



VOX **25** YEARS
Femina
LOS ANGELES

25th Anniversary Season

Dr. Iris S. Levine
Founding Artistic Director



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VOX FEMINA Los Angeles

2021-2022

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Founding Artistic Director

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Lisa Edwards
Pianist

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Cynthia Glass
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Rachel Paterno-Mahler
Raeanne Pfeifer
Laura Pluth
Mary Read
Chelsea Richer
Lori Marie Rios
Laurel Roberts-Messe
Maya Shah-Ceccotti
Merced Stratton

Altos

Jacklyn Agor
Ruth Bamuwamye
Lesili Beard
Lisa Bell
Casey Burgess
Evi Desser
Eileen Dorn
Alice Dryden
Meryah Fisher
Laurie Fox
Miriam Hall
Jolie Hughes
Mika Jain
Missy Nieto
Marcela Pan
Lauren Schellenbach
Ashley Sheagley
Sammy Sohn
Abbey Thompson
Sumana Wolf



VOX Femina, 2018

Founded in January 1997, VOX Femina Los Angeles gives women voice through the performance of quality choral literature. Diverse in culture, age, race, belief, and sexual identity, we are dedicated to commissioning new works and raising awareness about issues that affect us as a family of women. Through our music, we seek to create a world which affirms the worth and dignity of every person.

Since our debut, VOX has performed a catalogue of music exemplifying diverse musical styles and repertoire. In keeping with our mission, VOX has commissioned over 50 new works for women's voices, and collaborated with over 35 contemporary composers. In addition to our season schedule, VOX has been active in community outreach, performing and participating in over 200 community events and collaborating with other arts organizations such as the LA Philharmonic, LA Master Chorale, Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, Trans Chorus of Los Angeles, and VOX Dance Theatre.

VOX Femina Los Angeles is honored to have received grants from the California Arts Council; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs; the City of West Hollywood; the City of Culver City; the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture; the National Endowment for the Arts; AIDS Healthcare Foundation; the David Bohnett Foundation; California Community Foundation - Brody Arts Fund; the Colburn Foundation; the Confidence Foundation; the Ella Fitzgerald Foundation; GALA Choruses; the James Irvine Foundation; The Music Man Foundation; Open Meadows Foundation; the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation; and Pasadena Showcase for the Arts.

Dr. Iris S. Levine

Founding Artistic Director

It is with tremendous pride and joy that we welcome you to the 25th anniversary season of VOX Femina Los Angeles.

As the Founding Artistic Director, I have always dreamed of making the world a better place through music and I believe that VOX does this in song. We create a safe place in which all singers, regardless of sexual identity, race, ethnicity, or age, tell the story of our experiences.

We have had plenty of occasion to dig deep, pivot, innovate, find our voice, and sing out beautifully and strong. Since our inception, we have had the amazing opportunity of sharing the stage with celebrities ranging from folk legend Holly Near to Broadway star Joanna Gleason to performing under the baton of Gustavo Dudamel. We have sung in nearly thirty languages representing cultures from all around the world. We have enjoyed collaborations with many artists, including the popular dance theater company CONTRA-TIEMPO, Japanese percussionists the ON Taiko ensemble, 2020 MacArthur Fellow and playwright Larissa FastHorse (Sicangu Lakota Nation), and the L.A. Women's Shakespeare Company. Through our concert programming we have opened the eyes and ears of some of the most conservative thinkers, helping them understand the beauty of diversity in music-making and demonstrating the fact that love is love.

Today, we stand upon our remarkable history and continue to deliver our mission through commissioning new works, engaging with various communities, and raising awareness about issues that affect us as a family of women. Thank you for being with us - for supporting us with your heartfelt applause and standing ovations. Thank you for your volunteerism and generous financial contributions. And a special thank you for supporting us during these past two years, when live performances were just not possible.

I hope you enjoy tonight's concert and return time and again for more. We love singing for you.... Thank you for being part of our family!



Dr. Iris S. Levine
Founding Artistic Director



Dr. Iris S. Levine and Lisa Edwards



Dr. Iris S. Levine at Disney Concert Hall, 2017



(L to R) Marcela Pan, Evi Desser, Dr. Iris S. Levine, Marjorie Poe, Jackie Agor, and Miriam Hall, 2016

Rebecca Wink Executive Director

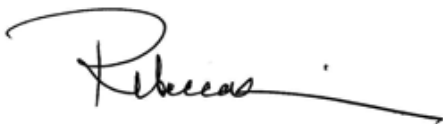
WELCOME BACK!

I am delighted to be writing this letter knowing that I will soon be seeing so many familiar (and also many new) faces this season, as we return at long last to in-person concerts! These past 20 months, since VOX's March 14, 2020 concert was cancelled at the beginning of the pandemic, have been a challenging time for all performing arts organizations, particularly those whose primary function is to SING. And yet, we did not allow our voices to be silenced. Under the undaunted leadership of our artistic staff, and with the help of some incredibly talented outside artists and technicians, as well as the amazing dedication and resilience of our singers, VOX created spectacular digital content that reached a global audience and tripled our viewership.

VOX is committed to continuing to provide our signature sound to those global patrons by providing live streams of all of our ticketed concerts during our current 25th anniversary season and beyond. We hope that you will spread the word to your friends and families across the globe about these digital offerings!

We are so grateful to all of you, our patrons and donors, for your support and flexibility during this time, and we appreciate your cooperation as we navigate the return to live concerts with protocols that will help us all to remain safe as we enjoy listening to the music of VOX in a live setting.

I have only been with VOX for six of the organization's 25 years, but I am truly honored to be a part of the ongoing journey. Cheers to another 25 years!



Rebecca Wink
Executive Director



VOX Femina Los Angeles at Disney Concert Hall, 2017, photo by Jonathan Selig



California Nonprofit of the Year Award, 2016



Former Board Chair Jen Talameo Mulder, Dr. Iris S. Levine, and Rebecca Wink, 2016, photo by Jonathan Selig

Dr. Iris S. Levine, Founding Artistic Director



Nationally recognized for her excellence in choral conducting, Dr. Iris S. Levine is founder and artistic director of VOX Femina Los Angeles, L.A.'s premier women's chorus. Through her extensive experience with women's choral literature, and innovative concert programming, Dr. Levine has charted VOX Femina on an impressive journey, building its prominence in the choral community by way of numerous appearances at ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) conventions and Chorus America conferences, and over 300 appearances throughout the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Dr. Levine is the Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona. Dr. Levine served as Dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences, Interim Dean of the College of Education and Integrative Studies, and Department Chair and Professor of Music at Cal Poly Pomona. As faculty, she conducted the Kellogg Chamber Singers, taught Beginning Conducting, Choral Conducting and Music Education courses. Dr. Levine earned her Doctorate in Choral Music from the University of

Southern California under the tutelage of Rod Eichenberger and James Vail, and she holds a Masters degree in Choral Conducting from Temple University in Philadelphia, where she studied with Alan Harler.

Dr. Levine authored the chapter on "Working with the Women's Community Choir" in the GIA publication: *Conducting Women's Choirs: Strategies for Success*. Dr. Levine is the editor for the Iris S. Levine Treble Choral Series with Pavane Publishing and is highly sought as guest clinician and adjudicator for choral festivals throughout the country.



VOX Femina Founding Members, 1997

Lisa Edwards, Pianist



Following her undergraduate studies in piano performance at University of North Texas, Lisa Edwards earned her Master of Music degree in the Keyboard Collaborative Arts program at the University of Southern California with honors. While at USC, she was awarded the Gwendolyn Koldofsky Scholarship.

Currently, Ms. Edwards is the pianist/music assistant for the Los Angeles Master Chorale, under the direction of Grant Gershon and performs regularly on stage at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Her concert credits include performances with the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and the Santa Barbara Symphony. On disc, Lisa can be heard on two Nonesuch recordings of Steve Reich's music - "You Are" Variations and "Daniel Variations". Previous faculty positions include California State University Long Beach, Glendale Community College, and Pasadena Community College. In addition to being the pianist for VOX Femina Los Angeles, Ms. Edwards holds positions with San Marino Community Church, Stephen S. Wise Temple in Bel Air, and Congregation Kol Ami in West Hollywood. Lisa travels throughout the United States as a vocal/chamber music pianist.

Lori Marie Rios, Assistant Conductor



Lori Marie Rios is a highly accomplished conductor, Soprano soloist, educator, adjudicator, clinician, and voice teacher. She currently serves as Professor of Music at College of the Canyons, in Valencia, CA. where she directs the Chamber Singers and Voices of the Canyons, teaches voice, and administrates the applied music program. She is also currently an adjunct faculty member at California State University, Fullerton, where she is a mentor teacher in the music education department. Prior to her appointment at COC, she directed the choral program at La Cañada High School/Middle School for 8 years and taught K-8 classroom and choral music.

Prof. Rios has presented workshops for California CCDA, Nevada Choral Directors Association, Rocky Mountain Choral Festival, conducted various Regional and All State honor choirs including the All-State Middle School Choir from Nevada, and traveled to Tokyo to conduct the Tokyo International Honor Choir. In 2022 she will be conducting the Idaho All State-SSAA Choir. She served as the Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Bach Festival and is a past president of the California

ACDA, where she currently serves on the Regional and National Steering Committees for the association. Under her presidency she started the Vision for the Future Scholarship Fund for Continuing Education.

As a Soprano, Ms. Rios made her Walt Disney Concert Hall debut as a soloist in the Mozart Requiem under the baton of Grant Gershon. Other solo works include Rossini/Stabat Mater, Bach/Magnificat, Vivaldi/Gloria, Orff/Carmina Burana, and Handel/Messiah, among others. She was a founding member of "Diva Complex," a vocal quartet that performed with VOX Femina in its 2nd year of existence. She holds a Master of Music degree in conducting and vocal performance from the University of Nevada, Reno, where her master teachers were Dr. Bruce Mayhall-Rastrelli and Prof. Don Brinegar, and a Bachelor of Music in choral studies/vocal performance from California State University, Los Angeles.

VOX FEMINA Los Angeles

Singers 1997-2021

Abby Accettura *Soprano*
Wendy Acton *Alto*
Jacklyn Agor** *Alto*
Starr Ahrens *Alto*
Courtney Allen *Soprano*
Marcia Armstrong+ *Alto*
Caitlin Austin *Soprano*
Desiree Balfour** *Soprano*
Ruth Bamuwanye** *Alto*
Lesili Beard+** *Alto*
Lisa Bell** *Alto*
Tonya Bennett *Soprano*
Meghana Bhatt *Alto*
Michele Botz *Soprano*
Suzanne Brown** *Soprano*
Casey Burgess** *Alto*
Kate F. Burns *Soprano*
Kate Burns** *Soprano*
Donna Burroughs *Alto*
Julia Callander *Soprano*
Laura Cannon *Soprano*
Catherine Card+** *Soprano*
Darcy Carroll *Soprano*
Rebecca Castañón *Soprano*
Leila Chakravarty *Soprano*
Ruth Charloff *Alto*
Frances Chee *Alto*
Jennifer Cheng *Alto*
Janet Cherpin *Soprano*
Sally Chou *Alto*
Laura Clise *Alto*
Robin Cole+ *Soprano*
Isabel Contreras *Alto*
Alyssa Cossey *Soprano*
Julie Crooks *Alto*
Allison Crow *Soprano*
Evi Desser+ *Alto*
Rhonda Dillon** *Soprano*
Eileen Dorn** *Alto*
Sherry Drainer+ *Alto*
Alice Dryden** *Alto*
Megan Eddy *Alto*
Julie Edwards *Soprano*
Ivy Ellis *Alto*
Bethany Enicina** *Soprano*
Abby Evans *Soprano*
Meryah Fisher** *Alto*
Laurie Fox** *Alto*

Connie Frady *Soprano*
Allie Fukushima *Soprano*
Chris Gacsi+ *Alto*
Courtney Gasque *Alto*
Cynthia Glass** *Soprano*
Sharon Goldstein *Soprano*
Edie Gonzalez *Soprano*
Lindsey Graham** *Soprano*
Lorna Gregory *Alto*
Miriam Hall** *Alto*
Leah Hamilton** *Soprano*
Hillary Harder *Soprano*
Adrienne Hope *Soprano*
Clara Huang *Alto*
Jolie Hughes** *Alto*
Linda Hundley *Alto*
Mika Jain** *Alto*
Joy Jakubowski *Alto*
Janet Joe *Soprano*
JoAnne Johnston *Soprano*
Leslie Kaplan *Soprano*
Katy Kappahn *Alto*
Jennifer Knight-Arcaute
Soprano
Valentina Knox-Jones *Soprano*
Danielle Koplinka-Loehr
Soprano
Camille Kunze *Alto*
Bonita Lahey *Alto*
Giselle LaLonde *Soprano*
Janet Leavell *Alto*
Amy R. Levine+ *Alto*
Carol Lisek *Alto*
Mary Lou Loper *Soprano*
Nathan Megan Diane Lydian *Alto*
DJ Lynch+ *Alto*
Anna Lysak *Alto*
Judith Martin *Soprano*
Teri Masters *Soprano*
Anna Mathea *Soprano*
Genevieve Mazella *Alto*
Caroline McKenzie *Soprano*
Carolyn McLaurine *Soprano*
Elizabeth Medrano+ *Alto*
Helen Mendoza+ *Alto*
Susan Merson *Soprano*
Jan Miller+ *Soprano*
Sally J. Monk+ *Alto*

Brenda Moore *Alto*
Consuelo Moreno *Alto*
Michelle Mormul *Soprano*
Christine Morse *Soprano*
Michele Mulidor** *Alto*
Lydia Mulkey *Soprano*
Carly Munson *Alto*
Sherry Netherland+ *Alto*
Missy Nieto** *Alto*
Francesca Noceti* *Soprano*
Sonia Ohan** *Soprano*
Jonnie Owens *Alto*
Marcela Pan** *Alto*
Rachel Paterno-Mahler** *Soprano*
Pam Patterson *Alto*
Lauren Pepping *Soprano*
Raeanne Pfeifer** *Soprano*
Laura Pluth** *Soprano*
Marjorie Poe *Alto*
Toni Pogue *Soprano*
Courtney Politano *Alto*
Miranda Porterfield *Soprano*
Delilah Poupore+ *Soprano*
Kendra Powell *Soprano*
Beth Powers *Alto*
Myra Prival Bressel+ *Soprano*
Natalia Ramos *Soprano*
Brooke Randolph *Alto*
Mary Read+** *Soprano*
Holley Replogle-Wong *Soprano*
Emily Rew *Soprano*
Larena Reyna *Soprano*
Chelsea Richer** *Soprano*
Lori Marie Rios** *Soprano*
Laurel Roberts-Meese** *Soprano*
Jeni Rodrigues *Soprano*
Cynthia Romo *Alto*
Diane Rose *Alto*
Stephanie Roth+ *Soprano*
Emily Rutherford *Alto*
Cris Scaglione+ *Alto*
Liesl Scalzitti *Soprano*
Lauren Schellenbach** *Soprano*
Carol Ann Scherfenberg *Alto*

Gail Schwartz+ *Soprano*
 Liesel Sculle *Soprano*
 Maya Shah-Ceccotti** *Soprano*
 Clarissa Shan *Soprano*
 Caitlin Shaw *Soprano*
 PattiMichelle Sheaffer *Alto*
 Ashley Sheagley** *Alto*
 Christina Sheldon *Soprano*
 Liane Slaughter *Alto*
 Lisa Sloane *Soprano*
 Jennifer Snow *Soprano*
 Sammy Yonjai Sohn** *Alto*
 Merced Stratton** *Soprano*
 Elizabeth Swenson *Alto*
 Erika Taylor (Salomon) *Soprano*
 Ann Louise Thaiss *Alto*
 Amanda Thomason *Soprano*
 Abbey Thompson** *Alto*
 Holly Thro+ *Alto*
 Nancy Timmons *Alto*
 Debi Tinsley *Alto*
 Bethany Toews *Alto*
 Lisa Trost *Soprano*
 Lea Urpa *Soprano*
 Karina Valdez *Soprano*
 Mary Jane Villalovos *Alto*
 Carrie Wade *Soprano*
 Carissa Wagner *Alto*
 Yumei (Mei) Wang *Alto*
 Linda Waterman *Alto*
 Camille Watson *Soprano*
 Cindy White+ *Alto*
 Tru Williams-Pierone *Soprano*
 Teresa Willis *Alto*
 Christina Wilson *Soprano*
 Kristina Wilson *Soprano*
 Sumana Wolf** *Alto*
 Margaret Wood+ *Soprano*
 Rosalee M. Wood *Alto*
 Morgan Woolsey *Alto*
 Emily Works *Alto*
 Liz Wright *Alto*
 Debra Wunch *Alto*

+ denotes Founding Member
 ** denotes Current Singer



VOX Femina, 2000-2001



VOX Femina at the 1st Annual Womens March - Downtown LA, January 2017



VOX Femina at the LA Sparks, 2009-2010

VOX FEMINA Los Angeles

Board Members 1997-2021

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 Donna Burroughs**
 James Busby
 Catherine Card**
 Frances Chee**
 Janet Cherpin**
 Craig B. Coogan
 Alyssa Cossey**
 Julie Crooks**
 Allison Crow**
 Evi Desser**
 Robert Dilley
 Alice Dryden**
 Justin Estoque
 Lawrence V. Fitz
 Laurie Fox**
 Edith Gonzalez**
 Miriam Hall**
 Michael Hayden
 Phil Hetteima
 Jolie Hughes**
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 Carol Lisek**
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 Enrique Moreno
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 Carly Munson**
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 Marjorie Poe**
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 John L. Robinson
 Stephanie Roth**
 Cris Scaglione**
 Lauren Schellenbach*
 Tim Scerba
 Nellie Sims
 Susan Stamberger*
 Bettie M Teel*
 Michael Wallenstein
 Janet Weber
 Lee Werbel
 Mary Beth West
 Margaret P. Wood*
 Gabriella Yanuzzi*

* denotes Board Chair

** denotes Singer Representative



Board Member Lesili Beard with Former Member Lawrence V. Fitz, and Former Board Chair Jen Talameo Mulder



Former Board Chair/Current Vice Chair Sue Stamberger and Terry Knowles



Former Board Chair Joan Potter (R) and Sharon Lilly

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Martin B.

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*Congratulations & thank you VOX for
25 years of giving women voice!*

Sing On!: The first concert of VOX's 25th season features the moving piece "I Rise" by composer **Reena Esmail**, as well as long-time VOX collaborators the **Orchid Quartet**.

Reena Esmail



Indian-American composer Reena Esmail works between the worlds of Indian and Western classical music, and brings communities together through the creation of equitable musical spaces.

Esmail's work has been commissioned by ensembles including the Los Angeles Master Chorale, Kronos Quartet, Imani Winds, Richmond Symphony, Town Music Seattle, Albany Symphony, Chicago Sinfonietta, River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, San Francisco Girls Chorus, The Elora Festival, Juilliard415, and Yale Institute of Sacred Music. Upcoming seasons include new work for Seattle Symphony, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Amherst College Choir and Orchestra, Santa Fe Pro Musica, and Conspirare.

Esmail is the Los Angeles Master Chorale's 2020-2023 Swan Family Artist in Residence, and Seattle Symphony's 2020-21 Composer-in-Residence. Previously, she was named a 2019 United States Artist Fellow in Music, and the 2019 Grand Prize Winner of the S & R Foundation's Washington Award. Esmail was also a 2017-

18 Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow. She was the 2012 Walter Hinrichsen Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters (and subsequent publication of a work by C.F. Peters)

Esmail holds degrees in composition from The Juilliard School (BM'05) and the Yale School of Music (MM'11, MMA'14, DMA'18). Her primary teachers have included Susan Botti, Aaron Jay Kernis, Christopher Theofanidis and Martin Bresnick, Christopher Rouse and Samuel Adler. She received a Fulbright-Nehru grant to study Hindustani music in India. Her Hindustani music teachers include Srimati Lakshmi Shankar and Gaurav Mazundar, and she currently studies and collaborates with Saili Oak. Her doctoral thesis, entitled Finding Common Ground: Uniting Practices in Hindustani and Western Art Musicians explores the methods and challenges of the collaborative process between Hindustani musicians and Western composers.

Esmail was Composer-in-Residence for Street Symphony (2016-18) and is currently an Artistic Director of Shastra, a non-profit organization that promotes cross-cultural music connecting music traditions of India and the West. She currently resides in Los Angeles, California.

Orchid Quartet



Orchid Quartet is a powerhouse string quartet based in Los Angeles. The quartet consists of Molly, Desiree, Kiara, and Leah, four highly sought after string players who perform and tour with top artists and who regularly record for major record labels, video games, and film/television soundtracks. While touring the US, Mexico, Europe, and Asia together, these women developed a close friendship and love of international culture, adventure, and most of all, shared musical experiences. From the stage to the studio, Orchid Quartet's energy, professionalism, and enthusiasm are contagious, and the love of the music they play emanates to those around them.

Music They Wrote: VOX's February concert highlights our commitment to commissioning with an exciting new piece by composer **Christina Whitten Thomas** featuring a dance improvisation by **Jannet Galdamez** from **CONTRA-TIEMPO Activist Dance Theatre**. Composer **Andrea Ramsey's** "Suffrage Cantata" received its world film premiere with VOX in November 2020 and will be performed live as part of this concert, with narration by **Simone Ledward-Boseman** and a multimedia presentation by **Helen Mendoza**.

Christina Whitten Thomas



Christina Whitten Thomas's works have been performed throughout the United States including premieres at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Disney Concert Hall. Christina has received commissions from the Los Angeles Master Chorale Chamber Singers, the Golden Bridge, the Seraphim Singers of Boston, the Denver Women's Chorus, Vox Femina of Los Angeles, the Esoterics of Seattle, Melodia Women's Choir of NYC, the Middlebury College Choir, the Apollo Men's Chorus of USC, and the Vermont Choral Union. Her awards include 1st place in the NDSU Edwin Fissinger composition competition, 1st place in the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir competition, 1st place in the Los Robles Master Chorale competition, 1st place in the Park Avenue Christian Church competition, 2nd place in the NATS Art Song Composition Award, the Sorel Conductor's Choice award, and the Sorel Medallion. Her choral cycle *Choral de Bêtes* can be heard on Musica Sacra's 2012 CD release *Messages to Myself*.

She is particularly committed to writing for the voice and is passionate about working with contemporary poets and original texts. She has collaborated with poets Jay Parini, Naomi Shihab Nye, Marian Partee, Pam McAllister, Abigail Carroll, Hilary Miminguaquay, and Deirdre Lockwood. Her song cycle *Mother's Word*, with lyrics and monologues by Marian Partee, was premiered in April of 2019. The performance was giving in collaboration with, and to raise money for, Elizabeth House in Pasadena, CA, which provides shelter and services for pregnant and parenting women experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, and other sources of trauma. Christina is currently expanding *Mother's Word* into an extended work that includes three singers, narrator, and piano. The artists involved with the project intend to coordinate future performances with charities that support women and children.

Her music is published by E.C. Schirmer and Hal Leonard, as well as available through MusicSpoke.com. Christina holds a M.M. in composition from the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music and resides with her family in Sierra Madre, California, where she is also an active teacher and vocalist. For more information, visit www.christinawhitten.com.

Jannet Galdamez



Jannet Galdamez is a dance artist born, raised, and based in Los Angeles, CA. Her love for dance and music began at a very young age through social, street, family settings. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Dance and minor in Education from the University of California Irvine June of 2012 training intensively in jazz, improvisation, modern and ballet. Jannet has been studying salsa for the last 17 years, Afro-Cuban dance, music, and culture for the last 10 years and she continues to dive deep in her studies of various dance forms inside the Latin and African Diaspora.

Jannet has danced with Paula Abdul, Spanish rock band Mana, Prince Royce, Keaira LaShea's Dance Fitness Series, Maite Perroni, El Dasa, Luis Coronel, Chiquis Rivera, Ozomatli, La Sonora Santanera from Mexico City, Los Angeles based Cuban Roots Band Changui Majadero, Chicano Band Las Cafeteras, and the 2017 ON YOUR FEET Broadway Musical Promo Cast. She has also volunteered and worked closely as a teaching artist and behind the scenes with The Floor Improv Night and The Open Floor Society, a 501 (c) non profit organization connecting the youth with a

community of professional artists, engaging in multi-cultural dance and music, using improvisation to build confidence and self empowerment.

Jannet is currently rehearsal director, teaching and dance artist with CONTRA-TIEMPO Activist Dance Theater while simultaneously dancing with Kimbambula Cuban Dance Ensemble directed by Cuban Master Kati Hernandez and touring with Spanish Guitarist, Roni Benise's Emmy Award Winning World Music and Dance Spectacular. Jannet continues to blossom in her versatility as a dance artist... always grounded with the beat of a drum and with deep gratitude for her teachers, mentors, and elders. She is passionate about her journey - a journey guided by love, balance, connection, gratitude and rooted in celebrating and uplifting cultural and ancestral roots, community-building, self-discovery and self-empowerment through dance.

Andrea Ramsey



Dr. Andrea Ramsey enjoys an international presence as a composer, conductor, scholar, and music educator. Her teaching experiences range from work with adolescent and children's voices to high school and collegiate voices. She enjoys regular opportunities to conduct all-state and divisional level honor choirs, festival events at Carnegie Hall, and serves as a principal conductor for the Pacific International Young Women's Choral Festival in Eugene, Oregon. Before leaping into full time composing and guest conducting, Andrea held positions in music education and conducting at The Ohio State University and the University of Colorado, respectively.

An ASCAPPlus award-winning composer, Andrea believes strongly in the creation of new works. Her compositions are available with traditional publishers and also through MusicSpoke, a digital sheetmusic marketplace. She enjoys residency collaborations with ensembles and festival choirs, some of which have included: the Allegro Choirs of Kansas City, Ithaca College, and the Crescent City Choral Festival in New Orleans.

As a scholar, she has presented for state, divisional, and national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association, the 6th Annual Symposium on Sociology in Music Education, as well as The Phenomenon Singing Symposium in St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada. She has co-authored articles published in the Choral Journal, as well as the Journal of Research in Music Education. A native of Arkansas, she has experienced in her own life the power of music to provide a sense of community, better understanding of our humanity, and rich opportunities for self-discovery. For more information, visit www.andream Ramsey.com.

Simone Ledward-Boseman



Singer, writer, and performer Simone Ledward-Boseman believes in the power of music and storytelling to drive empathy and affect social change. A native of Vallejo, California, Simone infuses smooth soul with elements of funk, hip hop and spoken word- creating a unique brand of conscious music that uplifts and inspires. As a performer, she searches for the truth behind every passage and aims to draw listeners into the full power of the story through an honest portrayal that peels back the intricate layers of the human experience.

Helen Mendoza



Helen Mendoza is a filmmaker / vocalist / musician based in Los Angeles. Helen's producing credits include the award-winning documentaries **Every Three Seconds** (released in 2014) and **For the Bible Tells Me So** which was shortlisted for the Academy Awards in 2008. She also served as Post-Production Supervisor for the 2020 release, **For They Know Not What They Do**. In 2020/2021, Helen shifted her focus to creating virtual concert presentations. She produced and directed projects for VOX Femina Los Angeles and Natick High School, including the groundbreaking presentation, "Shout The Revolution!" Helen is a founding member of VOX Femina Los Angeles. She and her wife, Pam have raised two children, some cats, and some dogs in Southern California.



VOX Singers (L to R) Sammy Sohn, Mika Jain, Evi Desser, Natalia Ramos, Lori Marie Rios, Rhonda Dillon, Carol Lisek, and Jackie Agor, 2018

No Place Like Home: Featuring the piece “Home In Me” by **Andrea Clearfield**, which was commissioned by VOX for the March 2020 concert and never performed, and a collaboration with the **Gay Men’s Chorus of Los Angeles**, the final concert of VOX’s 25th Anniversary Season honors the music that brings us together and makes us feel at home!

Andrea Clearfield



Andrea Clearfield (Composer) is an award-winning composer of music for orchestra, opera, chorus, chamber ensemble, dance, and multimedia collaborations. Clearfield creates deep, emotive musical languages that build cultural and artistic bridges. She has been praised by the New York Times for her “graceful tracery and lively, rhythmically vital writing”, the Philadelphia Inquirer for her “compositional wizardry” and “mastery with large choral and instrumental forces”, the L.A. Times for her “fluid and glistening orchestration” and by Opera News for her “vivid and galvanizing” music of “timeless beauty”. Her works are performed widely in the U.S. and abroad. Among her 150 works are eleven large-scale cantatas including one commissioned and premiered by The Philadelphia Orchestra. Recent works are inspired by Tibetan music fieldwork that she conducted in the Nepalese Himalaya. Her first opera, MILA, Great Sorcerer was presented at the acclaimed NYC Prototype Festival in January, 2019. She was appointed the Steven R. Gerber Composer in Residence with the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia for their 2018-19 season. She is 2020 Composer-in-residence with National Concerts at Carnegie Hall. Dr. Clearfield was awarded a 2017 Independence Foundation Fellowship, a

2016 Pew Fellowship in the Arts and fellowships at the Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Center, American Academy in Rome, Yaddo, Ucross, Wurlitzer Foundation, Copland House and the MacDowell Colony among others. Her music is published by Boosey & Hawkes, G. Schirmer, Hal Leonard and Seeadot and recorded on the Bridge, Sony, MSR, Albany, Crystal and Innova labels. Passionate for building community around the arts, she is founder and host of the renowned Salon featuring contemporary, classical, jazz, electronic, dance, and world music since 1986. As a performer she played keyboards with the Relâche Ensemble for 25 years and had the great honor of being invited to perform with the Court of the Dalai Lama. She sits on the Board of Directors of the Recording Academy/Grammy’s, Philadelphia Chapter. For more information, visit www.andreaclearfield.com.

GMCLA



GMCLA, under the leadership of Executive Director & Producer Lou Spisto and Music Director & Conductor Ernest H. Harrison, has continued to garner acclaim for artistic excellence while remaining deeply rooted in service to the Los Angeles community and beyond by promoting civil rights, tolerance and acceptance through music. Founded in 1979 during the emergence of the gay rights movement, GMCLA has spread its message of love and acceptance with concerts across the globe and has raised its collective voice in the struggle for equality, social justice, the AIDS crisis, the fight for marriage equality, and for all those seeking to find their own voice. GMCLA’s free ticket program has provided access to concerts for thousands of low-income families over the decades, and research-based education programs have served over 70,000 young

people throughout the Los Angeles region. In 2019 GMCLA performed at Carnegie Hall, The Hollywood Bowl (with Hugh Jackman), and in February 2020 GMCLA’s performance on the Film Independent Spirit Awards was viewed more than 7 million times.

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VOX FEMINA 25th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

SING ON!

Saturday, November 6, 2021, 7pm PST

First Congregational Church of Los Angeles | 540 S Commonwealth Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90020

MUSIC THEY WROTE

Saturday, February 26th, 2022, 7pm PST

Zipper Concert Hall, Colburn School | 200 S Grand Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Thursday, March 3rd, 2022, 8PM PST

Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center | 300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Saturday, June 11th, 2022, 7pm PST

Zipper Concert Hall, Colburn School | 200 S Grand Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90012

WWW.VOXFEMINA.ORG

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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 25th ANNIVERSARY ANGELS

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We welcome you to join VOX Angelica with a gift of your own! By leaving a gift to VOX, you will provide continued support for quality choral music, allowing VOX to give women voice for years to come. Joining VOX Angelica means becoming part of a legacy of strength and inspiration for future generations.

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- **Gifts that pay you an income.**

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- **Other ways to give.**

Gifts from a donor advised fund, charitable IRA rollover, real estate, memorial and tribute gifts.

However you choose to give, please consider joining others in VOX Angelica by designating a part of your estate, large or small, to VOX.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.voxfemina.org/vox-angelica-planned-giving

Music Education Programs

CONCERT FOR YOUTH

VOX's Concert for Youth introduces Los Angeles public middle school and high school students to the choral art form through the presentation of an annual concert featuring the full VOX Chorus in a one-hour performance during school hours. On April 11th, 2019, over 600 public school students attended VOX's first annual Concert for Youth at the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles. The concert was conducted by VOX Assistant Conductor Lori Marie Rios, who provided commentary throughout the concert to engage and enlighten the students about the music. Renowned organist Christoph Bull gave a demonstration on the world's largest church pipe organ.

During the past year, due to the pandemic, VOX offered digital programming to its partner schools, along with detailed study guides and Zoom Q&A's with the Assistant Conductor. This spring, VOX will perform the Concert for Youth live, but will also live-stream the concert in order to reach a broader student audience.

Contact vfla@voxfemina.org if you know of a school that might be interested in participating in the Concert for Youth, either in-person or online.

The Concert for Youth is presented with the support of the Dwight Stuart Youth Fund, the Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation, The Music Man Foundation, and Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts.

This was a very new experience for me and I enjoyed it immensely. I had never heard of VOX Femina prior to the concert, but this choir blew me away entirely. I would absolutely love to attend another concert in the future!

- Haley, Marshall Fundamental High School student



Concert for Youth, 2019

The following programs have been suspended during the pandemic. We look forward to resuming these programs as soon as it is safe to do so.

CHOIR MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Through the Choir Mentorship Program, VOX partners with public middle and high school choirs and focuses on encouragement and hands-on engagement. Choirs involved receive interactive workshops conducted by VOX's Assistant Conductor and accompanied by several VOX singers, and free attendance to a VOX subscription concert as well as the Concert for Youth.

CHORAL SCHOLAR PROGRAM

VOX's Choral Scholar Program offers qualified high school applicants the opportunity to rehearse and perform with VOX for 12 weeks, including weekly, one-on-one mentorship by VOX's Assistant Conductor. Full participation in VOX's June concert at Zipper Concert Hall marks the culmination of the scholarship program.

Singing with VOX for the past 12 weeks has been such a dream. Working with Dr. Iris Levine and Lori Marie Rios has taught me so much about musicianship and being a member of an ensemble.

- Eliana Yeager,
Hamilton High School Student



2019 VOX Femina Choral Scholars (left to right): Natalie Garner, Skylar Crown, Eliana Yeager, Assistant Conductor Lori Marie Rios, Tira Mansbacher, and Priscilla Araña

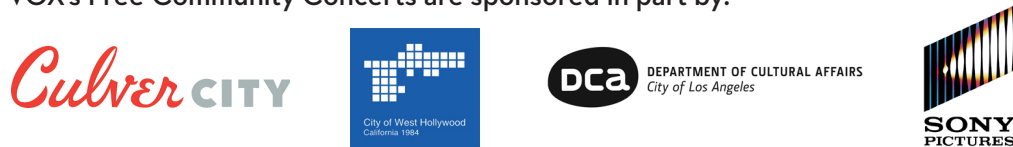
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