

# SFW



# SANTA FE WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE

# Spring Notes

## President's Message

In welcoming you to the second half of our 34th season, I want to acknowledge and celebrate all of our volunteers who donate their time, talents and treasure to further the mission and outreach of the Santa Fe Women's Ensemble.

Our volunteers are valuable to the health of our group. Their generous gifts of time and dedication show up in so many ways: serving on our all-volunteer board, supporting our community outreach events and offering items and services for our fundraisers, among myriad other kinds of support.

The focus, devotion and motivation of our singers, director, accompanist, board and administrator are exemplary and enable our small singing group to shine in a city that is rich with music.

In this newsletter, there are many opportunities for you to become involved, as well as a letter asking that you help sustain us with a financial donation.

Thank you for your patronage, support and comments. I look forward to seeing you at our concert in June!

*Constance Marks*



## Songs of Awakening

In a spirited conclusion to our season, the Santa Fe Women's Ensemble will present *Songs of Awakening*, a special encore collaboration with the Durango Women's Choir. Conducted by our two favorite "Lindas"—Dr. Linda Raney and Dr. Linda Mack Berven—the two choirs will each perform songs that explore the wonder of nature, the adventure of human relationships and the spirit of joy. Among the works will be *Veni, Sancte Spiritus* (Movement II from *Missa*) by Z. Randall Stroope, *Home They Brought Her Warrior Dead* by Gustav Holst and *Three Poems from the Parlour* by Eleanor Daley.

Under the alternating batons of both directors, and featuring piano and organ accompaniment, the ensembles will also join to sing four stunning pieces for women's voices: *Psalm 150* by David Willcocks, *Psalm 66* by Felix Mendelssohn, *The Maker of Dreams* by Elifio Rosáenz, and the exuberant *Gloria* by Ola Gjeilo.

Please join us for this wonderful event!

## Our Concert

Sunday, June 7, at 3 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, 208 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe

Tickets: General admission \$25

Accessible seating, student and military discounts available

Purchase your tickets through Tickets Santa Fe:

505-988-1234, [www.ticketsantafe.org](http://www.ticketsantafe.org),

or in person at the Lensic Theater.



## Time to Get Hungry!

Power up your appetites for SFWE day at everyone's favorite pizza restaurant, Il Vicino!

On **Tuesday, April 28**, join us for lunch and/or dinner, or take out a snack or pizzas for the office. When you order, mention you're there to support us and Il Vicino will generously donate 20% of your total check to our group. Thank you, Il Vicino!

The restaurant is located at 321 W. San Francisco, with convenient parking behind the restaurant. They don't take reservations, but you can call 986-8700 for takeout or info.



Yum! We can't wait!

## Our Guest Artists

### Linda Mack Berven and the Durango Women's Choir

We enjoyed singing together for our joint concerts in 2012, and Dr. Raney and Dr. Berven have been looking forward to working together again. The Ensemble will be performing in Durango on May 31 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and in June we will be hosting the Durango group here in Santa Fe.

Linda Mack Berven is a professor emeritus of Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. She currently serves as artistic director and conductor of the Durango Choral Society and the Durango Women's Choir. From 2004 to 2007, Linda served as music director and conductor of the Santa Fe Desert Chorale.

The Durango Women's Choir has been a part of the regional arts community for more than 20 years. The 14 talented singers, under the direction of Dr. Berven, have performed a wide variety of repertoire in numerous venues. Their many performance engagements include the Durango Bach Festival and the Choral Society Cabaret, as well as regular seasons of sacred and secular music.



## Comments and Kudos

- SFWE received a grant from Santa Fe Community Foundation and are listed as a vetted organization in their brochure of worthy nonprofits.
- Linda Beck has been asked to write new music for a string quartet to accompany her composition *Words of Peace* for a possible spring or fall performance in Ohio by the group Singers Companye.
- Director Linda Raney will be attending Chorus America's conference in Boston in June.

## Meet Our Board Members

The Santa Fe Women's Ensemble produces concerts, events, commissions and outreach with the guidance of our volunteer board of directors. Our board members and administrator share a love of music and a wealth of life and career experiences, and their decisions direct and support the mission of the Ensemble. Here are a few of the board member bios; we'll share the rest in our next newsletter.

Nina Brown, board member, is a former member of the Ensemble and a retired voice teacher. She has music degrees from Westminster Choir College and California State University, Long Beach.

Dr. Evelyn Fox, administrator, joined the organization in October of 2010. In addition to administrative support, she designed and manages our website at [www.sfwe.org](http://www.sfwe.org). She is a former higher-education professor and administrator.

Gwen Gilligan, board member and singer representative, is a longtime member of the Ensemble, having sung low alto for 28 years. When not singing, she is a real estate broker with Santa Fe Properties.

Jan Hamilton, board member, has been a longtime supporter of the Women's Ensemble. With over 33 years in Santa Fe and 27 as a real estate broker, she brings a unique perspective to the board.



## Outreach Fun

The Ensemble was very busy in January and February with our outreach programs. We visited and performed at the Santa Fe Girls' School, Southside Library, Girls Inc., and both Santa Fe Cares and Casa Real skilled nursing facilities.

With a combination of miniconcerts, face painting, rhythm sticks, dress up, drawing and coloring, dancing, giggling, silliness and fun, whether with the students or the elders of Santa Fe, we all had a good time being together and sharing the joy of music.

There are many more photos and fun on our Facebook page. We invite you to follow our activities!



## Facebook— Did You Know?

You don't have to be a member of Facebook to access our page. Since our FB page is a public page, it can be viewed by everyone. You can gain access from our website by clicking on the Facebook logo. We share news, features, photos and views behind the scenes.

And save trees and go green! Sign up for electronic newsletters on our website: [www.sfwe.org](http://www.sfwe.org). You can also find our Facebook and YouTube links there.



## Christmas Concert Wrap-Up

From the opening processional chant *Salve Regina* to mystical *Shanti* performed with a meditative singing bowl, our concerts were filled with the message of peace. The amazing spaces of Loretto Chapel and Immaculate Heart of Mary provided the perfect venues, and our overflowing audiences raved about their experiences with the wonderful variety of our music. *Words of Peace*, Linda Rice Beck's newest composition, touched us all with its beautiful interweaving of traditional and modern harmonies with both Hebrew and English texts.

You can watch videos from our *Songs of Peace* concert by going to [youtube.com/user/sfwe400](https://youtube.com/user/sfwe400) or through a link on our website, [www.sfwe.org](http://www.sfwe.org).

Here are a few of your comments:

"Loved the theme of peace."

"The commissioned piece was truly a lovely composition; totally enjoyed it."

"Hard to pick a favorite, but the effect of *Shanti* and the procession of being *inside* the Ensemble was beautiful."

"The beautiful blending of voices had me entranced. I didn't even realize my eyes had closed and I was carried to a dream world. I enjoyed the entire concert. Thank you."

"I thoroughly enjoyed the entire program—so inspiring, uplifting, soothing and cleansing for my heart and soul! Thank you!"

*"The beautiful blending of voices had me entranced. I didn't even realize my eyes had closed and I was carried to a dream world...."*

**SFWE** SANTA FE  
WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE

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### Save the Dates!

- SFWE Day at Il Vicino:  
Tuesday, April 28, all day
- *Words of Peace* encore  
performance:  
Congregation Beit Tikva,  
Friday, May 1, at 8:15 p.m.
- *Songs of Awakening*  
concert with the Durango  
Women's Choir: First  
Presbyterian Church,  
Sunday, June 7, at 3 p.m.

### Special *Words of Peace* Performance

The Ensemble is excited to sing an encore performance of *Words of Peace* by composer Linda Rice Beck. We'll once more be accompanied by flutist Charly Drobeck for the five songs, which explore the deep meanings of the word and concept of *shalom*.

The performance, which is free and open to all, will be at Congregation Beit Tikva, 2230 Old Pecos Trail, on Friday, May 1, at 8:15 p.m., immediately following the 7:30 evening service.

Join us for this unique opportunity to hear again the powerful and moving *Words of Peace*!

### Keep Us in Mind

The Santa Fe Women's Ensemble focuses its modest budget on the production of high-quality concerts. As ticket prices cover only a portion of the expenses, your contributions are a crucial part of the group's success. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and donations are tax deductible. We are always in need of extra help. If you are willing to assist with fundraising, publicity, as an usher, or any other detail of our concert seasons seasons, contact us at [info@sfwe.org](mailto:info@sfwe.org) or call (505) 954-4922.

Santa Fe Women's Ensemble, PO Box 1142, Santa Fe, NM 87504

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