

## Melodia



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## Biography

Founded in 2003, Melodia Women's Choir of NYC is dedicated to exploring, creating, and performing exemplary classical and contemporary music composed for women's voices. Under the leadership of Jenny Clarke, Executive Director, and Cynthia Powell, Artistic Director, Melodia has performed at Symphony Space, Merkin Concert Hall, DiMenna Center for Classical Music, and the Church of Saint Ignatius Loyola as part of Sacred Music in a Sacred Space series. Melodia nurtures the next generation of women composers through commissions and performances. Melodia is the recipient of two WNYC/WQXR Radio *Salute the Arts Initiative* awards and released its first professionally-produced recording, *Lullaby*, in 2014.

The arrangement of *Largo* that Melodia is performing and recording for the New World Initiative is from a collection entitled *Song of Survival*. This collection was created by Margaret Dryburgh and Nora Chambers, who were among hundreds of women imprisoned in an internment camp in Sumatra in the East Indies during the Second World War. Held together in deplorable conditions, women prisoners performed the songs in a "vocal orchestra" as a means of reinforcing their sense of dignity and determination to survive.

We bring the arrangement to the New World Initiative as a tribute to the women who sang to survive displacement and imprisonment in 1942 and to those who sing to create a better world everywhere.