



YOUNG WOMEN'S
CHORAL PROJECTS
— OF SAN FRANCISCO —

*Dreams
Come
True*

A large, detailed dandelion seed head is positioned on the left side of the image. Several dandelion seeds with their feathery parachutes are shown in mid-air, drifting upwards and to the right against a clear blue sky. The overall composition is clean and inspiring.

*June 6, 2021
Presented Online*



A Message from the Artistic Director

Dear Concert Patrons,

It's been quite a year!

I am so proud of our choristers and directors who have accomplished great things this year in spite of the difficulties of teaching chorus online. We are so thankful for our parents, staff and donors who have made YWCP strong under these circumstances. During this time, we've discovered that chorus was not only a place of refuge to wait out the pandemic, but a place to keep growing musically and vocally, an artistic space to keep creating music for a wider audience and a strong community where our friends were there to support us.

Today's virtual concert, "Dreams Come True," is the culmination of our work together this past season. Each of our ensembles made a solo virtual choir video for this performance, and joined their voices together for a larger piece. As most of you know, this involved recording themselves individually at home and having those videos assembled through audio and video technology. In addition to these videos, you will hear selected archival footage from past concerts that highlights the theme of hope and renewal (and can remind us what it was like to sing together!).

Our hope is that the Chorus will be in-person again next season for our 10th anniversary year. If our dreams come true, we will breathe in unison, sing glorious harmony and once again experience the life-giving force of live choral music. What a joy that will be!

With much gratitude,



Susan McMane

Artistic & Executive Director

Dreams Come True

Spring Showcase Virtual Concert

June 6, 2021

Young Women's Chorus – Susan McMane, conductor

Vivo Chorus – Gemma Arguelles, conductor

Allegro Chorus – Danelle Johnson, conductor

Prelude Chorus – Samantha Maas-Baldwin, conductor

Margaret Halbig, piano

One Voice

Phoebe Klebahn, soprano, Eliza Heath, alto,
& Isabelle Magid-Kutlin, soprano

All YWCP Ensembles

Live Performance, June 8, 2019

Ruth Moody

Metsa Telegramm (“The Woodpecker’s Warning”) Uno Naissoo

Allegro Chorus

Live Performance, June 8, 2019

Grow, Little Tree

Andrea Ramsey

Allegro Chorus

Recorded Spring 2021

Magical Kingdom

Prelude Chorus

Live Performance, December 14, 2019

John Rutter

It was a lover and his lass

John Rutter

Young Women's Chorus Section Leaders

Recorded Spring 2021

My Soul's Alive with Spring

Prelude Chorus

Recorded Spring 2021

Amy F. Bernon

Goodbye Tribute to Our Seniors

Over the Rainbow Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg,
arr. Mark Hayes

Sophie Carpenter, Nena Aldaz & Alyssa Tsuyuki, soloists
Young Women's Chorus Alumnae
Recorded Spring 2021

Dakami ay Anan-ak Traditional Filipino Folksong
(“We are Children”) arr. Maria Theresa Vizconde-Roldan

Vivo Chorus
Live Performance, June 8, 2019

The Beat of a Different Drum Sarah Quartel

Vivo Chorus
Recorded Spring 2021

Greeting from Ragnar Bohlin, SF Symphony Chorus Director

From Rivers Caroline Shaw

Emil Miland, cello & Dashon Burton, bass-baritone
Young Women's Chorus
Recorded Spring 2021

Will There Really Be a “Morning?” Craig Hella Johnson

Young Women's Chorus Section Leaders
Recorded Spring 2021

I Dream a World Joan Szymko

Young Women's Chorus
Recorded Spring 2021

Hold On! African-American Spiritual, arr. Robert De Cormier

Young Women's Chorus
Live Performance, Römhild, Germany, June 27, 2015

You'll Never Walk Alone/Climb Every Mountain
Oscar Hammerstein II and Richard Rodgers, arr. Mark Hayes

Sedi-Anne Blachford, Sonia Banker, Gwinna Putz &
Sasha Feldman, soloists
All YWCP Ensembles
Recorded Spring 2021

**This concert is sponsored in part by
San Francisco Grants for the Arts.**





The Performers

YWCP Singers Spring 2021

Prelude Chorus

Sarah Brown
Sejal Datar
Amira Davies
Zoe Dworman
Nayana Gupta
Annie Jeong
Hyonia Kottas
Alyssa Lee
Sophie Messina
Anna Dido Nordeson
Cana Quinn
Jessamine Quinn
Elise Robinson
Riley Shapiro
Eliza Zarzecki

Allegro Chorus

Cora Brenzel Gaines
Ava Casalaina
Lily Dehlendorf
Lia Erives
Charlotte Fanvu
Gemma Gullo
Katherine Hansch
Alyssa Kam
Orlaith Keenan
Lydia Kleinbart
Adabella London
Isabella Ma
Maeve Minner

Willa Nathanson
Niah Noorani
Beatrix Oliver
Mariana Regalado
Hazel Robinson
Sienna Ruman
Livy Seff
Odessa Skye
Athena Somogyi
Rowan Stepanian
Olive Sullivan
Sophienne Yuen

Vivo Chorus

Zareen Abraham
Amelia Cheung
Imogen Cornes
Annabel Danson
Nola Evans
Camille Fanvu
Rowan Gleser
Lucia Greenhouse
Aria Gupta
Jillian Hickox
Hilde Kirsch Kutz
Maile Koidin

Ella Morris-Weide
Linnea Munkeby Lee
Amelie Nordström
Eve Genie Nudd
Charlotte Penfield
Mia Perelman
Saskia Petitt
Laura Petrocelli
Eva Richey
Rini Seto
Audrey Tom
Sophia Welte



Young Women's Chorus

Soprano 1

Rebekah Libby
Nicole Nomura ✧
Marybeth Ong ✧
Gwinna Putz★
Casey Tang
Enrica Waugh
Valerie Wong
Emma Yin★

★Section Leader

Soprano 2

Sonia Banker★
Noemi Barbagli
Sasha Feldman★
Lily Galante
Catherine Ong
Aria Ramsinghani
Jodie Rivera
Audrey Roomian

✧ Manager / Librarian

Alto 1

Lena Beer
Zoë Cort
Chloe Faison
Jasmine Goodman★
Eliza Heath★
Heron Lundeen
Sadie Oliver
T Sall
Sarah Wolfe

Alto 2

Sedi-Anne Blachford★
Sarah Cheung★
Caroline Hall-Sherr ✧
Cecilia Heath
Beatrice Hord
Lyla Maymon
Kalpana Narlikar
Kären Rindal
Audrey Wong


Young Women's Chorus Alumnae

Nena Aldaz
Dewi Beer
Anna Sophia Boyd
Sophie Carpenter
Sofia Chandler-Freed
Geetha Chandroth
Michelle Cheung
Hannah Chu
Hannah Dedji

Katrina Duong
Anna Illes
Klara La Guardia
Aria Lee
Samantha Lincroft
Isabelle Magid-Kutlin
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Olivia Rosenberg-Chavez
Maxine Rosenfeld
Mila Sall
Catherine Scanlon
Rhiana Schafer
Tamlyn Schafer

Ella Tang
Elizabeth Tinen
Elena Townsend-Lerdo
Alyssa Tsuyuki
Kaitlyn Tsuyuki
Christina Warren
Sydney Weaver
Dancy Zhang



Founded in 2012, the **Young Women's Choral Projects of San Francisco** is recognized nationally and internationally as a world-class choral organization for girls and young women, ages 5-18. The organization has won four national awards, including the Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence from Chorus America, widely recognized as the pinnacle of choral achievement within the United States. YWCP choristers are divided into five levels of choral training where they find their voices as singers, artists, and women in a nurturing environment that empowers them to achieve artistic and personal excellence.

The **Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco**, conducted by Dr. Susan McMane, is the premier ensemble of YWCP. Praised for its captivating sound, dynamic programming, sensitive artistry and musical depth, the Chorus has caught the attention of major arts organizations both here and abroad. Each year the Chorus sings a series of concerts in the Bay Area and tours either nationally or internationally. The Chorus sings regularly with the San Francisco Symphony and other professional artists. In a regular season, members of this ensemble memorize over forty pieces of music in many languages and styles. They have performed on stage with numerous world-renowned performers such as the Kronos Quartet, Frederica von Stade, Christine Brewer and Isabel Leonard, and have recently starred in the world premiere of the contemporary opera *Abraham in Flames*, where the Chorus had the leading role.

Vivo Chorus, the most advanced level of YWCP's training program, is for girls in grades 6-12. In Vivo Chorus, singers learn advanced sight-singing skills, and study more complex music theory and ear training. Vivo choristers continue to develop their vocal skills to produce a free, strong, resonant voice, and occasionally have the opportunity for group and private voice lessons with a professional teacher. They perform 4-6 times a year, and represent YWCP in outside bookings.

Allegro Chorus, the intermediate level of YWCP's training program, is comprised of young women in grades 4-8 from across the Bay Area. Allegro singers receive vocal and musical training through a Kodály-based

curriculum that includes music theory, ear-training, sight-reading, vocal technique, and performance skills. Allegro Chorus sings a wide variety of music in many styles and languages and performs occasional bookings.

Prelude Chorus is YWCP's beginning level of choral training, for girls in grades 2-6. Through a Kodály-based music education curriculum, Prelude choristers learn healthy vocal production, music theory and performance expertise. Prelude Chorus sings repertoire in many styles, explores dances and games from around the world, and learns to sing beautifully in unison and two-part harmony.

Dr. Susan McMane has centered her career on showing the world the power and beauty of young women's voices. In 2012, she became the founding director of the Young Women's Choral Projects of San Francisco, where she conducts the auditioned, premier chorus of young women in grades 8-12 and oversees the YWCP training program for younger girls. She encourages her singers to reach for excellence in music and life, and she has taken her choirs to important venues including the steps of the Capitol in Washington, D.C., for the first inauguration ceremony of President Barack Obama in 2009, and to numerous world stages.



Dr. McMane has won many honors including three GRAMMY® Awards with the San Francisco Symphony, and the 2007 "Symphony of Excellence Arts Award" from the Pacific Musical Society. In 2014, her work earned her recognition as an "outstanding community youth choir director" from The American Prize, and in 2017 she was awarded the CEDAW Women's Human Rights Award for Girls Empowerment and Education.

Because of her advocacy for new music, Dr. McMane's choruses won the ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming three times: in 2004, 2011, and 2017. Dr. McMane is responsible for commissioning over 26 new works for young women's voices from prominent composers. She has prepared her choirs for performances with many leading symphonic conductors including Michael Tilson Thomas, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Helmuth Rilling, Nicholas

McGegan, and Kurt Masur. In addition, she personally has conducted ensembles on tour across Europe, in South Africa, Canada, Japan, South Korea, and China. She seeks out new projects that will empower young women, and in 2019 her Young Women's Chorus performed the leading role in a contemporary opera *Abraham in Flames* by Aleksandra Vrebalov, and the chorus was engaged as a featured performer for the San Francisco Symphony's SoundBox in 2020.

Many musicians and critics have commented favorably on Dr. McMane's work, stating "the artistic results have never been short of breathtaking" (Joshua Kosman, *SF Chronicle*); "Susan McMane is one of the finest conductors of choral music I have encountered anywhere. With her... one may always expect excellent music performed at the highest level. And she accomplishes this in a way that makes her beloved to her singers and raises their awareness as musicians and human beings" (Kirke Mechem, composer); and "Her work is not only a gift to the Bay Area; it is a gift to the entire musical world" (Robert Moore, critic for *American Record Guide*).



Vivo Chorus Director Gemma Arguelles celebrates over thirty years of service as a music educator and choir director in Bay Area institutions and in the Philippines. She is a music lecturer at Holy Names University in Oakland and faculty member of its Kodály Summer Institute since 1997. Recognized for her long career of excellence in teaching and service to music education, Gemma was honored with the 2017 Organization of

American Kodály Educators (OAKE) Outstanding Educator award. She is a frequent presenter at OAKE National Conferences and California Music Educators Association State Conferences and has led workshops for many music organizations locally and abroad.

Gemma earned her Master's degree in Music Education with Kodály Emphasis from Holy Names University and Bachelor's degrees in Music Education and Choral Conducting from the University of the Philippines. She is a candidate for PhD in Music Education at the University of Oklahoma.



Allegro Chorus Director Danelle Johnson brings over 25 years of experience in choral music and singing to YWCP. After receiving a Bachelor of Music Education from Loyola University (New Orleans), Danelle taught music and chorus in several public and private schools in Louisiana and Florida. After moving to California in 2004, Danelle taught elementary and high school vocal music and served as a choral director for the San Francisco Girls Chorus

School. In 2007, she earned a Master of Music Education from Holy Names University with a specialization in solfeggio and the methods of Zoltán Kodály. More recently, she lived in Texas for two years developing a choral music program for a newly-constructed high school. Having returned to California in 2012, Danelle serves several organizations as a pianist and choral specialist. She also runs a private music studio in her home offering piano, voice, and music theory lessons. Last fall, Danelle became YWCP's Outreach Director to McCoppin Elementary School (SFUSD) where she taught choral music to the two third-grade classes.

Prelude Chorus and Arietta Singers Director Samantha Maas-Baldwin has been teaching music in the Bay Area for over 10 years. After graduating from San Francisco State University with a Bachelor of Music in Music Education with an emphasis in classical voice, Samantha earned her California Teaching Credential and became the director of music at San Marin High School in northern Marin, leading many choral and instrumental ensembles.

In the spring of 2014, Samantha earned a Master of Music in Music Education with an emphasis on Kodály from Holy Names University. While earning her Master's, Samantha also studied advanced vocal pedagogy with Eric Howe. As an elementary and middle school music educator and Kodály specialist, Samantha has worked as a general music teacher and choir director for children's choirs and public schools in the North and East Bay.





Praised for his “nobility and rich tone,” (The New York Times) **bass-baritone Dashon Burton** has established a world-wide career in opera, recital, and in many works with orchestra. In key elements of his repertoire — Bach’s *St. John* and *St. Matthew Passions* and the Mass in B Minor, Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*, Beethoven’s Symphony no. 9, Brahms’ *Requiem*, Handel’s *Messiah*, and Mozart’s *Requiem* – Dashon is a frequent guest with the major orchestras of the United States, Europe, and Japan.

Opera engagements have included Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte* in Dijon and Paris and Jupiter in Rameau’s *Castor et Pollux* with Les Talens Lyriques; Strauss’ *Salome* at the Salzburg Festival, and Peter Sellars’s production of Claude Vivier’s *Kopernikus, un rituel de mort* at Paris’ Théâtre de la Ville. A frequent guest of the Cleveland Orchestra, he sang Michael Tilson Thomas’ Rilke Songs there, led by the composer. In the fall of 2019, Dashon sang the world premiere of Caroline Shaw’s *The Listeners* (a part written by Shaw specifically for Burton), with the Philharmonia Baroque and Nicholas McGegan.

Burton continued as a Resident Artist in the 2019/2020 season with San Francisco Performances, and sang recitals throughout the US, including a program based on works from his album *Songs and Struggles of Redemption; We Shall Overcome*, singled out by The New York Times as “profoundly moving...a beautiful and lovable disc.” Dashon is an original member of the groundbreaking vocal ensemble, Roomful of Teeth, with whom he won a Grammy for their recording of Caroline Shaw’s Pulitzer-Prizewinning *Partita for 8 Voices*. In March of 2021, Burton won his second Grammy, this time for Best Classical Solo Vocal Album for Dame Ethyl Smyth’s *The Prison* with The Experiential Orchestra on Chandos.

Cellist Emil Miland has performed many times with YWCP, including a commission in December 2015 written by Frank La Rocca. Miland is an internationally-renowned soloist and chamber musician and is a member of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. He has collaborated with some of the

world’s finest singers in recital including Jamie Barton, Zheng Cao, Joyce di Donato and Susan Graham. In 2010, Frederica von Stade asked Miland to play for her farewell recital at Carnegie Hall. Many composers have written new works for him including Ernst Bacon, David Carlson, David Conte, Lou Harrison, Jake Heggie and Andrew Imbrie. David Conte’s “Sonata for Violoncello and Piano” was written for Miland, and in July 2018, he premiered Conte’s new concerto for cello and orchestra.

San Francisco Classical Voice says of Miland: “Among the San Francisco Bay Area’s legions of great musicians, nobody works harder than the cellist Emil Miland — former child prodigy, current virtuoso, 30-year veteran of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, founding principal cello of the New Century Chamber Orchestra, soloist, teacher, mentor, musical and humanitarian icon.



Pianist Margaret Halbig moved to the Bay Area in 2011 and joined the accompanying and vocal coaching staff at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. An advocate of new and contemporary music, Margaret has been the pianist for the New Music Collective, Wild Rumpus, since its inception in 2011. Margaret is also the pianist for Frequency 49, a wind and piano chamber ensemble exploring the interdependent relationship between color and sound unique to this combination of instruments. In summer 2016, Margaret joined the faculty of the Bay Area Vocal Academy, providing comprehensive vocal training to young singers, as coach and pianist.

Margaret earned her DMA from the University of California, Santa Barbara, under the tutelage of Robert Koenig and also holds performance degrees from the University of Missouri, Kansas City Conservatory, and University of Evansville, Indiana. Her primary teachers include Jonathan Feldman, Robert Weirich, and Anne Fiedler.

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The Young Women's Choral Projects is grateful for the generosity of the following individuals and organizations, whose donations have made our programs possible. This list reflects gifts received from May 20, 2020, to May 20, 2021.

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For girls in grades 2-12

Now through June 12

Learn more and sign up:

www.ywcp.org/auditions

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For girls ages 4-8

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MORE INFORMATION:

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Contact YWCP

Young Women's Choral Projects of San Francisco

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