

# CHORUS NOTES

## TEN YEARS OF SINGING

“Celebrating Time Together” on May 13<sup>th</sup> 2006, marks the Ten Year Anniversary Spring concert of the Grand Rapids Women’s Chorus! The chorus will be premiering Libby Larsen’s “The Summer Day” as well as Diane Benjamin’s “Miracle”, both 2006 commissioned works. The Larsen piece (text from a poem by Mary Oliver) will be accompanied by the Grand String Quartet. In addition, we will be presenting favorite songs from the past decade, including an anti-apartheid song by Zap Mama “Guzophela”, “Sansa Kroma” a West African playground song by Felicia Sandler, and “Largo” a piece from the Songs of Survival collection by Anton Dvorak and Margaret Dryburgh. “Rainsong” for 4-handed piano and chorus (commissioned by the GRWC in 2000) and Ysaye Barnwell’s “Memorial 1” (lyrics by Audre Lorde and commissioned in 2004) will also be performed. Joining us will be trumpet player Keith Geiman for “Miss Celie’s Blues (by Quincy Jones, Lionel Richie, and Rod Temperton), bluegrass band Hawks and Owls for “Will the Circle Be Unbroken”, and dancers Laura Armenta and friend for “Sky Dances” by Jennifer Stasack. This will be a memorable night for us and one you don’t want to miss! After the concert, please join us upstairs at the reception and help us celebrate!

**Have you always wanted to sing with the GRWC  
but can’t make the time commitment?**

Join us onstage for our last song of the evening at our Spring Concert on May 13<sup>th</sup>.  
You must be able to attend a 30 minute rehearsal on Monday May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm.  
Contact Lori at [info@grwc.org](mailto:info@grwc.org) or 459-2655 .

## SILENT AUCTION UPDATE

As the robins make their return from the warm southern climate and the daffodils reach up towards the sunny blue skies, the GRWC silent auction committee continues to meet and plan the **2006 Silent Auction** which happens in conjunction with the annual **Winter Concert**.

We know that for most of you, the 2006 winter season may not be in your thoughts, let alone your plans, but we would like you to pencil in this year's event which will be held on **Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006**. We are looking forward to introducing our audience to a new venue for this concert, and offering an exciting and improved auction experience complete with a surprise or two!

The committee is already hard at work soliciting auction items for our annual fundraising event. Popular with our auction goers are restaurant gift certificates, jewelry, works of art and unusual gifts. If there is something you'd like to donate, such as a gift certificate to your restaurant or for a service you provide, a piece of your art work or a gift from your store or business, please contact the auction committee members via our web site at [info@grwc.org](mailto:info@grwc.org).

We wish to thank everyone for past contributions which have helped to make the silent auction an ongoing success. Remember, it's never too early to start thinking about ways to help support the 2006-07 season of the Grand Rapids Women's Chorus!

## NEW CD TO BE RELEASED

The GRWC is thrilled to announce the release of our NEW 10th anniversary recording on compact disc on May 13<sup>th</sup>! This recording, entitled "**Celebrating Time Together**" was recorded at River City Studios on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006, and will first be available at the concert at Royce Auditorium.



This truly remarkable recording features four commissioned works for women's chorus. After May 20, this CD will be available at Spirit Dreams, Schuler Books (28<sup>th</sup> St.), River Books, and online at Goldenrod Music. See the ad below for more information.

**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](http://www.grwc.org)

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

**Goldenrod wishes a HAPPY 10th BIRTHDAY to the Grand Rapids Women's Chorus!**

**Congratulations!**

## UPDATE ON SAN DIEGO

Thanks to all of you who have helped us raise funds to attend the Sister Singer Network festival in San Diego. Our objective is to raise \$5000 and we are about two thirds of the way there.

The chorus and volunteers have participated in a variety of fundraising activities this season. The most recent event, a "Euchre party" turned out to be successful and fun. We may repeat and expand this event, which included our first 50/50 raffle.

We are hoping for good ticket sales for our spring concert and have a contest going between the sections to see who can sell the most tickets. Inspiration to sell comes from the possibilities of having the losing section do something for the winning section, but we have not yet decided what that will be. Send us your ideas. We will let you know next time how this one turns out. You can also participate by buying tickets from your friends in the chorus; especially those in the bass section (oops, did I just write that?), and tickets and CD's make great gifts for Mother's Day! (May 14<sup>th</sup>).

Twenty-eight of our singers are now registered for the festival, which will have its opening ceremonies on Thursday night, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Also performing that evening is the San Diego Women's Chorus with The Women of the Black Storytellers of San Diego. Chorus concert blocks will take place on Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday. The GRWC is likely to take the stage on Friday evening or Saturday. We are very excited to be able to share our commissioned pieces and new 10 year CD, "Celebrating Time Together", with other women's choruses.

Many of the chorus members look forward to building their skills in morning workshops led by such talents as Rhiannon, Margie Adam, Melanie DeMore, and Ubaka Hill who will collaborate in a "headliner" performance for the choruses on Saturday night. Among the workshops that will be offered are: "Women's Repertoire from the Mediterranean and Middle East", "Music Composition", and "Concert Production". Another highlight will be participating in the mass chorus on Sunday afternoon when Lori Tennenhouse will direct the premiere of "Ode to Women." Lori and Dr. Cathy Roma of MUSE worked with composer Josefina Benedetti to complete this commission for the Sister Singers Network. Lori accepted the invitation to direct the piece from the SSN steering committee who also arranged for the Venezuelan composer to be present.

Thanks for your support of the chorus and please come out to see us on May 13<sup>th</sup>!

## EUCHRE PARTY

On Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, the chorus embarked on a new way to help raise funds for our SSN trip: a Euchre party! It was an intimate gathering of GRWC members, family, friends and long time supporters. For a donation to the GRWC, players were set up for 6 rounds of Euchre. What started out as a friendly game of cards soon turned into one of the best social events of the year. There were 34 players and a friendly group of social onlookers. The players were treated to an abundant array of snacks and door prizes. The chorus also raised funds with a cash raffle.

The success of this event is due to all of the volunteers and organizers that helped bring it all together. Thanks to Soaring Eagle Casino for donating playing cards and many door prizes.

The buzz in the chorus is that this could soon become a recurring event for not only chorus members but our whole community.

## THE GRAND RAPIDS WOMEN'S CHORUS

Artistic Director  
Lori Tennenhouse

Small Ensemble Director  
Martha VanderEyck

Pianist  
Toni Gould

Percussionist  
Sue Brown

ASL Interpreter  
Lois Van Broekhoven

Sopranos  
Brenda Baker  
Nancy Court  
Liz DeBraber  
Cathy Howe  
Lynne Homeyer  
Carol Kountz  
Wendy Kuenzel Kapolka  
Hilary Mol  
Jeanne Welch  
Martha VanderEyck

Altos  
Gabrielle Calkins  
Donna Clark  
Linell Crampton  
Erin Dreyer  
Ann Erhardt  
Megan Grimm  
Lynn Mack  
Chris Sales  
Pam Sandberg  
Anne Thompson

Tenors  
Cheryl Beatty  
Sue Brown  
Pam Carlson  
Sara Homeyer  
Shirley Jones  
Molly Kehoe  
Sheryl Mase  
Nadine Miller  
Janice Scalza

Basses  
Elaine Dalcher  
Cathajane Galante  
Leslie Kohn  
Jennifer Robinson  
Janet Thering  
Linda Troyer  
Connie Winter-Troutwine  
Paula Wurm

## GRWC MEMORIAL FUND

The following people are recipients of the GRWC Memorial Fund:

Paul Geis  
Horacio Salinas  
Candalora and Fiorentino Scalza  
Shirley Tennenhouse  
Maria VanderEyck

A special thanks to contributors.

Jean and David Bahle  
Cheryl Beatty and Nancy McCrohan  
Dr. Dorothy Berg  
Cathajane Galante  
Cathy Howe  
Sheryl Mase  
Lisa E. Rashewsky  
Monique Salinas-Stauffer Ph.D.  
Janice Scalza  
Janet Thering  
Ruth Allerton  
Carol Moore  
Martha VanderEyck  
Anonymous

buy the  
**C**ompact

**D**isc

Diane Benjamin's  
*"Where I Live"*  
a Breast Cancer Oratorio

the  
Grand Rapids  
WOMEN'S  
CHORUS

The "Where I Live" breast cancer oratorio CD features String Players from the GR Symphony and Narrations by Community Cancer Survivors. It is a beautiful testament for anyone whose life has been touched by cancer.

### AVAILABLE FROM:

The Grand Rapids Women's Chorus 459-2655  
Spirit Dreams 1430 Lake SE 456-9889

Goldenrod Music 517- 484-1712 [www.goldenrod.com](http://www.goldenrod.com)

\*\*\*\*ON LINE direct to Goldenrod from [www.grwc.org](http://www.grwc.org)\*\*\*\*



## OVATIONS BY JANET THERING

The GRWC Board of Directors meets once a month at the home of one of its members. The function of the Board, in part, is to review and approve the budget, delegate tasks to committees, future planning, uphold the mission statement, and have fun. Board members commit to three year terms and officers are elected annually. The following are the current GRWC Executive Board Members:

Gabrielle Calkins - Madame Chair Gabby has been with the GRWC for six years and sings with the Altos. Her responsibilities as Chairperson include developing the agenda, facilitating the board meeting (which she mercifully keeps to a strict two hours), booking and co-facilitating the GRWC annual retreat, consulting and assisting with committees, and communicating board activities to the Chorus.

As Chair, Gabby considers the most challenging aspect to be finding ways to assure input is given and heard by everyone. Rewarding performances by the Chorus and a healthy financial balance sheet are what bring her the most satisfaction. Gabby is also part of the GRWC Recognition Committee, updates the Handbook, and sings with the small ensemble.

Janice Scalza - Vice-Chair Janice is the Tenor co-section leader, a member of the small ensemble, the Chorus archivist, and a charter member of the GRWC. Her duties as Vice-Chair go beyond assisting Gabby and include maintaining the mailing list, fundraising, PR, cheerleading, and general troubleshooting. Janice is active in The SisterSingers Network and has spirited the GRWC goal to perform in San Diego.

Getting a clear consensus on matters at board meetings is sometimes a challenge for Janice, but not as challenging as actually getting to the meetings. A resident of Big Rapids, Janice has driven an estimated 50 thousand miles over the past ten years for chorus-related activities. That's a bit more than circumnavigating the earth twice.

Linda Troyer - Secretary Linda has performed with the GRWC for seven seasons and is a proud member of the Bass section. As secretary, she is responsible for recording and distributing the board meeting minutes. Linda finds the biggest challenge is in reading her own handwriting and the biggest reward is in finishing the task, getting it off her desk, and into the hands of the board members.

Linda is also active on the Events Committee, is a Silent Auction steering committee member, develops PR, and helps maintain the GRWC website.

Cheryl Beatty - Treasurer Cheryl has been part of the GRWC since its second season and sings in the Tenor section. Included in her 101 responsibilities as Treasurer are: preparing and presenting the financial reports, paying bills, making deposits, balancing accounts, maintaining the donor list, sending thank-you letters, responding to Tax ID requests, reporting at the annual meeting, and - oh, yeah- interfacing with the IRS.

Although the tasks can be time consuming, Cheryl enjoys the challenge and appreciates the opportunity to give back to the Chorus. Cheryl lives in East Lansing and commutes weekly for rehearsals.

The Others - Other members of the 2006 GRWC Board are: Sue Brown, Pam Carlson, Ann Erhart, Jennifer Robinson, Lori Tennenhouse, Janet Thering, and Connie Winter-Troutwine.

CLIP & SAVE

### GRWC Spring Concert

**Saturday, May 13, 2006 at 8:00 p.m.**

**St. Cecilia's Royce Auditorium, 24 Ransom St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI**

**Tickets are \$12 advance purchase at Spirit Dreams in Eastown,**

**from any GRWC member, or at grwc.org**

**\$15 at the door**

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Grand Rapids Women's Chorus  
PO Box 68486  
Grand Rapids, MI 49516

*News from the Grand Rapids Women's Chorus*

Visit our website at:  
[www.grwc.org](http://www.grwc.org)

*-Mission Statement-*



***The Grand Rapids Women's Chorus is dedicated to singing culturally diverse music that promotes appreciation of women composers and arrangers.***

***Established for the education, enjoyment and enrichment of its members and its audience, the organization seeks to create and inspire meaningful experience through musical expression.***

We welcome your comments, suggestions, compliments, questions, letters and tax deductible donations.  
Please feel free to contact us.

Grand Rapids Women's Chorus  
PO Box 68486  
Grand Rapids, MI 49516

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