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season
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2013-2014



vocalessence

WITNESS

Stomp & Sing

Sunday, February 9, 2014 at 4 pm
Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis



Melanie DeMore

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2013-2014

45th Anniversary Season

WITNESS

Stomp & Sing

Sunday, February 9, 2014 at 4 pm
Orchestra Hall
1111 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN

Concert Conversation at 3 pm with John Birge and Melanie DeMore.

VocalEssence Chorus
Patrick Henry High School Concert Choir
Talented Tenth Apprentices
Melanie DeMore
Philip Brunelle, *conductor*
Tesfa Wondemagegnehu, *conductor*
Charles Kemper, *pianist*

2013-2014
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This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, and a grant from Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota.

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VocalEssence

1900 Nicollet Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403
612-547-1451
www.vocalescence.org
VocalEssence is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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Please Note:

- This concert may be recorded for broadcast – please help us keep the performance space quiet. Take a moment now to check that all cell phones, paging devices, wristwatch alarms and the like are turned off before the concert begins. Thank you for your cooperation.
- Recording devices and cameras are prohibited. No photography, video, or audio recording is allowed in the concert hall. Please abstain from texting, tweeting or checking your email during the concert!
- Student and group discounts are available for most VocalEssence concerts. Half-price tickets are available to students (ages 6-18 and college) with a student ID. Groups of 10 or more save 15% on tickets. Children under age 6 are not allowed at VocalEssence performances, except for select community and family concerts, including **iCantaré!** and **Star of Wonder**.
- Accessible seating is available at all of our concert venues. However, some of our facilities do not have elevator access to the balcony level. Please make your needs known when you order tickets.
- You may return VocalEssence single concert tickets for resale up to 48 hours prior to a performance. No refunds or exchanges can be given; however, you will be sent a receipt for your tax-deductible contribution. (VocalEssence subscribers may call 612-371-5642 to request free ticket exchanges and lost ticket replacement.)
- Latecomers will be seated at appropriate pauses in the concert according to the conductor's wishes. Please plan plenty of time for locating the concert venue and parking. Or better yet, allow an extra hour and join us for **Concert Conversations** with the composers and artists, held one hour before most concerts.
- Programs and artists are subject to change without notice.

Special Thanks

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Erin Wisness, Southside Family
Charter School

The Program

— A film presentation about Gullah culture —

VocalEssence Chorus and Talented Tenth Apprentices

Yonder Come Day arr. Craig Carnahan
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot arr. Tesfa Wondemagegnehu

VocalEssence Chorus, Patrick Henry High School Concert Choir, and Talented Tenth Apprentices

Keep Your Lamps arr. André J. Thomas

— Presentation of Reatha Clark King Award —

Patrick Henry High School Concert Choir

**Oh, Freedom* arr. Patrick Henry High School
**Timothy Buzza* conducting Concert Choir

VocalEssence Chorus, Patrick Henry High School Concert Choir, and Talented Tenth Apprentices

Down by the River arr. Lena J. McLin

— Intermission —

Melanie DeMore and VocalEssence Chorus

God Is All There Is Mary D. Watkins

Melanie DeMore, VocalEssence Chorus and Patrick Henry High School Concert Choir

Free, Free, Free Melanie DeMore

Melanie DeMore and Patrick Henry High School Concert Choir

Wade in the Water – Run, Mary, Run – Way Over in Beulah Land
Underground Railroad Spirituals

Melanie DeMore

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot Traditional Spiritual

Melanie DeMore, VocalEssence Chorus and Patrick Henry High School Concert Choir

Freedom Land Melanie DeMore
Which Way? Traditional Spiritual
I'm on My Way Traditional Spiritual
Oh Freedom, Come By Here Traditional Spiritual

Audience Sing

And the People Could Sing Traditional Spiritual

Welcome to WITNESS: Stomp & Sing

Philip Brunelle



In our 24th year of WITNESS, I am proud that VocalEssence continues to enrich our communities as we celebrate the contributions of African Americans to our shared American heritage through concerts, recordings and a comprehensive educational program. We are very excited to have Melanie DeMore's high energy, teaching us about the Gullah culture through their music and unique stick pounding. To strengthen our communities through this Gullah tradition, the VocalEssence Chorus as well as the students from Patrick Henry High School have been learning and practicing for months preparing for this performance. I know you will feel the wonderful energy pulsating in this marvelous music.
– Philip Brunelle

Dedication

Today's WITNESS concert is dedicated to the memory of a politician, activist, lawyer, philanthropist and President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela. As a man who devoted his life to promoting democracy and equality, he leaves behind a legacy of peaceful change. His memory will continue to inspire the actions of leaders to continue creating a peaceful and just world filled with opportunity for all.

Choral Pathways

VocalEssence would like to welcome our special guests who are attending this afternoon's WITNESS concert through the Choral Pathways program, which enriches the appreciation of choral music for older adults in the Twin Cities.

Today VocalEssence welcomes:
Lyngblomsten
Sabathani Community Center
Senior Program

Text and Translations

Yonder Come Day

Craig Carnahan - 2012

Yonder come day, day is a breakin'.
Yonder come day, O my soul.
Yonder come day, day is a breakin'.
Sun is a risin' in my soul.

Trees are green and the air is sweet,
The good earth is singin' underneath my feet.
I'll point my feet down that freedom line.
Walkin' that road, I'm feelin' fine.

Yonder come day, day is a breakin'.
Yonder come day, O my soul.
Yonder come day, day is a breakin'.
Sun is a risin' in my soul.

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Arr. Tesfa Wondemagegnehu - 2012

Swing low, sweet chariot.
Coming for to carry me home.
Swing low, sweet chariot.
Coming for to carry me home.

I looked over Jordan and what did I see.
Coming for to carry me home.
A band of angels coming after me,
Coming for to carry me home.

If you get there before I do,
Coming for to carry me home.
Tell all my friends I'm coming too,
Coming for to carry me home.

Swing low, sweet chariot.
Coming for to carry me home.
Swing low, sweet chariot.
Yes, they're coming for to carry me home.

Keep Your Lamps!

Arr. André J. Thomas - 1982

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
The time is drawing nigh.

Children, don't get weary
'til your work is done

Christian journey soon be over,
The time is drawing nigh.

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
The time is drawing nigh.

Oh, Freedom

*Arr. Patrick Henry High School Concert
Choir - 2013*

Oh, Freedom
Oh, Freedom
Oh, Freedom over me
And before I'd be a slave
I'd be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free.

No more mourning
No more mourning
No more mourning over me
And before I'd be a slave
I'd be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free.

No more crying
No more crying
No more crying over me
And before I'd be a slave
I'd be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free.

Oh, Freedom
Oh, Freedom
Oh, Freedom over me
And before I'd be a slave
I'd be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free.

Down by the River

Arr. Lena J. McLin - 1976

We'll wait 'til Jesus comes; down by the river.
We'll wait 'til Jesus comes; down by the riverside.
Oh, Hallelujah to the lamb; down by the river.
The Lord is on the giving side; down by the riverside.

We'll wait 'til Jesus comes; down by the river.
We'll wait 'til Jesus comes; down by the riverside.
Oh, we are pilgrims here below; down by the river.
Oh, soon to glory we will go; down by the riverside.

Little did I think he was so nigh; down by the river.
He spoke and made me laugh and cry; down by the riverside.
We'll wait 'til Jesus comes; down by the river.
We'll wait 'til Jesus comes; down by the riverside.

God Is All There Is

Mary D. Watkins - 1992

God is all there is
Yes, God is all there is
The God of many names
Yet the principle remains
That God is all there is

Young Singers Group is now Resonate!

The logo for 'resonate' features the word in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The letter 'o' is replaced by a stylized graphic of three concentric circles, with the top circle being the largest and the bottom two smaller, creating a visual representation of sound waves or resonance.

VISION: A world where choral music resonates with all people.

MISSION: To engage and unite the next generation in choral art.

Follow us on Facebook at: facebook.com/ve.resonate.

Featured Artist



Melanie DeMore

is an energetic vocal advocate who identifies herself with a few other titles: songwriter, troubadour, and an emissary of tolerance, kindness, and harmony.

As a founding member of the Grammy-nominated vocal ensemble Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir, Melanie has traveled the world. She performs solo, leads stick-pounding workshops, holds residencies with choirs all over the country and teaches Sound Awareness to sixth graders, baby boomers, and senior citizens. Throughout her life, her mission is to unlock the key to experiencing Glory in everyone she meets through her passion and boundless energy.

Program Note

'When we all rise and raise our voice, we come together as one'...

The bringing together of hands, voice, foot-stomping and Gullah stick pounding is a celebration of the resilience and brilliance of the human spirit. The people of the Gullah South Sea Islands of the United States created a spoken and musical language with its roots in Africa but uniquely African American. Even in the most adverse and inhumane situations folks will find a way to make community, to make a way to find home and hope in wretched times. This music is about the human longing for freedom and connection; the fierce desire to be seen, heard, understood and respected.

This music is about all of us. I wrote 'Freedom Land' with that in mind: To turn the concert hall, the community center, the church into a giant drum where the rhythm of the stick and our collective heart beats align. It is an honor to share the stage with VocalEssence and Patrick Henry High School. They are now life long members of my stick-pounding peace family: POUND ON!

— Melanie DeMore, Vocal Activist

Collaborators

Patrick Henry High School Concert Choir

Minneapolis Public School's Patrick Henry High School was established in 1925 in the Camden neighborhood of north Minneapolis. It is home to just over 1,000 students. This talented and diverse group of young people — along with their dedicated teachers and staff — consistently make Newsweek's and U.S. News and World Report's list of top American public high schools. One third of Henry students are involved with PHHS's innovative and expanding music department. The Concert Choir has grown in number from 0 to over 70 since 2009.

Tim Buzza teaches music at Patrick Henry High School in Minneapolis. Along with the Concert Choir, Tim leads the PHHS Drum Line, teaches a pop and hip-hop songwriting course and a ninth grade general music percussion and composition class called "Funk From Junk". Tim holds a masters degree in teaching and learning from Hamline University. On the weekends he can be found composing music for the online gaming company Eduweb, performing with the folk band "Potluck and the Hot Dishes" and relaxing with his family.

The Talented Tenth Apprentice Program (TTAP)

Inspired by the principals of African American scholar W.E.B. DuBois, the VocalEssence Talented Tenth Apprentice Program offers urban-area high school students the opportunity to receive professional music and vocal training. The program includes:

- Group voice lessons with a professional singer
- Free tickets to VocalEssence concerts
- The opportunity to sing on stage with VocalEssence

In partnership with Minneapolis South High School, Ginger Commodore has worked with this year's Talented Tenth students, teaching them selected repertoire from the WITNESS concert. They have been rehearsing with the VocalEssence Chorus and are singing with them on today's WITNESS concert. Later this month, VocalEssence singers led by Assistant Artistic Director Tesfa Wondemagegnehu will go to South High School and sing with the students for a school assembly.

Through the generous support of corporate, foundation and individual donors, VocalEssence offers the program free of charge.



2013 TTAP Participants

2014 TTAP Participants

Sopranos:

Andrea Marquez-Ramos
Yazmine Mohamed
Lindsey Morris
Angie Valdez

Altos:

Shameelah Abdullah
Catherine Kisongo
Betty Mfalingundi

Basses:

Armani Jacobsen
Tommy Navarro
Zach Allen-Rudick

Reatha Clark King Award: General Mills

The 2014 recipient of the Reatha Clark King Award for Excellence and Youth Motivation through the Cultural Arts is local food corporation General Mills, one of the world's largest food companies. General Mills is the eighth recipient of the annual award from VocalEssence, which developed the recognition to celebrate and recognize those who provide the resources to help organizations come closer to their visions, and those who are in the field directly working with youth to empower their success.

VocalEssence acknowledges General Mills for its enduring commitment to the arts in the Twin Cities, in particular, the VocalEssence WITNESS program. Ellen Goldberg Luger, Executive Director of the General Mills Foundation, will accept the award, a one-of-a-kind work of art created by artist Ta-coumba Aiken, at the VocalEssence **WITNESS: Stomp & Sing** concert.

"I am delighted to announce that the Reatha Clark King Award this year goes to General Mills," said Philip Brunelle, VocalEssence artistic director. "This amazing corporation has long been nourishing our community, recognizing and supporting the strengthening power of the arts. General Mills shows that responsible leadership sets a great example, and encourages us all to make the Twin Cities an even better place to live."

In addition to being a world leader in food production, General Mills is committed to engaging and supporting communities where its employees live and work. Sixty years old this year, the General Mills Foundation and corporation have given more than a billion dollars in support of causes tied to education, the arts, hunger and nutrition wellness and natural disasters in its communities. Its Communities of Color grant program, founded in 2004, supports nonprofits — including schools, theaters and other Twin Cities organizations with programs that enrich the lives of people of color — and has served more than 700,000 children, families and individuals across the Twin Cities with a total of \$4.5 million in grants.

Past Reatha Clark King Award Recipients

2013: Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, a nonprofit that has served more than 200,000 youth and families since its inception in 1924, and one of the oldest Minnesota organizations to continuously deliver services primarily to African Americans.

2012: Theresa Neal, Principal of the Saint Paul's Correctional School Programs, which includes Boys Totem Town School (a WITNESS Partner School), the Juvenile Detention School Program and Transitions for Success.

2011: Sharon Sayles Belton, first woman to be elected mayor of Minneapolis, now Vice President of Community Relations and Government Affairs for Thomson Reuters.

2010: Laysha Ward, President of Community Relations and the Target Foundation, where she oversees domestic and international grant making, community sponsorships, cause marketing initiatives, volunteerism and other civic activities.

2009: Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan C. Page and Diane Sims Page, co-founders of the Page Education Foundation which assists minority and other disadvantaged youth with post-secondary education.

2008: Patricia A. Harvey, Senior Fellow at the National Center on Education and the Economy/America's Choice in Washington, D.C., and past Superintendent of Schools in Saint Paul.

2007: Ms. Ossie Brooks James, principal at Lyndale Community School, a K-5 public school located in South Minneapolis.



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John Rutter JUBILEE

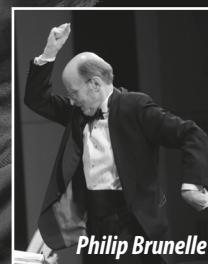
Friday, March 21, 2014 at 8 pm
Sunday, March 23, 2014 at 4 pm
Central Lutheran Church
333 South 12th Street, Mpls.

VocalEssence Chorus
& Ensemble Singers
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Chamber Orchestra
.....
Philip Brunelle, *conductor*

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651.290.1200, or mpr.org/tickets.

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VocalEssence WITNESS Program A Brief History

A Brief History

In 1991, VocalEssence created WITNESS to celebrate the artistic contributions of African Americans to the fine arts and to our common cultural heritage. By commissioning new works and programming rarely heard works by African American composers, we help broaden ideas about African American musical expression and introduce important new voices to our audiences through concerts, recordings and radio broadcasts. Michael Abels, David Baker, Ysaye Barnwell, William Banfield, Larry Farrow, Jonathan Bailey Holland, Joseph Jennings, Bobby McFerrin, Rosephanye Powell, Patrice Rushen, Evelyn Simpson-Curenton and Alvin Singleton are some of the people who have written new works and arrangements especially for the WITNESS program. The first commission—David Baker's *WITNESS: Six Original Compositions in a Spiritual Style*—inspired the name for our program.

WITNESS concert artists have included James Earl Jones, Rita Dove, Billy Taylor, Jubilant Sykes, Stephen Salters, Anthony Elliott, Patrice Rushen, Paul Shaw, Marietta Simpson and Yolanda Williams, and vocal ensembles Moore by Four, the Morehouse College Glee Club, The Steele Family, The Fairfield Four, the Leigh Morris Chorale, the Fisk Jubilee Singers and Sweet Honey In The Rock. Many of the featured artists have made return appearances on other VocalEssence concerts. WITNESS has made it possible to initiate collaborations with African American artists in many disciplines. A Minnesota State Arts Board Cultural Collaborations Grant supported our partnership with St. Paul visual artist Ta-coumba Aiken, whose art has become the visual representation of WITNESS on graphic design and publications.

WITNESS is critical for many of the students who would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend a professional event at a major concert hall. We believe an education and performance experience like WITNESS gives students an opportunity to learn from exceptional role models, increasing their self-esteem and creating a desire to continue exploring their own ways to express themselves through the arts.

The WITNESS School Program

WITNESS is one of the nation's premier initiatives celebrating the contributions of African Americans to our shared American cultural heritage through concerts, recordings and comprehensive educational programs.

WITNESS Artist Workshops

VocalEssence offers WITNESS partner schools two free workshops that give students the opportunity to work with a WITNESS Teaching Artist. Teaching Artists explore the annual program theme through their artistic discipline, creating an integrative academic experience for students combining the study of African American culture with art, music, social studies, literature, theater, character building and other areas of school curriculum.

WITNESS Teacher Resources

All participating teachers in the WITNESS program attend a

fall WITNESS Teacher Orientation Seminar. At this half-day seminar, teachers are introduced to the VocalEssence WITNESS School Program, have the opportunity to engage with WITNESS Teaching Artists and develop strategies for incorporating WITNESS materials in the school curricula.

Additionally, each school receives six copies of the WITNESS Teacher Resource Guide and Companion CD/DVD, which include activities and lessons that integrate into school curriculum and fulfill MN Education Standards.

WITNESS Young People's Concerts

The WITNESS Young People's Concert is an abbreviated version of the WITNESS public concert geared toward students in grades 4-12. Offering two 50-minute performances, we welcome up to 3,600 students to Orchestra Hall for a live performance with VocalEssence. For more information or to sign up for the 2014-2015 WITNESS School Program, contact Rob Graham at robert@vocalessence.org or 612-547-1458.

2013-2014 WITNESS Partner Schools

Alice Smith Elementary
Anoka Middle School for the Arts
Battle Creek Elementary School
Birch Grove Elementary
Boys Totem Town
Brooklyn Center High School - Arts IB
Buffalo High School - Arts Magnet
Epsilon-Hennepin County Home School
Evergreen Park World Cultures Community School
Folwell School, Performing Arts Magnet
Fridley Middle School
Frost Lake Elementary
Gatewood Elementary School
Glen Lake Elementary School
Gordon Parks High School
Highland Elementary School (Apple Valley)
Highland Elementary School (Columbia Heights)
L.H. Tanglen Elementary School
Lincoln Elementary School for the Arts
Minnehaha Academy
Mississippi Creative Arts School
Nativity of Our Lord
North Park Elementary School
Northern Lights Community School
Oak Ridge Elementary
Osseo Senior High School
Parkview Elementary
PYC Arts & Tech High School
Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet
Rosemount High School
Southside Family Charter School
St. Pascal Baylon School
St. Peter Catholic School
St. Peter Claver Catholic School
Valley View Elementary
Westview Elementary

WTINESS Teaching Artists



Timothy Berry:

Vocalist, Composer, and Percussionist

- Eclectic performances include appearances with his Afro-Latin band Soul Drums, Grammy Award Winner Larnelle Harris, Minnesota State University Repertory Dance Theater and Robert Robinson
- Recipient of multiple awards for composition: Live Music for Dance award from the American Composers Forum, the Cultural Community Partnership grant, and a winner of the Essentially Choral Competition for emerging American composers sponsored by VocalEssence and the American Composers Forum



Patricia Brown:

Dance Instructor, Choreographer, and Performer

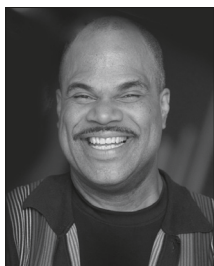
- Specializes in African-based movement styles
- Works in the community at primary and secondary schools, detention facilities, organizations and theaters including: Steppingstone Theatre, Penumbra Theatre, Pillsbury House Theatre, Children's Theatre Company and In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre
- Teaches at Macalester College and the University of Minnesota, where she was awarded the College of Continuing Education Distinguished Teaching Award, and the Century Council Diverse Community Award



Ginger Commodore:

Singer, Songwriter, and Actress

- Performs jazz, blues, rhythm and blues, contemporary, and message style
- Acts and sings with Penumbra Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre, Children's Theatre Company, Minnesota Opera, Hey City, Chanhassen Dinner Theater
- Sharing the stage with Rachelle Ferrell is her career highlight



T. Mychael Rambo:

Actor, Vocalist, Arts Educator, and Community Organizer

- Performer with Penumbra Theatre, Guthrie, Ordway, Illusion Theatre, Mixed Blood, Park Square, Children's Theatre Company and Minnesota Opera
- Affiliate professor in the College of Theatre Arts and Dance at the University of Minnesota
- Recipient of these Honors and awards: singing National Anthem for President Obama, 2008 Regional Emmy Award, 2009 Sally Award, 2010 Minnesota Black Music Award, Young Audience Artist of the Year, McKnight Theatre Artist Fellowship, Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Fellowship, Bush Finalist, the U of M Century Council Community Award and Outstanding Community Service Award



Anita Ruth:

Musician

- Works with over 300 students yearly in theatrical productions sponsored by Project SUCCESS
- Directs and Conducts four main stage productions at Bloomington Civic Theater each year
- Gave musical direction to over 200 shows in the Twin Cities area
- Co-presents with T. Mychael Rambo



Roxane Wallace:

Performer, Dance Instructor, and Choreographer

- Instructs at the Zenon Dance Studio and School
- Member of the Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater Company
- Recipient of the 2008 McKnight Dance Artist Fellowship
- Recipient of the 2007 Sage Award for Outstanding Performer in Dance

John and Mary Anne Mauriel *Forgetting Retirement, Remembering to Support Social Justice*



During a period of great change in the Civil Rights Movement, two people not only found each other, they also discovered their shared fire for social justice.

In 1962, John and Mary Anne Mauriel met in the crowded Boston city square. Even through all the noise of the city, they

could hear the inspiring words of John F. Kennedy which asked them what they could do for their country.

In 1991, they found a chance to ask what they could do for their community in Minnesota. "It was a dream come true when WITNESS came alive," Mary Anne remembers. "We were and are still very enthusiastic about this very special program."

As choral music fans and constant audience members of VocalEssence, John and Mary Anne began to notice something about the choral community that Philip Brunelle also noticed: it was mostly white. Thankfully at the time, Philip was working towards making the choral community diverse in its composition and repertoire. After conversations with Reatha Clark King, who was the Executive Director of the General Mills Foundation, they identified ways to share African American music with the choral community, the greater public, and ultimately John and Mary Anne. The result was WITNESS.

At the Carlson School of Management, John worked tirelessly to inspire business students, but he also became involved in community outreach. As a member of the H.B. Fuller Board, he became acquainted with Reatha Clark King and her work. "Today as we award leaders who are in the field empowering young people with the Reatha Clark King Award, I know that WITNESS has had a lasting impact in our community," John remembers.

For many years, John and Mary Anne lived in Golden Valley. There they were not only neighbors of Philip and Carolyn Brunelle, but they were also geographic neighbors of the north side of Minneapolis. "We knew there was a lot of work we could do to help at-risk youth in our communities," Mary Anne remembers. "WITNESS became a great musical ambassador that would tell the stories that needed to be told." Now as retirees, they continue to support WITNESS and our communities through programs like the Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ), which John serves as a board member.

WITNESS is the most extensive community engagement program that VocalEssence has offered. While many community programs, like the NAZ, focus on directly solving the socio-economic disparities in our society, WITNESS is community-based arts programming that builds on assets of the community, which supports self-esteem and ultimately works towards creating long-term social change. And together, like John and Mary Anne, they work to create harmony in our world.

Today, enacting social change is still on the forefront of John and Mary Anne's mind as it was so many years ago. Their contributions to WITNESS help give voice to positive change for more than 3,500 students with the majority from minority or impoverished backgrounds.



Plymouth Church in Minneapolis— Worship with us: 9:50, especially for families; 10:30 Sanctuary service



PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Philip Brunelle, Organist and Choirmaster
Proud to be the home of VocalEssence

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Raise your voice! Choral Advocacy

VocalEssence has a long history of advocating for the choral arts, which is evident in our actions in the community. We recognize emerging high school talent through our apprentice programs. Talented choral leaders in our school communities receive awards for groundbreaking work. Our staff serves in leadership roles in Minnesota Citizens for the Arts. And VocalEssence supports emerging composers through commissioning and premiering new works.

Cultural Competency: Bridging the Cultural Divide

- When it comes to 4th grade National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) test scores, Minnesota kids overall rank fifth or sixth from the top. But when it comes to the gap between black and white students, Minnesota is fifth or sixth from the bottom.
- According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, minority students, especially at young ages, are becoming the majority.
- Teens who participate in music education programs see music as “social glue,” as a bridge for building acceptance and tolerance for people of different ages and cultural circumstances.
- As the public face of the immigrant group, arts can enhance understanding and tolerance, easing the incorporation of present and future immigrants. This tolerance pays dividends in job and housing markets, social networks and many other realms of community life.

Join us in our advocacy efforts and raise your voice for choral music by visiting www.vocalescence.org/advocacy.

**Make sure Minnesota
stays a state of the arts.
Join us for Arts Advocacy Day.**



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**ARTS
ADVOCATE**

**Arts Advocacy Day
Thursday, March 27th**

For more information or to sign up, visit
our website at www.mncitizensforthearts.org.

WWW.MNCITIZENSFORTHEARTS.ORG



Biographies



Philip Brunelle - *VocalEssence Artistic Director and Founder*

Philip Brunelle, artistic director and founder of VocalEssence, is an internationally renowned conductor, choral scholar and performer. Believing that listeners and musicians alike must experience music of many genres and styles, he has worked enthusiastically — and tirelessly — to expand audiences for rarely heard works of the past and worthwhile new music. In addition, to date VocalEssence has commissioned more than 150 works. Philip has conducted symphonies (New York Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, and Minnesota Orchestra among others) as well as choral festivals and operas on six continents.

Over the past decade Philip has been deeply involved with the International Federation of Choral Music (IFCM). He served as president of the Sixth World Symposium on Choral Music held in Minneapolis (2002), was on the Artistic Committee for the Eighth Symposium, held in Denmark (2008), and the Ninth Symposium, held in Argentina (2011). He is a Vice President of the IFCM Board and is now serving as Executive Director for the 2014 World Symposium on Choral Music to be held in Seoul, South Korea.

Philip holds five honorary doctorates, was invested as an Honorary Member of the Order from the British Empire (MBE) in 2005 for his services to music, and Commander of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit in 2007. The governments of Sweden, Hungary, and Mexico have also honored him.



Sigrid Johnson - *Associate Conductor*

As the associate conductor of VocalEssence, Sigrid Johnson is affectionately known as “Ears” — for her unique skill in helping develop the choral blend and balance that give the VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers their signature sound. She provides expert input in the selection of repertoire and assists throughout the audition process. Her ability to achieve excellence in choral blend and intonation is a priceless asset to VocalEssence.

Sigrid is a member of the voice and choral faculty of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, and the conductor of the Manitou Singers, St. Olaf's 100-voice first-year women's chorus. She maintains an active schedule as a guest conductor and clinician at choral festivals, workshops and all-state music festivals across the country. She is known internationally for her work with musicians at all levels, having conducted workshops in Australia, the Netherlands, Sweden and Finland. In August 2008, Sigrid was one of the featured lecturers for the Eighth World Symposium on Choral Music in Copenhagen; in 2011, she was featured in the Ninth World Symposium in Argentina.

Sigrid is active in the American Choral Director's Association, the Music Educator's National Conference, the International Federation for Choral Music, and Chorus America.



Tesfa Wondemagneghu - *Assistant Artistic Director*

Tesfa Wondemagneghu, Assistant Artistic Director of VocalEssence, previously served as Director of Choral Activities at Freedom High School in Orlando, Florida. During his tenure at FHS, Tesfa was named Orange County Public School Teacher of the Year (2013) and received the Macy's National Gift of Teaching Award (2013). He led his choirs in performances at state conventions of the American Choral Directors Association (2010 & 2012)

and the Florida Music Educators' Association (2011). Tesfa has presented workshops and conducted honor choirs in Florida, Tennessee, Ohio, and Costa Rica. As a tenor soloist, he has performed both in the United States and internationally in Germany, Austria, and Hungary, and Costa Rica under the batons of such conducting luminaries as André Thomas, Anton Armstrong, Krzysztof

Penderecki, and Rodney Eichenberger. Tesfa is active in the American Choral Directors Association, the Music Educator's National Conference, and the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Tesfa holds a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting and Vocal Performance from the Florida State University and a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Memphis.

VocalEssence Chorus

The VocalEssence Chorus is an exceptional group of talented, committed singers from many walks of life: doctors, lawyers, nurses, educators, homemakers, business people, and others. Most have college level or higher training in classical music and voice. Chorus auditions are held every spring, and returning members of the Chorus re-audition every two years.

SOPRANO

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Barbara Anderson
Stacey Athorn
Diane Balfany
Hannah B. Bolt
Dana Brinton
Maria Therese Deutsch
Judy Drobeck
Vickie Dunn
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Alto continued

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*indicates member of the Ensemble Singers

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Jennifer Ridgeway	Carol & Jeff Belz	Ken & Suanne Hallberg	Jamshed Merchant	Heather Tabor
John & Barbara Risken	James Benick & Sharon Radd	Janet Hanafin	Lee Merkle-Raymond	Josiah & Heidi Telschow
Larry & Barb Romanko	Ariel Berman	Tor & Sunny Hansen	Terry Merritt	Nick & Katie Thomey
Jake Runestad	Daniel Bernal	Alicia Hanson	Bob Metzger	Richard T. Thomson
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Coral Sampson	Beth Bird	Doug Heinzen & Le Anne Eickhof	Brandon Miller	Paul & Ruth Ann Tuseth
Vickie Sanders Dunn	Don & Carol Birkeland	Virginia Helfrich	Carol J. Miller	Tor & Jaime Tuseth
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		Kathryn Keefer		Timothy Zuel

Special Tributes

VocalEssence is honored by the many gifts received in remembrance, appreciation and celebration of friends and family.

The following tributes were made between July 1, 2012 and January 14, 2014. If you wish to make a gift in tribute, please call 612-547-1473.

In remembrance of Paul Aggergaard <i>Robert & Sigrid Johnson</i>	<i>Jack & Amy Fistler</i> <i>Gloria Freeman</i> <i>Susan & Barry Graceman</i> <i>Kathleen Grammer</i> <i>Dee & Laurie Halberg</i> <i>Jim & Elaine Halls</i> <i>Margarette & Charles Hann</i> <i>David & Mim Hanson</i> <i>Nils & Ann Hasselmo</i> <i>Louise Heffelfinger</i> <i>John & Robin Helgen</i> <i>Bill Hodder</i> <i>Arthur & Donna Hogenson</i> <i>Gordon & Nita Howell</i> <i>Pat & Bob Hoyt</i> <i>Hella & William Hueg</i> <i>Charles & Karen Humphrey</i> <i>Thomas Hunt & John Wheelihan</i> <i>Thelma Hunter</i> <i>Jerry Johnson</i> <i>Josie Johnson</i> <i>Jan & Tom Kilton</i> <i>Bill & Jan Kimes</i> <i>N. Judge & Reatha Clark King</i> <i>Henry & Pat Langer</i> <i>Mark & Susan Larson</i> <i>Ken Latham</i> <i>Jeffrey & Ingrid LeMunyon</i> <i>Don & Joann Leavenworth</i> <i>Charles & Anne Leck</i> <i>Elaine Leonard</i> <i>Ron & Nikki Lewis</i> <i>Tom & Helen Lockhart</i> <i>Judy Lund</i> <i>Tom & Margie Lundberg</i> <i>Charles & Hertha Lutz</i> <i>John & Mary Anne Mauriel</i> <i>Dick & Joyce McFarland</i> <i>Mary Bigelow McMillan</i> <i>Al & Mary Agnes McQuinn</i> <i>Dave & Linda Mona</i> <i>Fred & Ann Moore</i> <i>Betty Myers</i> <i>Deborah Nelson</i> <i>Glen & Marilyn Carlson Nelson</i> <i>Don & Gerda Nightingale</i> <i>Steve Odland</i> <i>Bob & Dorothy Ollmann</i> <i>Alan Onberg</i> <i>Joe & Clara Osowski</i> <i>Joan Parsons</i> <i>Daniel & Nancy Peterson</i> <i>Paul* & Virginia Pfeiffer</i> <i>Jonathan Pinkerton & Julia Rice</i> <i>Douglas & Mary Platt</i> <i>Rich & Nancy Power</i> <i>Paul & Abigail Pribbenow</i> <i>Lois Quam</i> <i>Curtis & Shirley Ramlet</i> <i>Lois Rand</i> <i>Mike & Laura Robinson</i>	<i>Keith Rodli & Katharine Grant</i> <i>Brian & Barbara Ruhl</i> <i>Coral Sampson</i> <i>Earl Sanford & Barbara Flanagan</i> <i>Stephen & Sharli Schaitberger</i> <i>Ann Schrooten & Dawn Wiczorek</i> <i>Gale Sharpe</i> <i>Leon Shaw</i> <i>Sue Shepard & Don Helgeson</i> <i>David & Ann Smith</i> <i>Carol Southward</i> <i>Charles Stanhope</i> <i>Cherie Stofer</i> <i>Bill & Sara Stout</i> <i>John & Marcia Stout</i> <i>Paul Thatcher</i> <i>Jean Thomson & John Sandbo</i> <i>Lynn & Carol Truesdell</i> <i>Andy & Katrina Wallmeyer</i> <i>Clifton & Bettye Ware</i> <i>David & Ruth Waterbury</i> <i>David Wendt</i> <i>Dobson & Jane West</i> <i>John Westrom</i> <i>Gary & Karen Wilkerson</i> <i>Wilson & Gayle Graham Yates</i> <i>Al & Judy Zabin</i>	In honor of Kay McCarthy and her marvelous talent as a quilter <i>Nancy Slaughter</i>	<i>James & Jane Riley-Koll</i> <i>Bud Kraehling</i> <i>Jack & Cindy Lau</i> <i>Mary Lou Loud</i> <i>Irene Lovejoy</i> <i>Jan Mattox</i> <i>Craig & Judy Moen</i> <i>Richard & Suzanne Moriarity</i> <i>Glen & Marilyn Carlson Nelson</i> <i>Nancy Nelson</i> <i>Jo Nielsen</i> <i>Don & Bev Norris</i> <i>Joan Otness</i> <i>Dean & Masako Potter</i> <i>Lizabeth Ralles & Al Aukee</i> <i>Sue Shepard & Don Helgeson</i> <i>John & Carmen Skog</i> <i>Mary Sommers</i> <i>Bill & Sara Stout</i> <i>Charles & Marilyn Stuck</i> <i>Jean Thomson & John Sandbo</i> <i>Richard & Rosemary Thorsen</i> <i>Gedney & Emily Anne Tuttle</i> <i>Jack & Anita Witta</i> <i>Anne & Philip Worrell</i> <i>Timothy Zuel</i>
In honor of Ryan Allen for his birthday <i>Elaine Rudick</i>			In remembrance of David Nelson <i>Carol J. Miller</i>	
In celebration of Dominick Argento's 85th Birthday <i>Craig & Larey Anne Swanson</i>			In remembrance of Jeanne Elizabeth Nolan <i>Robert & Sigrid Johnson</i>	
In remembrance of Jean Anne Bailey <i>Kathleen Grammer</i>			In remembrance of Robert Odegard <i>Kevin Odegard</i>	
In appreciation of the wonderful basses in VocalEssence <i>Carol Southward</i>			In remembrance of Ken Pokomy <i>John & Joan Colwell</i>	
In remembrance of Jerry Michael Beltt <i>Philip & Carolyn Brunelle</i>			In remembrance of Roy A. and Shirley Sather <i>Ann Sather</i>	
In remembrance of Bill Brown <i>David & Ann Buran</i> <i>Don & Bev Norris</i>			In honor of the wedding of Henry Charles Smith and Norma Jean Falink <i>Elizabeth Murray</i>	
In remembrance of Dave Brubeck <i>Jane Dayton Hall</i>			In remembrance of Jorge Salvatierra <i>James & Tomie Conaway</i> <i>Amanda Fogg</i> <i>Richard & Carolyn Fogg</i>	In celebration of the birth of Eve Kathryn to Josiah and Heidi Telschow <i>Robert & Sigrid Johnson</i>
With appreciation to Philip Brunelle <i>Michael Glasgow</i>		In honor of Katryn Conlin <i>Kathleen Glaser</i>		
In honor of Philip Brunelle's 70th Birthday <i>Mary Adair & Gerald Jorgenson</i> <i>William & Suzanne Ammerman</i> <i>Quentin & Mary Anderson</i> <i>Woody & Cynthia Andrews</i> <i>Nancy Azzam</i> <i>Ann Barkew & Jim O'Hagan</i> <i>J. Michael Barone</i> <i>Mary K. Baumann & Will Hopkins</i> <i>Carol & Jeff Belz</i> <i>Beth Bird</i> <i>Goeta Goetz Bird</i> <i>John & Sheila Bjorklund</i> <i>Carol Brandenburg</i> <i>Lucile Adams Brink</i> <i>Marilyn Bryant</i> <i>Robert & Bridget Burke</i> <i>Camille Carteng</i> <i>Judy Christensen</i> <i>Jack & Ann Cole</i> <i>John & Joan Colwell</i> <i>James & Tomie Conaway</i> <i>Dick & Suzie Crockett</i> <i>Kent & Dee Ann Crossley</i> <i>Chuck Denny</i> <i>Len & Susan Druskin</i> <i>Hope Esparolini</i> <i>Floyd & Caron Farmer</i> <i>Jerry & Cathie Fischer</i>		In celebration of the birth of Tilda Florence to Ryan and Jenny French <i>Robert & Sigrid Johnson</i>	In celebration of the birth of Kellen Palmer to Mike and Mari Scott <i>Robert & Sigrid Johnson</i>	In remembrance of Patricia Lou Tilton (mother of Philip J. Tilton and grandmother of Alexandra Tilton) <i>Robert & Sigrid Johnson</i>
		In remembrance of Elsie H. Goetz <i>Goeta Goetz Bird</i>	In honor of the wedding of Ed Sootsman and Scott Appelwick <i>Mary Lou Judd Carpenter</i>	
		In remembrance of Lauretta Graetz <i>Jere Graetz</i>	In celebration of the marriage of Carolyn and Mike Steele <i>Robert & Sigrid Johnson</i>	In honor of the marriage of Peter Vitale and Dr. Stephen Nelson <i>David & Ann Buran</i>
		In honor of Jack & Linda Hoeschler <i>Terry & Kristen Hoeschler O'Brien</i>	In remembrance of Richard (Dick) Stuck <i>Elaine Arndt</i> <i>Philip & Carolyn Brunelle</i> <i>David & Ann Buran</i> <i>Mary Lou Judd Carpenter</i> <i>Clyde & Patti Collins</i> <i>Cynthia Colwell</i> <i>John & Joan Colwell</i> <i>Tom & Phyllis Colwell</i> <i>Marcus & Joan Cox</i> <i>Tucker & Carolyn Dahl</i> <i>Alan & Stephanie Gordon</i> <i>Ken & Suanne Hallberg</i> <i>Tor & Sunny Hansen</i> <i>David & Mim Hanson</i> <i>Dob & Janis Hardy</i> <i>Doug & Mary Jones</i>	In honor of the VocalEssence 45th Season <i>Carolyn Brunelle</i>
		In remembrance of Barbara Laederach <i>Mike & Sally Bosanko</i> <i>David & Ann Buran</i> <i>Carol J. Miller</i> <i>Don & Bev Norris</i>		In honor of VocalEssence and Philip Brunelle's outstanding contributions to new choral music <i>James Kallembach</i>
		In remembrance of Rev. William Lawson <i>Carol J. Miller</i>		In remembrance of John Welshons <i>Rick & Katie Fournier</i>
		To my loving spouse and guest VocalEssence conductor, Bob Lee <i>Mary Schaffner</i>		In remembrance of Karin Wendt <i>David Wendt</i>