

VOICES

Multicultural Chorus

Presents:

"BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH SONG"

Artistic Director: Lorrene Adams

Associate Director: Ross Mizrahi

Venissa Santi

Special Guest Artist
Ithaca Native &
Latin Jazz Singer/Composer

**PLEASE VISIT OUR SILENT AUCTION TABLES TO
BENEFIT OUR LOCAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**



With Grant Support
from the Community
Arts Partnership of
Tompkins County



Building Community through Song

Why an Auction?

The auction recognizes and supports the good work of ten vibrant service organizations in our community. It is meant to raise awareness of the organizations and generate modest support for their efforts. The majority of the items offered were donated by chorus members themselves as an expression of support and admiration for the organizations' contributions to our community.

Note that all proceeds from the auction will go to the organizations being recognized; the VOICES chorus will not retain any proceeds.

Bidding Process

Bidding may be done before the concert and during intermission.

- Sign in and obtain a bidding number.
- Visit the baskets.
- Place bids on those you are interested in by entering your bid amount and bidding number.
- Minimum bids start at 40% of actual value of each basket.
- Bids must be \$5.00 or higher than the current highest bid.
- If you change or cross out a bid, place your initials by the change.

Winners

Winners will be announced immediately after the concert and will be the highest bidder for each item.

Payment

The items may be paid for after the concert by cash or check. Checks should be made out to I.C.C. If a winner is not able to pay today, the item will be held for you one week during which arrangements for payment and delivery are to be made. If an item is unclaimed after one week, the next highest bidder will be approached.

Cancer Resource Center *S.P.C.A*
Ballet Folklorica *Southside Community Center*
Advocacy Center *Food Bank Backpack Program*
Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement
Finger Lakes Land Trust
Loaves and Fishes *Golden Opportunity*

Building Community Through Song

Artistic Director Lorrene Adams and Assistant Director Ross Mizrahi

May 7, 2017, 4:30 pm

PROGRAM

VOICES

This Land Is Your Land words & music by Woody Guthrie
arr. Robert de Cormier

Love in Any Language words & music by John Mays and Jon Mohr
arr. Baruch Whitehead
Cindy Howell and Michael Duttweiler, solos

Clouds words & music by Zach Sobiech
arr. Lorrene Adams
Brittany Jaromin and Kyler Davis, solos
Lisa Baclawski, flute

De Animals a-Comin' arr. Marshall Bartholomew

I Will Survive words & music by Dino Fekaris and Freddie Perren
arr. Mac Huff
Lisa Camilli and Kelly Doolittle, solos

INTERMISSION

Ballet Folklorico

Venissa Santi and her ensemble
Various Selections

VOICES and Venissa Santi

Nostalgias de Serenatas music & poetry by Guido López-Gavilán
arr. Bob Keefe
Venissa Santi and Ross Mizrahi, solos

VOICES

El Mambí Luis Casas Romero and Sergio Lavilla
arr. Carlos R. Abril
David Gries, solo
Lisa Baclawski, flute

Would You Harbor Me? words & music by Ysaye M. Barnwell
arr. Mark Brymer
Sherrie Norman, Amy Schram, Rich Recchia and Lisa Baclawski, solos

Bread and Fishes arr. Lorrene Adams

Rich Recchia, solo
Bob Keefe, guitar · Ellen Miller, bass

You Have Made a Difference Brian Asselin
arr. Lorrene Adams

Caroline Dennis and Leigh Miller, solos
Bob Keefe, guitar · Ellen Miller, bass

It Takes a Village Joan Szymko
David Gries, Lisa Baclawski, Kelly Doolittle, Amy Schram and Kyler Davis, solos

Somos el Barco words & music by Lorre Wyatt
Lisa Baclawski, Sherrie Norman, Kyler Davis and Ross Mizrahi, solos

Heal the World words & music by Michael Jackson
arr. Andy Beck

----- **PROGRAM NOTES** -----

This Land Is Your Land

This Land is Your Land was written in 1940. When Woody Guthrie first got the idea for it, *God Bless America* was getting a lot of air play on the radio. His original manuscript used "God Blessed America for me" as the last line instead of "This land was made for you and me."

"This Land is Your Land," reflected not only Guthrie's support for the common folk, but also his deep love for his country. The verse celebrated the beauty and grandeur of America while the chorus drove home the populist sentiment that the nation belonged to all the people, not merely the rich and powerful.

The original lyrics to the song included this verse:
There was a big high wall there that tried to stop me.
The sign was painted, said "Private Property."
But on the backside, it didn't say nothing.
This land was made for you and me.

Love In Any Language

Love in Any Language was written and composed specifically for Sandi Patti by John Mays and Jon Mohr and its basic theme of the universality of love and its ability to transcend both the language barrier and the political differences between the various nations immediately appealed to her. Said Patti, "I've never really been an artist that says, 'Let's water this message down,' and this one seemed very universal to me. It was also nearing the time that the Gulf War was about to begin, and it felt powerful to sing a song that said love doesn't have any boundaries - love is just love, it doesn't matter where you live."

Clouds

Zach Sobiech was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in the fall of 2009, at the age of 14. The cancer started in his hip and had spread to his pelvis and lungs. When a scan in October 2010 showed about 20 new lesions in his lungs, Zach's mom suggested he start writing letters to say goodbye.

"I'm not good at writing letters," Zach said. "So I figured instead, I could just write songs for people, and they might be around longer. It's more powerful than writing a letter because a song can get stuck in your head. You find yourself humming it during the day."

Sobiech's family established **The Zach Sobiech Osteosarcoma Fund** at Children's Cancer Research Fund (<http://www.childrenscancer.org/zach>). In September 2015, Zach's fund reached \$1 million and continues to grow.

De Animals a-Comin'

A traditional Spiritual from 1936, *De Animals a-Comin'* retells the Biblical story of Noah and the ark. Contrary to the text of many Spirituals that sing of the struggles of African slaves as well as the promise of freedom in the afterlife, this song celebrates the story with the reiteration of the text, "Hallelu!"

I Will Survive

The song's lyrics describe the narrator's discovery of personal strength following an initially devastating breakup. It reached number one on the Billboard Hot 100 and on the UK Singles Chart on consecutive weeks. The song is also frequently recalled as a symbol of female strength and as a gay anthem. In 2016, the Library of Congress deemed Gloria Gaynor's original recording to be "culturally, historically, or artistically significant" and selected it for preservation in the National Recording Registry.

El Mambí

The word "Mambí" is attributed to Afro-Antillean origins and was first used to describe revolutionaries from Cuba and Santo Domingo (the Dominican Republic) in the 19th Century. Later it was the name given to the Cuban soldiers who fought against Spain in the Cuban War of Independence (1895-1898).

The words of this heartfelt song can be interpreted on many levels. Superficially, it is the story of a Mambí who goes off to fight for his country's independence. On the day of his departure, a female loved one, (whom we assume is his wife or lover but could very well be his mother), cries late into the night. The next morning she gets on her horse and follows his footprints through the jungle. The fighting grows fierce for the cause of liberty, and at some point he finds her mortally wounded, caught in the mayhem. Though he is tormented by her death, it ignites a flame that makes his love for her and his country grow exponentially. On a deeper level, this woman is a metaphor for Cuba--the Motherland (*la patria*). In Cuba's matriarchal culture, the mother represents the heart of a family.

Lyrics translation:

*(An) olive-skinned Cuban woman, I saw...
The Mambí, the Mambí*

*Way back in the year '95 (1895)
And by the jungle of Mayari
One morning he left (his) hut
And to the jungle went the Mambí*

*A Cuban girl who was my delight
And whom the night witnessed cry
The next day with her horse
Looked for my footprints and followed me*

*That girl of dark complexion
And eyes darker than evil
United her strength with my fierceness
And gave her life to liberty*

*One tragic day she fell by my side
I saw her beautiful chest bleeding
And from that moment it became more ardent,
Beloved Cuba, my love for you
And from that moment it became more ardent,
Beloved Cuba, my love for you*

An olive-skinned woman, my love; the Mambí

Nostalgias de Serenatas

Santiago de Cuba is the second largest city in Cuba. Given Santiago's close proximity to Haiti and the Dominican Republic on the southeastern tip of Cuba, a distinct Afro-Caribbean spirit is seen in its architecture and heard in its music. It is an historically and politically significant city, the one chosen by Spain's greatest painter, Diego Velasquez, to be his second capital city. It is also the place from which Fidel Castro and Che Guevara launched their revolution.

Guido Lopez-Gavilan's arrangement of this piece artfully marries the text and music with rich harmonies that invoke the nostalgia that is present throughout the song in the opening and closing solo. The middle of the song changes mode as the speaker recalls memories of great love.

Lyrics translation:

*Nostalgic Serenades for the
magical city of Santiago, Cuba*

*Intertwining itself in the night,
the music is utterly magical;
it envelopes the streets
and awakens the balconies
with nostalgic serenades.*

*It kisses the old walls
with declarations of love,
causing the large wooden
windows to tremble and
shake, windows where love
was sown, where love was
surrendered, where love
still lives on.*

*Meanwhile, the moon smiles,
illuminating the mountains,
listening from the steeples
to the city that sings.*

*Intertwining itself in the night,
the music is utterly magical;
it envelopes the streets
and awakens the balconies
with nostalgic serenades.*

Would You Harbor Me?

As artists, activists, and humanitarians, Sweet Honey In The Rock® has, for forty years, raised her voice to advocate for truth, justice and compassion while addressing the critical issues of democracy, freedom, racism, and economic and social justice.

Would You Harbor Me? holds up a mirror and asks us to examine our own beliefs, biases and convictions.

Bread and Fishes

Also known as *Wind in the Willows*, *Bread and Fishes* is a folk hymn. The melody is an 18th century Irish folk tune with lyrics by Alan Bell. It is based on a legend that Jesus travelled in England as a child, accompanied by his parents.

You Have Made a Difference

From the composer: My name is Brian Asselin and I am a recent graduate from the teacher's college program at the University of Ottawa. Towards the end of school, we the students, are reminded how fortunate we are to have principals, administration, and teachers who inspire students every day. While in teacher's college, I realized how fortunate I have been to have had such great teachers in my life that have helped shape the person I am today. I wanted to say thank you to all those who go beyond their daily job requirements, so I co-wrote this song with Eric Disero.

It Takes a Village

From the composer: In adapting the west African saying, "it takes a village to raise a child," I sought to embody the cultural concept behind this proverb—that it is truly all the individual parts linked and working together that create and support the whole. The four vocal rhythms in the main portion of the work, each with its own character and function, are essential to creating the unique energy and movement of *Village*. Only when they are sung together does a truly joyful spirit arrive.

Somos el Barco

Somos el Barco is an uplifting song of global unity. Over the years the verses evolved and still change as folks who speak languages like Russian and Gaelic make the song their own plea for all of us to "chart the waters never sailed before" and build a planet founded on peace and mutual respect.

Heal the World

In a 2001, Jackson said that "Heal the World" is the song he was most proud to have created. He also created the Heal the World Foundation, a charitable organization which was designed to improve the lives of children. The organization was also meant to teach children how to help others.

----- **VOICES Multicultural Chorus Singers & Members** -----

| Soprano | Alto | (Alto, cont.) | Tenor |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Lisa Baclawski | Sherry Altman | Linda Loomis | Fran Barraclough |
| Carol Booth | Silvia Amigo-Silvestre | Sabine Mann | Cync Brantley |
| Lisa Camilli | Mariellen Brown | Sherrie Norman | Kyler Davis |
| Mary Centrella | Kelly Doolittle | Therese O'Connor | Michael Duttweiler |
| Susan Crowell | Linda Duttweiler | Carol Ornstein | Elaine Gries |
| Amy Davis | Tilly Garnett | Barbara Schwartz | Ron Liso |
| Cathy Duan | Cynthia Howell | Alison Taren | Elizabeth Moon |
| Brittany Jaromin | Joo Huyn Im | Lena Trancik | Helen Saunders |
| Melody Johnson | Andrea Kabcenell | Erica Weiss | Amy Schram |
| Susie Kossack | Noemi Kraut | Carol Whitlow | |
| Helen Nivison | Julie Lauren | Cora Yao | Bass |
| Ellie Rosenberg | Lexa Leipe | | David Gries |
| Christine Sparfel | | | William Lesser |
| | | | Ross Mizrahi |
| | | | Ed Olmstead |
| | | | Rich Recchia |
| | | | James Skaley |

----- **Artistic Director** -----

Please see advertising shell for the biography of Artistic Director **Lorrene Adams**.

----- **Associate Director** -----

Ross Mizrahi holds Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in music education from Ithaca College. With 13 years of directing and teaching experience, he currently is general music teacher for Belle Sherman elementary school in Ithaca. An accomplished singer in his own right, he for three years was singer and educational coordinator with "Sons of Pitches" performing in hundreds of venues all over the Northeast.

----- **Accompanist** -----

Rachel Hidlay began piano lessons at six years old and has since come to love making and sharing music with others. At sixteen she was hired by Bloomsburg University as a piano instructor in the Piano Preparatory Department. Shortly after this she opened a private studio in her home. She holds a Bachelor's degree in piano performance with extra credits in music education from Liberty University, as well as a Master's degree in piano performance from Ithaca College where she studied with Dr. Jennifer Hayghe. She is currently completing an advanced certification in piano pedagogy.

Rachel teaches students of all ages and skill levels. She held teaching positions at Nazareth College, Ithaca College, Community Music School in Ithaca, NY and the St. Peters Community Arts Academy in Geneva, NY. She currently maintains a private studio of 40 students in her home. Rachel also is on staff as an accompanist for Lansing School District. Rachel loves all facets of music. She strongly believes music making/learning is a wonderfully unique journey, one that can enlighten and enrich a person's life. She greatly enjoys helping others navigate their personal musical experiences.

----- **Our Donors** -----

Donations received April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017

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----- **A Sincere Thanks to those who worked so** -----
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<http://www.ithacacommunitychoruses.org/groups/summersing>
Wednesday evening rehearsals, June 7-July 27, 7-9pm

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<http://www.ithacacommunitychoruses.org/groups/voices/join>
Monday evening rehearsals start August 28, 7-9pm

"Hometown Music of the World" featuring music of local composers
December 2, 2017

spring concert
May 5, 2018



VOICES Multicultural Chorus is a project of
the Ithaca Community Choruses, a 501c3 nonprofit organization.



Venissa Santi

Special Guest Artist



***Lorrene Adams
Creative Director***



***Ross Mizrahi
Associate Director***



VOICES Choir, 2015