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Title: Central PA Womyn's Chorus "Music in Our Mother's House" Program

Date: May 10, 2003

Location: LGBT-102 The Central PA Womyn's Chorus Collection

Contact:

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Music in Our Mothers' House



Our unique celebration of motherhood & family!

Saturday, May 10, 2003

Unity Church • Enola



Photo taken at a bungalow on the Conewago Creek near Manchester, Pa, circa 1913. The guitar player is singer Kate Williams' grandmother Katie Shepp Williams and the child at her knee is Kate's father, Earl Edward Williams.

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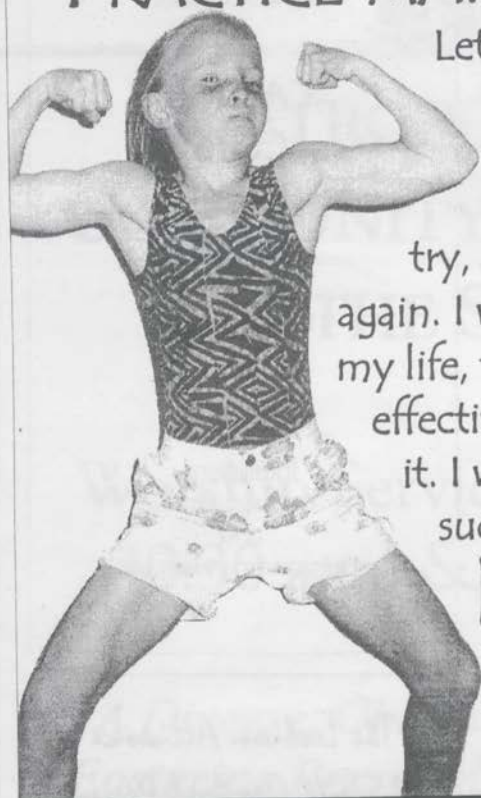
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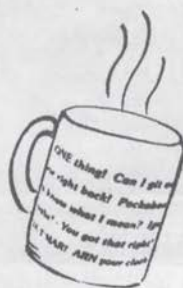
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Program Notes

Music In Our Mother's House became our signature tune the very first time we performed it, at our first full-length concert "Autumn Fires" in October 1995. It evokes emotion in those of us who sang with our families as well as those whose families did not sing. When we gathered to envision a concert on this theme, we found a wealth of material from a wide variety of musical genres.

Hermene Warlick Eichhorn, arranger of the North Carolina folk song **Housekeeper's Tragedy**, was born in Hickory, North Carolina in 1906 and became backup organist for her church at age thirteen. She attended Woman's College (now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro) where she studied composition and earned bachelor's degrees in piano and organ.

In 1939, the thirty-voice women's chorus of the Euterpe Club premiered her most intense choral work for women's voices, "A Woman Plowing in the Field." **Housekeeper's Tragedy** was first published in 1945 and in 1995 was revived by the Treble Clef Press, from whom we get some of our best pieces.

Clara Schumann was the premier female musician of the nineteenth century. An accomplished composer and virtuoso pianist, she was born in 1819 and died in 1896. She was married to the composer Robert Schumann. While six months pregnant with their first child, Marie, she wrote twelve songs, including **Liebst du Um Schonheit**. As the text for all of these songs Clara chose poems of devotion and passion uniquely from a woman's perspective. Robert secretly had the 12 songs printed in two volumes and presented them to Clara on their first anniversary.

Lucille Clifton was born in 1936 and educated at Howard University and the State University of New York at Fredonia. Formerly the Poet Laureate of the State of Maryland, she has taught at Goucher College and the American University in Washington, DC. She has written ten collections of poems, 19 children's books and won an Emmy Award as the co-writer of *Free to Be...You and Me* in 1973. Gwyneth Walker's song collection "My Girls", based on some of Clifton's poetry, was commissioned by Miss Porter's School in Farmington, Massachusetts. In **My Girls No. 2** we hear a mother celebrating and advising her four teenage daughters as they prepare to step into adulthood, their "forty quick fingers reaching for the door."

The piece's composer, Dr. Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)

is a graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music. She holds B.A., M.M. and D.M.A. Degrees in Music Composition. A former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, she resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. She now lives on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont. She has written some of the most beautiful and challenging arrangements we have performed.



Lucille Clifton

Program Notes (continued from previous page)

Calamity Jane was married to Wild Bill Hickok. When they had a daughter, Janey, she sent to her live with a "normal daddy" and earned money for Janey's

support by working as a gambler, trick shooter, cowhand, barmaid, stagecoach driver, and prostitute. The poignant (indeed, bitter) text of some of her many letters to her daughter has been set to music by Libby Larsen in the song cycle **Songs from Letters**. Larsen, born in 1950, is one of America's most prolific and most performed living composers. She has created a catalogue of over 200 works spanning virtually every genre from intimate vocal and chamber music to massive orchestral and choral scores. Her music has been praised for its dynamic, deeply inspired, and vigorous contemporary American spirit.

Faustina Hasse Hodges taught piano, organ, and singing at the Emma Willard Seminary in Troy, New York and wrote sacred songs and hymns, keyboard works, and light recital and parlor songs; many were published and she enjoyed a wide success. **L'Amicizia** is a delightful parlor duet first published

in 1863. It celebrates the tenderness of true love, "gentler than the sigh that a mother would breathe in that blessed moment when she will kiss her baby."

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... a thousand words more ...



Artistic Director

Dan Krynak

Accompanist

Catharine Roth, piano

Percussionist

Renee Bartholomew

The Singers

Soprano One

Giesala Collins
Virginia DeChristopher
Liv Messmer
Beth L. Stone
Keri Weikert

Soprano Two

Cathy Nelson
Suzanne Noll
Shirley Tannenbaum
Lucy Twitchell
Kate Williams

Alto Two

Kay Baldwin
Kim Hair
Julie Lowery
Amy Shestack
Florence Tarbox
Tiffany Wright

Alto One

Erin Gibson
Linda Mussoline
Joanne Nicholson
Linda Noble (on leave)
Susan Swope

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Many thanks to the countless helpers who made this concert possible!

Program

Bim Bam

Jewish, from the Nigun tradition

(Nigun are songs without words, with roots in the Hasidic movement, in which there is a saying, "Silence is better than speech, but song is better than silence.")

Music In My Mother's House

by Suart Stott, arr. J. David Moore

Mother's Day Song

by Peter Jones

arr. C. Foty for the DC Area Feminist Chorus
(now Bread and Roses Feminist Chorus)

Housekeeper's Tragedy

North Carolina folk song, arr. Hermene Warlick Eichhorn

Liebst Du um Schoenheit

by Clara Schumann, text by Rueckert, arr. Naomi Stephan

Soloist: Liv Messmer

My Girls, No. 2 (from To My Girls)

Based on a poem by Lucille Clifton, music by Gwyneth Walker

Coat of Many Colors

Dolly Parton, arr. J. David Moore

Everything Possible

Words and music by Fred Small, arr. J. David Moore

*Ensemble: Giesala Collins, Julie Lowery, Linda Mussoline,
Joanne Nicholson, Kate Williams*

1000 Grandmothers

Holly Near, arr. J. David Moore

— Intermission —

Songs from Letters

(Two Movements: A Working Woman, and All I Have)

by Libby Larsen

based on letters from Calamity Jane to her daughter

Giesala Collins, soloist

Are You Half the Man Your Mother Thought You'd Be?

Words by Harry DeCosta

music by Leo Wood (1916), arr. Charles Baker

No Mirrors in My Nana's House

Ysaye Maria Barnwell

*Ginnie DeChristopher, Kim Hair, Cathy Nelson, Joanne Nicholson,
Amy Shestack, Beth Stone, Shirley Tannenbaum*

23d Psalm *explain*

by Bobby McFerrin (dedicated to his mother)

L' Amicizia

Faustina Hasse Hodges

50 - 50 Raffle Drawing

Dream a Little Dream of Me

Words by Gus Kahn, music by W. Schwanadt and F. Andree,
arr. Norman Luboff

*Amy Shestack, bass guitar (Amy's mother loves this song
and sang it to Amy and her siblings when they were children)*

A Small But Fateful Victory

Words by Franciso X. Alarcon, music by Roger Bourland

The Stove

Text by Ann Kilkelly, music by Zae Munn

A Chat with Your Mother

By Lou and Peter Berryman

*Cathy Nelson, Joanne Nicholson, Suzanne Noll, Susan Swope,
Shirley Tannenbaum, Lucy Twitchell, Tiffany Wright*

With thanks to Yagottawanna

Sisters

Words and music by Irving Berlin, arr. Kirby Shaw

Dancers: Giesala Collins, Florence Tarbox,

Lucy Twitchell, Tiffany Wright

Choreography by Lee Melchior and Stacey Fransen.

*Lee is a much-missed member of the chorus, now singing with New
Wave Singers of Baltimore. She is an occupational therapist at
Howard County General Hospital in Columbia, MD, where Stacey is
a physical therapist.*

**Please join us for a reception in the meeting hall
to the east of the church**

Daniel Krynak, Artistic Director

In December 2000, Dan Krynak retired after ten years as Artistic Director of the Harrisburg Men's Chorus and became our director. In 1993, he was instrumental in founding our chorus, and served on our board for several years. He has led the two choruses in several major collaborations: Bendari, an African-based celebration of building community; Boys and Girls with Stories, a lesbian and gay musical; and in December 2000, singing with Judy Collins. He holds a Master's of Church Music from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor's degree from Westminster Choir College.

Catharine Roth, Accompanist

Catharine Roth has been our accompanist since the fall of 1998. A native and resident of Adams County, Catharine performs with "Orrtanna," a traditional music duo, and works in a local vineyard. Among her many talents, she is a published novelist and makes braided rugs in the traditional style.

Renee Bartholomew, Percussionist

Renee Bartholomew plays percussion in many styles, including classical, jazz, rock, and drum and bugle corps. She was the drummer for the women's singing group, Stone Soup, and plays with many area groups.

The Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus is a proud member of

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We are already
planning our next concert
for February 2004

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We Salute You — One & All!

Welcome! Without our audience, there can be no chorus. Your enthusiasm is contagious, and we thank you for it. Behind the scenes, countless individuals and organizations give quietly and generously of their money, time and talents to support the chorus. We wish we could name you all.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank each and every one of you.

Benefactors (\$500 or more)

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Sponsors (\$100 or more)

Nan Flesher & Joie Rake

Bonnie Fowler

Tom Frigm

Lynne Little

Linda Mussoline

Beatrice Swain

Lucy Twitchell

Donors (\$50 or more)

Gloria Heard

Julia Hendon

Candace Kugel

Contributors (\$25 or more)

George Ambrose

Friends

Harry O'Donnell

Our apologies to those whose contributions we may have overlooked here.

*Please let us know, and we will be happy to acknowledge you
in our next program booklet.*

The **W**omen's Circle

is proud to support the *Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus!*

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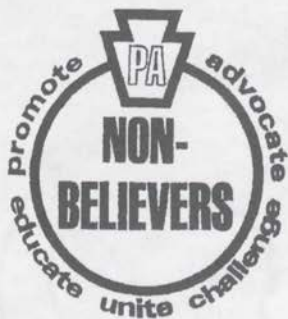
Keeping in our framework of "Stories 'Round The Table", this year's theme, "Peace and Healing-Individual and Community" will again focus on our collective experiences as women living in South Central Pennsylvania. We look forward to reuniting with old friends and meeting new ones!

Don't Miss It!

For program listings and more information, visit our website!

www.womenscircle.org

Or call Bobbi Carmitchell at 717.872.4512



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