

**COMMON
WOMAN
CHORUS**



ONE VOICE

SONGS OF UNITY • OUTRAGE • COURAGE • AND • HOPE

8 PM SATURDAY 11.16.13 ERUUF

ACT ONE

WE SHALL NOT GIVE UP THE FIGHT Music by Anders Nyberg. Lyrics adapted from a South African saying.

TAPESTRY Music and lyrics by Ruth Huber.

Composer Ruth Huber founded the Tapestry Singers—Austin’s Women’s Chorus, in 1987. This chorus, like the Common Woman Chorus, is a welcoming, nonauditioned musical community.

ELLA’S SONG Music by Bernice Johnson Reagon. Lyrics adapted from statements by civil rights activist Ella Baker. Performed by the chorus ensemble. Originally recorded by Sweet Honey in the Rock.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE Music by Joan Szymko. Lyrics adapted from a West African saying. Solo by Suzanne Tyler.

WE ARE Music and lyrics by Ysaye M. Barnwell. Originally recorded by Sweet Honey in the Rock.

(WHAT IF WE ARE) JUST LIKE YOU? by Sherri Gray. Choral arrangement by Kristen Stinnett and Cara Valenti. Performed with Sherri Gray.

Sherri Gray wrote this song to celebrate her niece Shannon’s marriage to her wife Lisa. Gray wanted to share it more widely and asked the chorus to perform it. We are excited to have her premier this choral version of her song with us.

ONE VOICE Music and lyrics by Ruth Moody. Arranged by Marceline Moody. Featuring trio Cara Valenti, Brandi Melvin-Scammell, and Kimberly Ebel. Originally recorded by the Wailin’ Jennys.

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING? Music and lyrics by Robert Wadsworth Lowry; with a secular verse by Pete Seeger. Arranged by Karen P. Thomas. Featuring Angela Cardoso, Kimberly Ebel, Brittany Bacchi, and Erin Roma.

ACT TWO

GOOD FRIEND Music and lyrics by Jan Harmon. Solo by Nancy Maeder. Originally recorded by Libana.

MAY I SUGGEST? Music and lyrics by Susan Werner. Arranged by Cara Valenti. Performed by the chorus ensemble. Originally recorded by Red Molly.

ARMY OF LOVE Music and lyrics by Lynn Blakey of the North Carolina Music Love Army.

The North Carolina Music Love Army is “a united force composed of your favorite musicians set to battle against the regressive legislation of the current administration. We are outraged. We fight with songs. We win with your ears and with your help.” Their first album of original protest music will be released nationally on November 26th and is available for pre-order in the lobby. They plan a release party at Cat’s Cradle on Saturday, November 30th. All proceeds from the sale of records and merchandise will benefit progressive groups (Progress NC, Planned Parenthood, and others) on the front lines of the fight to return sane governance to our state.

MY BODY POLITIC Music and lyrics by Caitlin Cary and shirlette ammons of the North Carolina Music Love Army. Featuring shirlette ammons.

NEVER SIT DOWN! Arranged and adapted from the traditional American spiritual “Sit Down, Sister” by Gwyneth Walker. From *The Spirit of Women*, a set of three songs that portray women of strength and character.

STAND TOGETHER Music and lyrics by Jim Papoulis.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A POSTCONCERT
RECEPTION IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**



The Common Woman Chorus is a progressive voice and vibrant musical community committed to singing inclusive music that showcases the integrity and inherent worth of each of us. We believe in and support the power of music to heal, challenge, celebrate, educate, and communicate our shared connections, and strive to be a community in which every voice is heard and valued.

The chorus welcomes singers at all levels of experience and is proud to bring to the community performances that regularly include both professionally-trained singers and shower divas who are performing in public for the first time. This inclusive approach encourages singers to find and value their own voices and to use them to create harmony. Committee work and board service also encourage singers to build self confidence while developing leadership practices that value consensus and cultivate teamwork, inclusion, and harmonious action.

The music we sing showcases these values and reminds us to laugh as we work toward building a more inclusive and caring world. The mission we support, the music we produce, and the community that we sustain have been a vital force in our local progressive community since 1983. We thank you for joining us tonight and appreciate your enthusiasm and support.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Kristen Stinnett
ACCOMPANIST Kate Lewis

CHORUS PERFORMERS MUSICIANS Jude Casseday (percussion)
• Kelly Fairman (guitar) • Sofie Kent-Lamkin (percussion) **SOPRANO ONE** Brittany Bacchi • Angela Cardoso • Kimberly Ebel • Sarah Karakitsos • Susan Laswell • Charlotte Morgan • Erin O'Hara
SOPRANO TWO Cindy Bizzell • Megan Hughes • Ruth Kravitz • Shelly Lyons • Betty Prioux • Michelle Reader • Erin Roma • Kathleen Roose • Kim Sage **ALTO ONE** Laura Delbridge • Karen Dold • Lucy Harris • Jane MacNeela • Nancy Maeder • Brandi Melvin-Scammell • Debbie Reilly • Lisa Shupp • Suzanne Tyler • Cara Valenti **ALTO TWO** Amy Anderson • Gretchen Aycock • Beth Hoke • Jamie Lamkin • Marty McClelland • Robin Neville
CHORUS EMSEMBLE (Codirected by Kristen Stinnett and Cara Valenti) Angela Cardoso • Kimlerly Ebel • Beth Hoke • Marty McClelland • Brandi Melvin-Scammell • Kristen Stinnett • Suzanne Tyler • Cara Valenti • Angela Williams

NORTH CAROLINA MUSIC LOVE ARMY PERFORMERS
shirlette ammons (spoken word) • Lynn Blakey (guitar, vocals) • Caitlin Cary (vocals) • Kaitlin Grady (cello) • Caroline Mamoulides (vocals) • Clay Merritt (guitar)



I am a common woman, working hard every day. I do what I can when I have to, and I have to a lot these days. Most times it feels like I don't know much, but I know what a dollar buys. I am a common woman, as common as bread, and will rise, will rise.—from “Common Woman” by Libby Roderick, as inspired by a Judy Grahn poem that reads, in part, a “common woman is as common as a common loaf of bread . . . and will rise.”

Years ago, civil rights lawyer and activist Flo Kennedy reminded feminists that fighting oppression collectively enables us to expose and dismantle the institutions and laws that oppress us. “Don’t agonize, organize!” she advised.

More recently, Arab Spring protesters raised their voices and toppled regimes and reminded us of the power of collective protest. And Occupy Wall Street protesters called out regressive legislators and the donors who fund them and reminded us that economic justice is possible if we demand it.

Meanwhile, Moral Monday protesters in our own state are holding accountable those NC officials who support legislation that would increase economic inequality, limit our freedoms, and further oppress struggling and disenfranchised citizens of our state.

Tonight, we celebrate the songs and people who organize collectively to bring about a more equitable and inclusive world.

CWC: FIND YOUR VOICE!



UPCOMING: THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A DAME

**OLD STANDARDS. NEW DAYS.
Saturday • April 26, 2014**

commonwomanchorus.net

It really does take a village to run a chorus, and we appreciate any support you can offer. Your tax-deductible donation will be used to cover operational and administrative expenses that include rental of rehearsal and performance space; music purchases; licensing fees; and performance expenses such as set designs, lighting, and sound equipment. We also pay our artistic director and accompanist a small stipend. Your donation helps us keep membership open to all women regardless of their ability to pay membership dues.

**COMMON WOMAN CHORUS
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Durham, NC 27717**

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W: <http://www.commonwomanchorus.net>
F: <http://www.facebook.com/commonwomanchorus>
T: <https://twitter.com/CWCNC>**

**THE COMMON WOMAN CHORUS: RAISING CONSCIOUSNESS
ABOUT THE VALUE OF WOMEN'S LIVES AND EXPERIENCES
LOCALLY AND AROUND THE WORLD.**

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