



# SAWE SANTA FE WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE

## Fall Notes



November 2014

### From Our Board President

This December, you—our patrons, donors, volunteers and supporters—are in for a magnificent experience of music! As we express our passion for communicating through singing, I feel sure that *Songs of Peace* will touch you in amazing ways. Allow us to take your mind away from the concerns of our world for a few hours, and bring peace to your soul with sublime harmonies.

There are many ways that we communicate in a concert. We sing with our

voices, with the expressions in our faces and by listening to each other. Each of you in the audience lets us know that you are engaged and intrigued with our music with your smiles, interest, and applause. It connects us in a way that is becoming rarer in this digital age.

We stay in touch in many ways: when you visit our website, when you like us on Facebook, and when you view our performances on YouTube. We connect through

your gifts of money, volunteer hours and enthusiastic attendance at our Caroling Party and concerts.

As you read the letter that comes tucked inside this issue, please consider making a donation. We know that you receive many requests, but your help is critical for the success of our mission: performing, commissioning, and reaching out with music to all of Santa Fe!

*Constance Markel*

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### Songs of Peace

Peace among the peoples of the world has been a goal throughout the ages. From the 11<sup>th</sup> century to the present, the choral music featured in our concerts explores this deep yearning across the world's cultures and time periods.

You will hear songs of peace as an intensely personal request and songs with a plea for peace everywhere. *Words of Peace* דברי שלום is Linda Rice Beck's stunning new composition for flute and voices. (See next page for article.)

Other songs bring a wish for all to be well and to have inner peace, as in *Shanti*, a serene Buddhist chant performed with a singing bowl.

Christmas brings tidings of

peace on earth heard in the richly varied songs from a 16<sup>th</sup> century motet *O Magnum Mysterium* by Tomas Luis de Victoria, the sweet *Mary Had a Baby* arr. by Maria Thompson Corle, and the Austrian carol *Still, Still, Still* arr. by Ken Berg.

Join us for one of our concerts to hear the peace that music brings. You will be transformed by the Songs of Peace concerts in the Loretto and the Immaculate Heart of Mary chapels with their amazing acoustics and meditative spaces.

Help us send thoughts and prayers for peace out into the world.

### Our Concerts

**Loretto Chapel, 207 Old Santa Fe Trail**  
**Friday, December 12, at 7 PM**  
**Sunday, December 14, at 7 PM**  
**Thursday, December 18, at 7 PM**

**Loretto Tickets:** Reserved Seating, \$35-\$20

**Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel,**  
50 Mount Carmel Road  
**Saturday, December 20, at 3 PM**

**Matinee Tickets:** General admission \$25

Accessible seating, student and military discounts available

#### Purchase Your Tickets Through



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

Or in person at the Lencic Theater

## Composer and Commissioners

With three of our singers involved in this commissioned composition, we had unique opportunity to really investigate how *Words of Peace* came into being. WE spoke with singers Sue Katz and Mickey Bond who commissioned the work and composer Linda Rice Beck.

(Due to space constraints we aren't able to publish the intriguing interviews in their entirety, but we'll post them on our Facebook page, as well as on our website.)

**Women's Ensemble:** *What was the impetus for commissioning this piece?*

**Mickey Bond:** Sue and I felt it was important to commission work for women's voices, especially written by a woman composer. We knew Linda, respected her and knew that we would work well together.

**WE:** *How did you choose the text?*

**MB:** We like the ideas of peace or gratitude and wanted to bring from our tradition, but also reflect an idea universal to all people. We wanted the text to be traditional not contemporary, and narrowed it to Psalms and prayers used in services. We chose the most recognizable traditional prayers that are known to all and are widely familiar across Jewish tradition.



Mickey Bond and Sue Katz



Linda Rice Beck

**WE:** *What's the first step in commissioning music?*

**MB:** It was a very collaborative process. Sue and I met with Linda and discussed possible texts; we liked working with the idea of shalom and its definitions in the call for universal peace. We also shared some traditional melodies and Linda asked what kind of instrument we would like accompanying the piece. Wood instruments are our favorites and we decided on the flute. As an artist, it's interesting to be on the other side of creating art.

**WE:** *When you get a commission, how do you start?*

**I listened to them so many times the sounds of the words became like friends.**

**Linda Rice Beck:** If the commission is a choral piece, the texts are very important, so, after they are chosen, I repeat the words over and over again many times to see what patterns develop. The rhythm of the words begins to give me a sense of how the song should go. That's when I figure out what the time signature should be. The words themselves start giving me hints of how the melody should sound, too.

**WE:** *What challenges are there with text that is in another language?*

**LRB:** Writing something in an unfamiliar language is a huge challenge. First of all, you have to read through translations to learn what the words mean, but then you need to listen to the language over and over to understand the word inflections. *Words of Peace* was a tremendous learning experience for me. The Hebrew texts are very powerful, and I listened to them so many times the sounds of the words became like friends.

**WE:** *How do you get ideas for the music?*

**LRB:** As I repeat the words, sometimes I start humming and melodies begin taking shape. That's when I sit down at the piano and just play around until the melodies sound like something. There have been a lot of good melodies that have come to me that unfortunately I forgot by the next day. So ... I've learned to

(Cont. on p. 3)

Join us for our annual Caroling Party and Silent Auction Fun-Raiser which takes place **Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at lovely Manitou Galleries, 123 W. Palace Ave.

An abundance of delicious appetizers and wine as well as tasty desserts created by the Ensemble members awaits you. Carol along with the ensemble singers and enjoy songs from our upcoming concerts.

Best of all, the silent auction features wonderful items from handmade jewelry and art to local dining.

Start your holiday season, and finish your shopping, at our Caroling Party . Tickets are \$50. Sales are limited and tickets sell out quickly. Order yours



now from Tickets Santa Fe and enjoy some holiday cheer while supporting the beautiful singing of the Santa Fe Women's Ensemble!

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

Or in person at the Lensic Theater

## Composer and Commissioners, cont.

write things down, even if it's just the beginning of a phrase. Even if I don't use it, at least it's not lost.

**WE** asked both Mickey and Linda, *what is your hope for the audience?*

**MB:** I'm hoping the audience enjoys the music and can identify that yearning for peace is inherent in the human soul. We hope the work gets published so it can be shared and performed around the world. The piece would definitely be interesting to other choirs to perform and singing it on tour would also be fun.

**LRB:** My hope for the audience, and the singers as well, is that the words will resonate within them, and they

feel truly connected. These ideas of peace are very profound, and I hope people are moved as they listen and think about what we are singing.

A painter, Mickey Bond also will be designing the cover art for the composition *Words of Peace* and Mickey's artwork will be available to bid on in the auction at the caroling party on December 6th.

According to Mickey, "Commissioning music is an important aspect of the Women's Ensemble history. It's such a wonderful legacy and anyone can be involved."

## Welcome New Singers

Angela Dunskus-Gulick, soprano, joins the Ensemble from Sangre de Cristo Chorale. She has sung in choirs in Germany and in Japan and currently studies voice with Doyle Preheim. A mother of two fabulous young women, she is also a 4<sup>th</sup> degree black belt in the Korean martial art of Tang Soo Do and a triathlete.



**Angela Gulick**



**Jill McCormick**

Jill McCormick, soprano, is a kindergarten teacher at the Santa Fe Waldorf. She has three children and three grandchildren. As a teacher, she spends the days immersed in hands on activities of daily life such as bread baking, and gardening. In a nurturing setting, she leads the children in movement journeys which include pentatonic music. She makes a doll for each child which resembles them,

## Thank You Board Members

We really appreciate the hard work of our volunteer board: Nina Brown, Gwen Gilligan, Jan Hamilton, Vice President Rosemarie DiMarino LeRoy, President Constance Marks, Treasurer Rick Moore, Secretary John Pasch, Barbara Roush, Pauline Trujillo Toevs, Music Director Dr. Linda Raney, and Ensemble Administrator Evelyn Fox. We could NOT do any of this without you!

creates puppets for her storytelling, crowns for birthdays, and dips beeswax candles with the children for festivals. For many years, she has been called Miss Jill by children, parents and teachers, but does answer to just Jill if you say it twice.

Sue Smithson, alto, is pleased to be joining WE this Fall. She has sung previously with Canticum Novum, New Mexico Pro Coro, Coro de Camara, Zia Singers, and performed in several local theater pro-



**Sue Smithson**

jects. Sue works at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation as their administrative assistant and enjoys the beautiful southwest outdoors with her husband Ken.

### Santa Fe Women's Ensemble Day at Il Vicino

Salads, pizza, calzones, pasta, paninis, beer, wine, desserts! Oh my! Mmm, now we're hungry!

On Tuesday, **November 18**, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Il Vicino will host Santa Fe Women's Ensemble day, so start salivating over the prospect of a delicious meal *and* the opportunity to support us. Go in for lunch or dinner—better yet, lunch *and* dinner—and when you order your meal, simply mention that you are there to support the SFWE, and Il Vicino will donate 20% of your total check to the Ensemble.

*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 information.

***We'll see you there!***  
***Buon appetito!***





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 You can also find our Facebook and YouTube links there.



## 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 income. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by Linda Raney, the singers and the board of directors. We also encourage and value donations of your time and talents to assist us in the many details of our concert seasons.

Donations to the Women's Ensemble are tax deductible and may be sent to the Santa Fe Women's Ensemble, PO Box 1142, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1142, or by calling us at (505) 954-4922.

The Carols and Choruses concert at St. Francis Basilica Cathedral is a community favorite. This year the free celebration will be on Friday, December 5th. The concert begins at 7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. The Women's Ensemble joins with the Santa Fe Symphony Brass and the Symphony Chorus for performances, fanfares and sing-along's. Fun for all!

- Save these dates:**
- **SFWE Day at Il Vicino: Tuesday, November 18, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.**
  - **Carols and Choruses: December 5, Cathedral, 7 p.m.**
  - **Caroling Party: December 6, Manitou Galleries, 5:30 to 8 p.m.**
  - **Winter Concerts: December 12 at Loretto Chapel, 7 p.m.  
 December 14 at Loretto Chapel, 7 p.m.  
 December 18 at Loretto Chapel, 7 p.m. and  
 December 20 at Immaculate Heart of Mary, 3 p.m.**

This project is made possible in part by **New Mexico Arts**, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and the **National Endowment for the Arts**, and it is partially funded by the 1% **Lodger's Tax** and the **City of Santa Fe Arts Commission**.

