

Don't miss our fall concert,
a collaboration with the
Harrisburg Men's Chorus.



Date and location to be announced.
Be the first to know when and where.
Sign up for our mailing list in the lobby or email
us at info@cwpcchorus.org.



The Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus

in collaboration with
The Pennsylvania
Immigrant & Refugee Women's Network



presents

Land of Our Dreams

Saturday - May 5, 2007

7:00 PM

Harrisburg Academy, Wormleysburg

This project is supported by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency, through its regional arts funding partnership, Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA). State government funding comes through an annual appropriation by Pennsylvania's General Assembly and from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. PPA is administered in this region by Jump Street.



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(If you missed us there, keep reading...)
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Sunday, May 13, 2007, 3 PM
The Cornerstone Coffeehouse at TecPort in Harrisburg

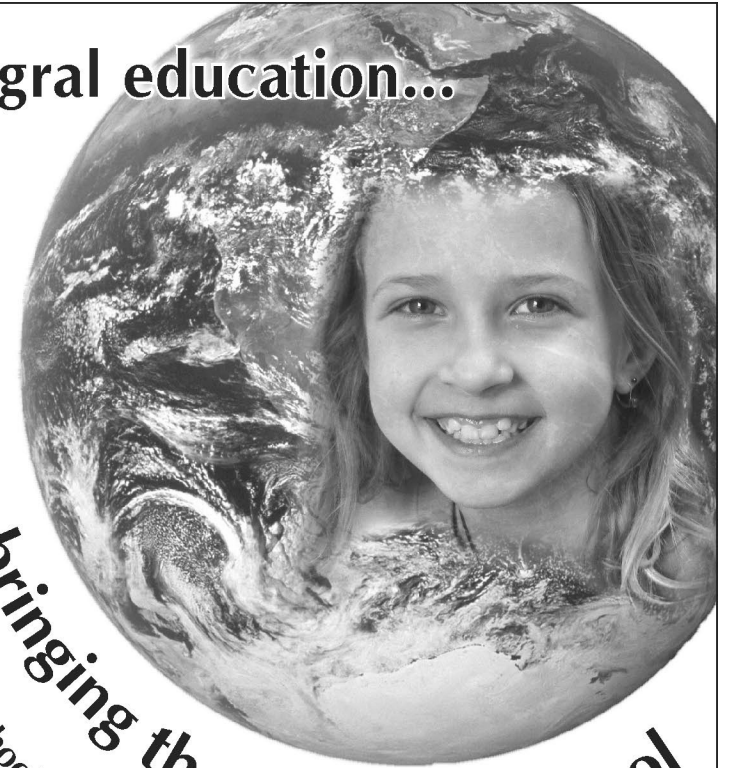
Monday, May 28, 2007, 10 AM
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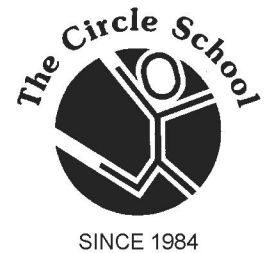
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Founded in 1996, the Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus brings together a diverse group of women, united by the joy of singing, to celebrate and empower women, and to affirm a positive image of lesbians and feminists.

The chorus rehearses every Monday night (with holiday and summer breaks) and the board meets monthly at United Church of Christ, 5000 Devonshire Road, Harrisburg. We welcome new singers. Speak to Giesala, our director, about singing (A1969Diva@aol.com).

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Finally: Central PA Mortgage Solutions is a proud member of the Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce: www.cpglcc.com

We would like to thank the members of the cpwchorus.org for giving us the gift of entertainment and inspiration.

"A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song."

~ Maya Angelou





Meeting the 2nd and 4th Friday monthly
7:00-9:00 PM

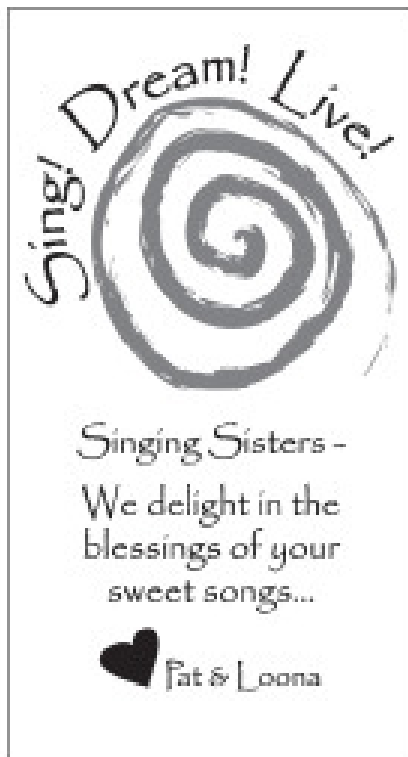
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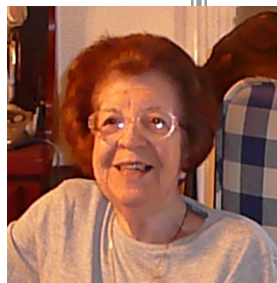
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In Loving Memory Of
Florence Marie DeChristopher Smith
9/5/1910 – 3/15/2007

There was music in my Mother's House.
We will miss singing with you, Mom.
Your song will stay in our hearts!
Love and miss you!



Donna and Ginny DeChristopher - Gomboc

Welcome!



From the CPWC Director ...

Welcome to tonight's performance entitled "Land of Our Dreams." The Central PA Womyn's Chorus has teamed up with the Pennsylvania Immigrant and Refugee Women's Network (PAIRWN) to bring you this unique artistic expression of the human condition. Through the use of song, speech, poetry, prose, visual media, and dance, the listener will be guided on a thought-provoking journey that traces the experiences of women who have left their homelands either by choice or force to come to America. The listener will have an opportunity to listen to several women describe their struggles and joys in assimilating into a new culture while holding on to their own unique culture.

Given today's social atmosphere on immigration, this concert is rather timely. Many people in today's society tend to lump people of different ethnicities into one big pot and label that pot "foreigners and immigrants". It is my hope that through this concert people will become more aware of the differences between the immigrant experience and the refugee experience. Furthermore, it is my desire that people who take this journey will come to appreciate the beauty, richness and diversity of the women of PAIRWN as well as other immigrants and refugees among us in the community.

I am honored to be a part of this co-creation with PAIRWN and to be able to give a stage and voice to this powerful and resilient group of women. May your minds be open and hearts full of love to share in this transcending experience!

Giesala Collins, Artistic Director

From the PAIRWYN President....

Welcome everyone and thank you for joining us in this celebration, "Land of Our Dreams." We are honored to be part of this spring concert and to be able to share our stories with you. We would like to thank the Central PA Womyn's Chorus and Jump Street for their support and for helping to create another space for immigrant and refugee women to express themselves.

The Pennsylvania Immigrant and Refugee Women's Network (PAIRWN) is the first organization in Pennsylvania to focus directly on immigrant and refugee women's issues. Our mission is to honor and enhance the lives of refugee and immigrant women through networking, referral, and education. We strive to educate others about our cultures and our contributions to American society.

Founded in 2001, PAIRWN is a nonprofit organization centered in the state capital of Harrisburg. Our members come from every region of the world, enabling us to forge friendships across cultures, learn from each other, and use our diverse talents in order to reach our goals. Our current projects, including initiatives for women, youth, elderly, and the broader community, reflect this wealth in many ways.

To learn more about our organization and the myriad possibilities for rewarding partnerships with us, please contact us by phone (717) 433-0900 or email: pairwn@pairwn.org and visit our website: www.pairwn.org. You can also support us by becoming members and friends of PAIRWN.

Our deepest gratitude goes to the women in this program for their willingness to share their stories. Their courage and spirit, their trials and triumphs, and their contributions to their new home enrich us all.

We sincerely appreciate your support and we hope you enjoy the program.

Ho-Thanh Nguyen, President and Founder

Celebrating a World of Differences



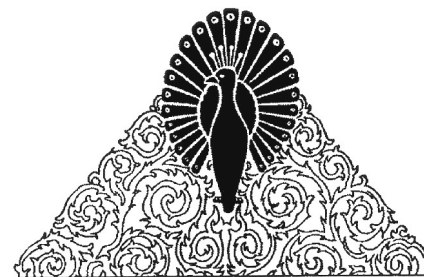
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Mosa Bazewska

Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus

Artistic Director

Giesala Collins

Artistic Assistant

Chris Purcell

Percussion

Renee Bartholomew

Piano

Anthony Haubert

Bass

Patricia George

Guest Musicians: Janie Womack, Guitar Henry Koretsky, Mandolin
Julia Martinez, Violin

The Singers

Soprano One

Laura Dalton*
Lorraine Hennessy
Darla Henry
Adele Johansson
Patty Stetler
Lucy Twitchell

Soprano Two

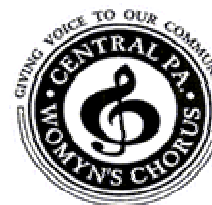
Kimberley Koester
Lee Melchior
Cathy Nelson*
Suzanne Noll
Yvonne Rothstein
Shirley Tannenbaum

Alto One

Beth Kopicki
Laury McIntyre
Lil Morgan
Linda Mussoline*
Susan Swope

Alto Two

Kay Baldwin
Sandy Boothe
Kim Hair*
Julie Lowery
Amy Shestack
Florence Tarbox
Chris Wise



* section leader

The Board

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Vice-President: Cynthia Swanson
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Treasurer: Miriam Glavina

Sandy Boothe
Mary Nancarrow
Joanne Nicholson
Linda Noble
Yvonne Rothstein
Susan Swope
Shirley Tannenbaum

PROGRAM

Overture

by Chris Purcell

Section 1: Reflections of Childhood and Memories of Home

Sansa Kroma

Akan Playground Song arr. by Felicia A.B. Sandler

Solo: Cathy Nelson

Reflections of Childhood: Nelsy Acosta from Columbia

La Lluvia

based on a panpipe melody from Ecuador, written by Stephen Hatfield

Section 2: Leaving and Travelling From One's Homeland

Voices of women speak from PAIRWN as recorded

Thoughts of Leaving Home: Sarla Goel from India

Miriam

Words and music by Laura Berkson, arr. by Joan Szymko

Violin: Julia Martinez

Land Of Our Dreams

based on an Armenian Lullaby

with new words & music by Hope Harrison arr. by Jay Althouse

Solo descant: Laura Dalton

Big Dreams: Belgica A. Jones from Ecuador

Ja Sam Tvoj Svjedok

(I am Your Witness) a call and response piece based on

Balkan vocal music written by Joan Symko,

Excerpts from "A Path of No Return" read by author Marica Prozo from Bosnia

Section 3: The Arrival and Adjustment

Would You Harbor Me?

words and music by Ysaye M. Barnwell

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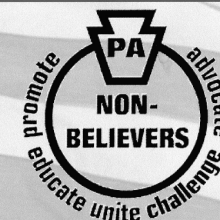
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Homage a Toi

by Naomi Stephen

*Laura Dalton, Adele Johansson, Lee Melchior, Cathy Nelson, Linda Mussoline,
Susan Swope, Kim Hair, Julie Lowery*

A Refugee's Story: Ho-Thanh Nguyen from Vietnam

Refugee

by Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow arr. by Chris Purcell
Voices of PAIRWN

If I Give Your Name

by Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow arr. by Leora Zimmer

Guitar: Janie Womack

Soloists: Kim Hair, Lucy Twitchell, Cathy Nelson, Julie Lowery

Section 4: Hope for the Future

For The Mothers

by Betsy Rose arr. and added verses by Joan Szymko

Soundbite From Beijing: We Are Rising Up

by Ysaye M. Barnwell

Prayer for The Warriors:

Om Namo Bhagavate Vasudevaya

by Sophia and Heather Seacord, arr. by Joan Szymko

Guitar: Janie Womack Mandolin: Henry Koretzky

Dancer:: Rajat Kaur Thukral from India

Thoughts on the Future: Eun Young Won from Korea

We Rise Again

by Leon Dubinsky, arr. by Lydia Adams

Sololist: Adele Johansson

Please join us for a reception provided by
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

PROGRAM NOTES:

Sansa Kroma is a very popular West African Akan playground song. This song is designed to teach and guide children about socialization and development. In particular, this song teaches children to be secure and unafraid of being left alone if their parents were to die. The children would not be abandoned — a relative or friend would take them in. In this song, an orphaned hawk named Sansa flies about looking for abandoned chicks. Sansa's aim is to swoop down and carry them away. To the broader community, the hawk is seen as a predator. Though orphaned, the chicks are carried to safety and will never be left to fend for themselves.

La Lluvia (The Rain) is a folk melody from Ecuador traditionally played on the siku, a double row of panpipes that come from the Andes mountains.

Miriam is inspired by the story of Miriam from Exodus. When the Hebrews fled Egypt and faced a long and arduous journey across the desert to their promised land, Miriam was their leader as well as Moses. When their pursuers drowned in the sea while the Hebrews escaped, "Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel (tambourine) in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances." It was proper in that culture for refugees to ask their female spiritual leader for a song to inspire the people on such a journey.

Land of our Dreams is based on an Armenian lullaby. New words and adapted music tell of a family separated from each other from their homeland soon to be reunited in America in hopes of happier days.

Ja Sam Tvoj Svjedok means, "I am Your Witness" in Bosnian and is based on the style of Balkan vocal music. The composer was moved by the story of a Seattle mental health professional that started a relief effort following the Bosnian war to attend to the needs of Bosnian women who were systematically raped as part of the Serbian ethnic cleansing campaign. This piece is meant to be sung as a responsorial between readings or testaments to acts of violence against women in times of war and in the home.

Would You Harbor Me? asks the question "Would you take in or assist another human being no matter their label or background?"

Renee Bartholomew, Percussion



Renee plays percussion in many styles, including classical, jazz, rock, and drum and bugle corps.

She was the drummer for Stone Soup and plays with many area groups.

Patricia George, Bass



Pat has had the blues in her blood for a long time, and has played

bass with many area bands, including Beulah Mae, Octavia, the Voodoo Love Hounds, the Earthblood Blues Band and T-Bone and the Turbo Kings. She lives in Lemoyne with Benie DeCat.

Chris Purcell, Artistic Assistant

Chris graduated from the prestigious Berklee College of Music in 1983 as a film scoring major and piano principal. Since then, Chris has been involved in music as a performer, composer and teacher. As the founder and president of Anevon Music Productions, she has composed, recorded and produced music for radio and TV commercials, has been commissioned to write music in a variety of genres and composed the score for the stage production of *Yardsale: The Musical*. She is the recipient of many awards and honors. She is an adjunct professor of music at HACC, teaching voice, piano, song writing and composition. She is also pursuing a Master of Arts in Leadership and Liberal Studies from Duquesne University.



Thanks to those who have provided direct financial support.

Lisa Bechtel and Janet Parsons	Cynthia Swanson
Renee Bartholomew	Lotte Bailyn
Marlene Kanuck	Kim Hair
Lucy Twitchell	Arleen Shulman
Susan Swope	Beth Ann Kopicki
Linda Mussoline	Bonnie Gabler
Cathy Nelson	Miriam Glavina
Mary Nancarrow	
Joanne Nicholson	
Linda Noble	

Giesala Collins, Artistic Director



Giesala was a member of the chorus in 1995 and sang first soprano with us for several years before leaving to pursue other musical interests, including the women's band Stone Soup and vocal group Common Threads. When she attended our spring 2002 concert, *Singing for Our Lives*, featuring Diane Benjamin's breast cancer oratorio, she was so inspired by our repertoire and our spirit that she rejoined our ranks. She became our artistic director in spring 2004. Her first accomplishment was to lead us in performing for 3000

people in the grand concert hall of Montreal at the summer 2004 GALA Choruses Festival. Giesala has boundless energy and fantastic vision, as evidenced by the concerts she has directed, as well as her leading the chorus to San Diego to perform in the Sister Singers Festival in 2006. She graduated from West Virginia University with honors and received a Bachelor of Music Degree with an emphasis in music education. Her primary instrument and first love is the clarinet. She also enjoys playing the recorder, saxophone, an electronic wind instrument and the tin whistle. She lives in Mechanicsburg with her partner JoAnn and two cats, Chessie and Rocky.



Anthony Haubert, Piano

As a young lad, Anthony discovered that playing the piano came naturally; by the time he was 13, he was playing for everything from weddings to school musicals and recitals. While he did not study piano formally in college, the music faculty at Shippensburg University soon noticed his musical talents and while at Shippensburg, he accompanied *Oklahoma* and *Godspell*. Over the past several years, Anthony has served as accompanist for the Harrisburg Men's Chorus, and played piano bar and cocktail piano in many venues. Currently he is tickling the ivories at the Hotel Hershey. He studies jazz piano with accomplished jazz pianist Katie Rudolph.



Homage A Toi was written with the intent to explore the different stages of grief and loss. Many can suffer not only from grieving the loss of loved ones but also from loss of family connections, of culture language due to assimilation, and of the actual earth itself beneath one's feet.

If I Give Your Name was a song written after 9/11 that brings listeners to the awareness of the invisible undocumented men and women who worked in the Twin Towers day in and day out and also died that terrible day.

Refugee is a very rhythmic driving song that describes the life of a refugee and why one becomes a refugee. The song also expresses the resilient woman who rises to claim her power and identity back by stating "No Longer A Refugee."

For the Mothers is a very slow melodic song that acknowledges the suffering and anger of all mothers around the world who have lost children due to starvation, war, and disease.

Soundbite From Beijing was a piece that Ysaye Barnwell was inspired to write after attending the Women's Convention in Beijing. The message is a very powerful, unifying song and chant for women all around the world to be called to action to demand change in their countries.

Prayer For The Warriors. This Sanskrit Mantra prays that the warriors themselves can find peace within so that the healing of the earth can begin.

We Rise Again reminds all of us that there is a part of us that will live on in our children and in generations that follow.



Akan agricultural symbol

STANDING OVATIONS FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

I would like to publicly acknowledge and thank the following people for their time & talent. This concert would not have happened without them. Thanks to:

Ho-Thanh Nguyen, president and founder of PAIRWN: For your willingness to collaborate with the chorus in such an enthusiastic and loving way...for inviting us in to the diverse circle of the beautiful women of PAIRWN... for the opportunity to listen to the women of PAIRWN. I hear and see you! I am personally enriched by this experience....**Sarla from India**: For your open heart and mind and your willingness to share your journey with the design team and provide input to the co-creation of the concert ... **Sokunvery Var**: For your joy and willingness to be a co-creator in this project by participating on the design team. Thank you for offering all that you have of yourself to assist in the manifestation of this concert.... **Nelsy Acosta**: For your willingness to share a joyful part of your story and to be heard and seen! ... **Belgica Jones**: For your inspiration to never give up on one's dreams and the importance of believing in oneself despite what others may try to tell you....**Marica Prozo**: For your willingness to share excerpts from your book based upon your experiences from the Bosnian War. Thank you for expressing your thought-provoking and heartfelt perspective through prose..... **Rajat Turkel**: For your willingness to share your gift of dance and movement....**PAIRWN**: To the many women who were willing to have their voices recorded to express themselves, to the women who were willing to hold signs, be seen, and recognized and acknowledged, to the women who proudly wear their ethnic clothing illustrating the rich diversity this community has to offer! Thanks especially to Sara Smith, Kamini Maraj Grahame, Sakira Chea Var, Eun Young Won, Afra Mohamed, Mariam Mohamed, and Van Vo Nguyen.

Anthony Haubert, our accompanist and my right hand man: You are such a talented musician and we are blessed to have you present at every rehearsal ready to play and provide musical feedback as well. **Chris Purcell**, our Artistic Consultant and Arranger: For your beautiful arrangements, your assistance in obtaining our performance venue, handling all vocal recordings of the PAIRWN voices, working on the sound, attending rehearsals and providing "tipsters" to the chorus singers.

Cathy Nelson: For your continued support as the President of the Chorus and as a confidant. **Susan Swope and Shirley Tannenbaum**: For your tireless efforts in researching music for our themed concert as well as your enthusiastic assistance in anything you've been asked to do in preparation of the concert. **Suzanne Noll**: For your outstanding leadership and genuine love in creating a safe space for the design team comprised of chorus members and PAIRWN women to co-create this transcending musical journey. **Adele Johansson**: For your joyful assistance with the making of signs as well as a contributor to the design team. **Joanne Nicholson**: For the Powerpoint presentation and contribution to the design team. **Linda Noble**: For continuing to maintain the music library and making sure that we all have our music. **Lucy Twitchell**: For your work in digitizing and posting our music parts. **Laura Dalton**: For your awesome rehearsal recap notes! You keep us focused and remind us of what we did each rehearsal and what we need to do for the next rehearsal. **To every singer, Board member, and volunteer**: For the countless hours you devote to rehearsal, to practice, to meetings—and to fund-raising!

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