now 50 women strong! Our traditional winter (not holiday) concert is your first chance to hear songs we've been memorizing since September and the many new members who have joined us for this, our fifteenth season.

The audience at Trinity United Methodist Church on Saturday, December 4, can expect another fresh, culturally diverse song set. You'll hear a lovely Celtic-influenced piece, *The Blessing*, a traditional Israeli folk dance tune, *Hine Ma Tov*, a children's song from Japan, *Hotaru Koi*, and a soaring Native American prayer, *Great Spirit*. We've been amazed and delighted by our soloists,

both new and returning, and know that you will be too. You'll also see our new outfits - yes, the body-hugging dragonflies are gone!

Last year, the roar of applause from the packed house at Trinity was the first sign of our most amazing season ever, which included a '60s revival at the Spring Concert, and peaked at the Sister Singers Network conference in Chicago. You blessed us with energy that inspired us all year! We hope to return the favor this December.

Join us for our short (one hour or less) concert of interesting and uplifting music at 7:30pm (doors open at 7:00) on Saturday, December 4. Trinity United Methodist Church is located at 1100 Lake Drive between downtown and Eastown in Grand Rapids. Refreshments and a meet-the-chorus gathering follow in the beautiful parish hall. No tickets needed, but donations are always welcomed!



The GRWC lets it all hang out while performing *Let the Sunshine In* at its 2010 May Concert

GRAND RAPIDS
Women's Chorus

MEMBERSHIP

*denotes charter members

Artistic Director

Lori Tennenhouse*

Accompanist

Blithe Brouwers

Director of Small Ensemble

Martha VanderEyck*

Associate Directors

Brenda Baker
 Blithe Brouwers

Percussion

Sue Brown
 Barb Pitcher

Soprano

Brenda Baker (section leader)
 Janet Bradley
 Kristin Bauer
 Nancy Court
 Liz DeBraber
 Gabrielle Groot
 Megan Gross
 Adrienne Hollemans
 Lynne Homeyer
 Wendy Kuenzel Kapolka
 Shelby VanStratt
 Martha VanderEyck*

Alto

Elise Brown
 Katie Bush
 Gabrielle Calkins
 Donna Clark
 Rachel Davies
 Sarah Gillman
 Bethany Joy Lange
 Toni Perrine
 Chelsea Robinson
 Chris Sales
 Pam Sandberg
 Lynn Weaver (section leader)

Tenor

Cheryl Beatty
 Vicky Bourget
 Sharon Burtrum
 Sue Brown
 Pam Carlson
 Ann Erhart
 DeDe Esque
 Denise Joseph
 Sheryl Mase
 Nadine Miller
 Janice Scalza* (section leader)
 Megan TenBroecke
 Carol Wilson

Bass

Jane DeYoung
 Cathajane Galante (section leader)
 Sara Homeyer
 Leslie Kohn*
 Pattie Ladd
 Barb Pitcher
 Janet Thering*
 Linda Troyer
 Kelly Urbaniak
 Ida Vandunk
 Connie Winter-Troutwine
 Sue Wood
 Paula Wurm

GRWC Board

Chair - Gabrielle Calkins, Vice-Chair - Janice Scalza, Secretary - Linda Troyer, Treasurer - Cheryl Beatty, Kristin Bauer, Ann Erhardt, DeDe Esque, Cathy Howe, Barb Pitcher, Chris Sales, Lori Tennenhouse, Lynn Weaver

This season reminds me of the words of poet Emily Bronte:

*Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
 Lengthen night and shorten day;
 Every leaf speaks bliss to me
 Fluttering from the autumn tree.*

*I shall smile when wreaths of snow
 Blossom where the rose should grow;
 I shall sing when night's decay
 Ushers in a drearier day.*

We sing as the leaves fall and usher in a fifteenth year to continue a tradition “dedicated to performing music that celebrates and honors the diversity of women’s lives”.

We hope you continue to support us financially as we educate the community on issues important to our world, supportive of our principles, and congruent to our hearts and souls.

Use the enclosed envelope or visit our web page and click on the ‘Donate Now’ button. <http://www.grwc.org/index.php> Thank you.

-DeDe Esque

Singing the Praises of Rosa Parks



GRWC sings *Rosa Sat*, featuring soloist Gabrielle Groot, at the Rosa Parks Sculpture Dedication

On September 30, 2010 the Grand Rapids Women’s Chorus played a part in local history at the Rosa Parks Sculpture Dedication in downtown Grand Rapids. The ceremony at Rosa Parks Circle included music, dance, poetry, and testimonials. The GRWC sang Amy Dixon-Kolar’s *Rosa Sat* to a spirited crowd that rose to its feet with applause. The performance featured soloist Gabrielle Groot, accompanist Blithe Brouwers, and percussionist Sue Brown. It was introduced by GRWC’s DeDe Esque.

The unveiling of a bronze statue of Rosa Parks followed the dedication program. Atop a black marble pedestal, the statue shows the civil rights icon standing in front of a metal frame bus seat. It was created by Texas artist Ed Dwight and is the city’s first depicting an African American. The statue stands proudly at the park’s entrance on the corner of Pearl Street NW and Monroe Avenue.

GRWC Blows Them Away in Windy City

The Grand Rapids Women's Chorus was very busy over the fourth of July weekend this past summer in Chicago. Participating in the Sister Singers Network Choral Festival at Loyola University, GRWC members were among the events facilitators, directors, performers, merchants, and guest musicians.

Twenty-four choral groups nationwide attended the four day festival hosted by Chicago's Artemis Singers. Opening events included a stunning performance by the GRWC small ensemble directed by Martha VanderEyck with Blithe Brouwers as accompanist.

The GRWC performed July 3 in a Saturday night concert at Loyola's historic Mundelein Center. Joan Szymko, director of the Aurora Chorus in Portland Oregon, had this to say about the GRWC and it's performance of her composition *The Peace of Wild Things* by Wendell Berry: "It was wonderful to hear the Grand Rapids Women's Chorus and to meet Lori Tennenhouse. Many, many Aurora singers placed the GRWC among Chicago's favorites and I concur. A powerful, diverse set; well sung! Your performance of *The Peace of Wild Things* captured the arc of the music. I was particularly pleased with the section 'who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief' as the voice parts were clearly etched into the fabric. Several women, both familiar and unfamiliar with this piece, told me



Joan Szymko and Lori Tennenhouse chat at SSN Choral Festival

that afterwards they wept... another testament to your fine performance".

Other music performed by the GRWC included an opening Zulu piece *Thulele Mama* with soloist Elise Brown, *True Colors* with soloist Gabrielle Groot, and *Summertime* from *Porgy and Bess*, directed by Brenda Baker. All received standing ovations.

The Festival finale included a dance party, outdoor reception on the shores of Lake Michigan, and spectacular fireworks over Chicago's skyline.

Bus transportation to and from the Windy City was funded by GRWC supporter Charlie Homeyer and a generous portion of festival expenses were covered by contributions from Mary Jane Bobier.

Be a fan of the GRWC on Facebook and check us out on YouTube!

Grace Notes!

- Music for the GRWC 15th Anniversary season was selected by committee members Brenda Baker, Blithe Brouwers, Sue Brown, Carol Moore, Lori Tennenhouse, Martha VanderEyck, and Lynn Weaver
- GRWC volunteer coordinator Adam Lange wants you! Contact Adam to join our volunteer team. You can reach him by e-mail at getinvolved@grwc.org
- Blessings to Fountain Street Church for the gratis use of its choir room for Monday night rehearsals
- Interested in auditioning? Click info@grwc.org or Call (616) 459-2655
- The GRWC thanks Carol Moore for her piano playing assistance and her hospitality at sectionals
- The terrific promotional posters for the Spring and Winter Concerts are designed by GRWC tenor Nadine Miller

Support Staff

Mary Jane Bobier loves the Grand Rapids Women's Chorus and the feeling is mutual. Her recent contribution of over five thousand dollars makes the ninety five year old the sole member of the GRWC's Oratorio Club.



Music has always been a part of Mary Jane's life. Playing the piano, trombone, organ, and harp as well as singing in church choirs are all in her lifetime repertoire.

Mary Jane contributes to the GRWC because she loves its music, thinks its mission is courageous, and finds its musical choices and programming both entertaining and thought provoking. She is interested in all aspects of the GRWC and keeps in the know through her daughter, Lynn Weaver, a chorus alto and member of the small ensemble.

Careers and passions in the yesteryears for Mary Jane Bobier included Great Lakes watercraft piloting, teaching meteorology classes, and managing a mobile home park. Today she enjoys playing cribbage and euchre, tailoring, and creating handcrafted greeting cards using pressed flowers.

She is the mother of three children, the widow of federal court judge the Honorable Harold H. Bobier, and grandmother of one granddaughter and thirteen-year-old triplet grandsons.

Calendar of Events

Make a Date with the GRWC

November 14 - Marywood Chapel Choir

2025 E. Fulton NE

Community Song Sharing

Benefit - Jane Hibbard Idema

Aquinas College Women's Studies Center

Free Will Offering/Doors open at 6:30, Concert at 7pm

December 4 - GRWC Winter Concert

Trinity United Methodist Church

1100 Lake Drive SE

Doors open at 7pm, Concert at 7:30

Suggested Donation - \$10

Refreshments

February 6 - Fountain Street Church

24 Fountain ST NE

GRWC - guest choir 11am

May 21 - GRWC 15th Annual Spring Concert

"La La Palooza"

New Venue! East Grand Rapids Performing Arts Center

2211 Lake Drive SE

Doors open at 7:30, Concert at 8pm

The Grand Rapids Women's Chorus has created a memorial fund to commission new choral works for women's voices. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation in memory of your loved one, their name will be added to the Memorial Fund and recognized in our spring concert program, newsletters and on our website, www.grwc.org. Notification will be made to family members as requested by the donor.

Family and friends being honored in Memoriam

The Honorable Harold H. Bobier
Marge Carlson
Claudia Chittenden
Janine, Rockney, Cordell and Roderick Crampton
Patricia Ann Cusick
Irene Dalcher
Paul and Dorothy Geis
Dorothy Henes
Catherine Carey Hobart
Robert W. Howe
Robert Kohn
Robert J. Miller

Fred W. Olsen
Karen Pojeski
Horacio Salinas
Candelora and Fiorentino Scalza
Joyse Stevens
Shirley Tennenhouse
Martha Thomas
Maxine Thompson
Cornelius and Maria VanderEyck
Margaret E. White
Ceci and Gene Winter

Beloved pets

Daly
Piers and Cosmo

Gracias!

The GRWC greatly appreciates the local businesses and individuals who advertised in last seasons Spring Concert program. Your support makes the program possible and helps offset the costs of our "after glow" reception. Join the GRWC in thanking these businesses and services by shopping locally.

Achievement Resources LLC
Actors Theatre
Cottage Bar
Douglas Congregational
United Church of Christ
Double Dee Repair
Forest Hills Financial
Goldenrod Music
Harmony n' Health
Herman Miller
Julie Gottlieb A.C.S.W.
Keystone Pharmacy
Martha VanderEyck (Vocal coach)
Morgan and Morgan CPAS
Neighborhood Network
North Kent Guidance Services LLC
One Trick Pony
Presto Print
Spirit Dreams
Witte Travel and Tours

A GRWC Crescendo

The Grand Rapids Women's Chorus has increased its volume with the addition of ten new singers and four returning former members. New singers include Sopranos Megan Gross, Adrienne Hollemans, and Shelby VanSratt; Altos Katie Bush, Rachel Davies, and Chelsea Robinson; Tenor Megan TenBroeke; and Basses Jane DeYoung, Pattie Ladd, and Kelly Urbaniak. Returning members include Altos Sarah Gillman and Toni Perrine, and Tenors Sue Brown and Pam Carlson.



Visit Goldenrod Music - your only online source of the Grand Rapids Women's Chorus new CD *"Celebrating Time Together"*

via the  link

at www.grwc.org or (517) 484-1712

Remember, anything you buy, anytime, from Goldenrod's extensive catalog of music and music merchandise returns a percentage of that purchase to the chorus.

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM:

The Grand Rapids Women's Chorus (616) 459-2655
Spirit Dreams • 1430 Lake Drive SE (616) 456-9889

Grand Rapids Women's Chorus

PO Box 68486

Grand Rapids, MI 49516

Phone: (616) 459-2655

Email: info@grwc.org

~ Mission Statement ~



The Grand Rapids Women's Chorus is dedicated to singing music that celebrates and honors the diversity of women's lives. Drawing on music from many cultures, the Chorus strives to educate and inspire its community to promote justice, peace, and equality.

We welcome your comments, suggestions, compliments, questions, letters and tax deductible donations.

Please feel free to contact us.

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