

SFW

SANTA FE WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE

Spring Notes



35 Years of Beautiful Music!



President's Message

We kicked off this year of *CELEBRATION* with wonderful winter concerts that featured some of our best-loved commissions, including the glorious *Winter Solstice* by Paul Carey. Commissioning new music for women's voices has always been a special focus of the Women's Ensemble. What an enduring legacy! The mesmerizing performances we have all enjoyed together are extraordinary gifts. These musical moments of presence and beauty truly nourish our souls!

As a volunteer-run organization, we have much to be thankful for—in particular, for all those who have served on the board of directors and worked so hard to promote the Ensemble. To Sakina von Briesen and Shanna Suzanne MacLean, who had the first vision for this group, we send our thanks for planting the fertile seeds that have flourished for 35 years. Most importantly, we thank *you*, our audience and supporters. Your loyalty and enthusiasm mean the world to us.

May we all continue to work together to ensure the success of the Ensemble for years to come.



Photo by Ken Kirk

Not pictured: Alicia Solomon. Willow-ball artist: Connie Schaeckel

Spring Concert ~ *Celebration of Women*

Our jubilant spring concert will commemorate the Ensemble's 35th Anniversary Season. Come with us on an inspiring journey of beautiful women's music, written for women or by women, and ranging from the 1300s to the present day.

The concert highlight will be the **WORLD PREMIERE** of our new commissioned work, *Reina de la Noche* ("Queen of the Night") by well-known composer Z. Randall Stroope. Dr. Stroope describes the beginning of the piece as "a comet-like explosion of color in the night sky, followed by a panorama of emotion ..." Don't miss it!

Following the concert, join us for our 35th Anniversary Thank You Celebration at La Fonda in appreciation of your continuing support.

Our Concert

First Presbyterian Church, 208 Grant Avenue
Sunday, May 22, at 3 p.m.

Tickets: General admission, \$25; students/military, \$10
Accessible seating available

For tickets, please visit the Lensic Box Office,
order online at ticketsantafe.org,
or call (505) 988-1234.



Our 35th Anniversary Raffle Is Under Way!

Enter to win a week in Greece and other wonderful prizes!

Please join in our 35th Anniversary Raffle! Proceeds will help us continue to present unforgettable concerts, commission new music for women's voices, and provide our educational and outreach programs to the community.

Our **grand prize** has been generously donated by Dr. Marty Finkelman. His amazing house, carved into a cliff in Santorini, Greece, could be yours for a one-week stay for up to four people! Susan Phillips, one of our singers, has been there twice and says that the sights and sounds of this amazing Aegean volcanic island are not to be missed! That would include enjoying clear blue water, beautiful volcanic beaches, stunning white buildings hugging the shoreline and built into the cliffs, romantic settings and fabulous Greek cuisine. Airfare is not included, but the grand prize does come with \$500 cash!

First prize is an instant cellar of fine wines. You'll receive two cases of wine valued at over \$500 and guaranteed to complement any meal! We'll include some hidden gems from Italy, Portugal, South America and Spain, as well as American varietals, that are sure to please! *Does not include shipping.*

Two second prizes: 1) \$650 gift certificate to Inn of the Turquoise Bear (good for a two-night stay in their finest suite, or use it for more nights in a less-expensive room), plus gift certificates to: Café Pasqual's, L'Olivier, Harry's Roadhouse, Santa Fe Bar & Grill, Sweetwater Harvest, and Dinner for 2

2) One-night stay for two at the Inn on the Paseo, plus gift certificates to Mu Du Noodles, Izanami (or Ten Thousand Waves), Andiamo, The Ranch House, La Choza, and Toyota of Santa Fe (car detailing, oil change)



Huge thanks to our generous donors:

Dr. Marty Finkelman, Inn on the Paseo, Inn of the Turquoise Bear, Andiamo, Café Pasqual's, Dinner for 2, Harry's Roadhouse, Izanami/Ten Thousand Waves, La Choza, L'Olivier, Mu Du Noodles, Santa Fe Bar & Grill, Sweetwater Harvest, The Ranch House, and Toyota of Santa Fe



Tickets are \$20 each, 3 for \$50, or 8 for \$100!

You can **purchase your tickets** from an Ensemble singer or a board member, or by sending a check payable to "SFWE Raffle" to SFWE, PO Box 1142, Santa Fe, NM 87504, and we'll mail the ticket stubs to you. Or, if you'd like to pay with Visa or MasterCard, call us at 505-954-4922.

~ The **winners** will be drawn at our 35th Anniversary Thank You Celebration at La Fonda on Sunday, May 22, following the spring concert. You need not be present to win, but we'd sure love to see you there.

Thank You Celebration!

Thanks to the generosity of a Women's Ensemble donor, we are excited to invite our concert patrons and donors to our gala 35th Anniversary Thank You Celebration at La Fonda following the May 22nd concert!

Join us as we celebrate 35 years of sublime singing and meet Z. Randall Stroope, the internationally renowned composer of our 34th commission. Visit with our singers, board and music director, as well as some of the people who have supported the work of the Ensemble over the years. And enjoy a glass of wine and some light appetizers courtesy of the board of directors and La Fonda. *We'll be drawing the raffle winners at the party, too.*

Thirty-five years is a **mighty** milestone, and we want to celebrate with you! So buy your concert tickets now and plan on strolling over to La Fonda after the concert for the party. We look forward to seeing you there!



Our Commission ~ A Tale of Two Friends

The story of this year's commission is really the story of a great friendship between two women, Caroline Burnet and Gwen Gilligan.

What began as a business association—Gwen has worked with Caroline and her late husband, Bill, on a number of property transactions—changed over the years into admiration for each other. Caroline says, “Our relationship evolved and grew, with lots of interconnectivity and a community of issues—a lovely evolution of a friendship.”

Caroline, deeply immersed in her adopted community of 15 years, is involved in many aspects of Santa Fe and likes to see how things fit together. “What I am passionate about is youth and their future,” she shares. Providing engaging opportunities for girls to grow and honoring women's lives are very important to Caroline.

Her involvement with Girls Inc. connected her to the Ensemble. “I love music, its historical nature and the creative diversity of the pieces the Ensemble performs, and that the group is all women.” Caroline adds, “The Ensemble to me is not only providing a wonderful gift to the community, but shows women working together. Girls can hear music they may never be exposed to and realize, ‘It could be me up there!’ ”

Caroline felt moved when she was asked to consider commissioning a piece of music for the group. She shares, “It's a very different way of contributing, much more than just making a donation; it goes out into the community and beyond.” While she had not specifically been aware of a lack of music/repertoire for women's voices, Caroline said the fact that the music will also be performed by other women is an added benefit.

Most importantly, Caroline adds with a smile, “I wanted to find a way to give tribute to Gwen as a musician, as a friend, as the person she is and for the wonderful nature of all the things she does. This music will have the lasting effect of recognizing her.”

Touched deeply, Gwen says, “I am more and more astonished by the evolution of this process and by the great honor of having this lovely piece of music dedicated in my name.”



Website & Facebook

Save trees and go green by signing up for electronic newsletters on our website: www.sfwe.org.

You'll also find links to our Facebook and YouTube.

You don't have to be a Facebook member to access our page. Many items can't fit into our newsletter. We share news, features, photos from across the years and even views behind the scenes.



Get Your Taste Buds Ready ~ Ensemble Day at Il Vicino!

On **Tuesday, April 26**, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Il Vicino will host SFWE Day. Please 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. It's a very tasty way to support us! Thank you, Il Vicino!

The restaurant is located at 321 W. San Francisco, with convenient parking behind the restaurant. Call 986-8700 for takeout or info.

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



Commissioned Composer Z. Randall Stroope

We are thrilled to have Dr. Z. Randall Stroope as our commissioned composer this season. His music is both approachable and intensely beautiful. His stunning *There Is No Rose* has been an Ensemble favorite for many years, even traveling with us on our 2008 tour of Italy! A prolific composer, he is internationally recognized for the quality of his writing.

Born in Albuquerque, Randall completed a master's of music in voice performance at the University of Colorado Boulder and a doctorate of musical arts in choral conducting at Arizona State University. He is currently the director of choral and vocal studies at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

The recipient of numerous awards for outstanding achievement in composition, conducting and teaching, Randall has been a guest conductor for 37 all-state choirs and is also the artistic director of two international choral festivals in Rome and Barcelona. He has a presence on YouTube, with 28 recordings of his works ... and counting.

His compositions are performed by esteemed ensembles throughout the world, and recordings of his works are heard frequently on radio and television broadcasts across the United States. His choral works have sold millions of copies.

You can see why we are so excited to have him as our commissioned composer this season!



Our Guest Artists

Dave Anderson
Bill Epstein
David Solem
Jeff Sussman



Welcome to the Ensemble!

We are pleased to introduce a few new family members to you.

A native Chicagoan, board member **Michèle Dougherty Johnson** relocated to Santa Fe in 2007. She holds a doctorate of modern languages in French and Italian from Middlebury College and has traveled widely, spending considerable time in France and Italy. After a 30-year career teaching French, she opted for “something completely different” by immersing herself in the book arts at Columbia College Chicago and the Penland School of Crafts. She has crafted many one-of-a-kind sketchbooks, journals and artists' books. In 2003, a workshop in the fine art of collage sparked a new creative interest. Michèle has exhibited her mixed-media collages at numerous Chicago-area galleries and in Santa Fe at Mill Atelier Gallery on Canyon Road. A lifelong pianist and music lover, Michèle is happy to put her varied interests and talents to work in support of the Ensemble.



Andy Ritch is a musician, actor, director, teacher and professor, as well as a grateful participant in the fine arts everywhere he has lived. He was a college professor at East Mississippi Junior College and later chairman of the Speech and Drama Department at Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas. At the Front Street Theater in Memphis, Tennessee, he was an equity actor, later becoming chair of the University and College Division of the Southeastern Theater Conference. Chorale singing has become a passion for him—as an audience member, board member and performer. A self-described “people person,” Andy feels called to bring people into the performance venues, which makes him a perfect fit for the Women’s Ensemble Board!



Our newest singer, alto **Alicia Solomon**, has made numerous appearances with the Santa Fe Opera, Santa Fe Symphony and the Desert Chorale. In May 2015 she was also soloist with the Santa Fe Symphony and Chorus for Vivaldi’s *Gloria* at St. Francis Cathedral; in June, she sang the role of Grandma Tzeitel in *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Lensic. Alicia teaches voice, piano and guitar in Los Alamos, and she is a soloist for the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Santa Fe. For more about Alicia, visit www.aliciasolomon.com.



In Our Community

Our outreach and education programs are very important to our mission. These programs help foster the next generation of singers and composers and share the joy of our music. This past fall, the Ensemble members gave five workshops at Girls Inc., teaching singing and performance skills, and having fun together. The girls and their families were invited to our dress rehearsals.

We also performed at Santa Fe Cares, Casa Real and Española Valley Nursing and Rehab. It was wonderful to see the joy on the faces of these elderly patients who needed a little lift for the holidays.

We reach out as well to those who could not otherwise attend our concerts. Because music can lift the soul and lighten life’s burdens, we offer sponsored concert tickets (underwritten by local businesses) to staff and clients at Esperanza Shelter, La Familia Medical and Solace Crisis Treatment Centers. Help us continue this valuable part of our work by making a contribution today!



**SANTA FE
WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE**
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Dr. Linda Raney

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Save the Dates!

- **SFWE Day at Il Vicino:**
Tuesday, April 26,
from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- **Our Concert**
Celebration of Women:
First Presbyterian Church,
Sunday, May 22,
at 3 p.m.
- **35th Thank You
Celebration:**
La Fonda Hotel,
Sunday, May 22,
following the concert

Keep Us in Mind

The Santa Fe Women's Ensemble focuses its modest budget on the production of high-quality concerts. Ticket prices cover only a portion of our expenses, so your tax-deductible contributions are crucial to fulfilling our mission. We appreciate your generosity!

We always need volunteers to help us with fundraising, publicity, ushering, and concert-related activities. Please contact us at info@sfwe.org or call (505) 954-4922.

Support the Ensemble as you shop online using AmazonSmile. You can use your current Amazon account settings, such as Wish List, Registry and Shopping Cart. To get started, go to smile.amazon.com. In the search field (under "or pick your own charitable organization") type in Santa Fe Women's Ensemble and click Select when it comes up. (If you already have AmazonSmile accounts for other causes, click on the charity currently displayed to open the drop box; click on "Change your charity" at the bottom left of the box, then follow the above procedure when you see the search field.)

AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your total of eligible purchases (less S&H). Look for the tag "Eligible for AmazonSmile Donation" on product detail pages. Though the amounts may seem small, they add up! Last year we received about \$400 from the program. Thanks for shopping AmazonSmile with the Ensemble in mind!

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**. It is partially funded by the **1% Lodger's Tax** and the **City of Santa Fe Arts Commission**.

