

Sun, Moon, and Stars

Cynthia Powell, Artistic Director and Conductor
Jenny Clarke, Founder and Executive Director

Taisiya Pushkar, piano
Emilie-Anne Gendron and Clara Kim, violins;
Stephanie Griffin, viola; Laura Andrade, cello; Ha Young Jung, double bass;
Francesca Ferrara, flute; Allison Sniffin, glockenspiel

Kindly turn off your cell phone. No flash photography.

Stars

Soloist: Peri Margolies

Ēriks Ešenvalds (b. 1977)

Sure On This Shining Night

Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)
Orch. by Allison Sniffin

Songs of the Lights

1. *Song of the Stars*
2. *The Sower*
Soloist: Caroline Fjeldheim
3. *The Sun is a Luminous Shield*
4. *Daybreak Song*

Imant Raminsh (b. 1943)

***Clair de lune* arr. for piano & flute**

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Moonplay

Lee R. Kesselman (b. 1951)

Choose Something Like a Star

Randall Thompson (1899-1984)

I Dream a World

André J. Thomas (b. 1952)
Orch. by Allison Sniffin

When You Wish Upon a Star

Leigh Harline (1907-1969)
arr. by Cynthia Powell &
Allison Sniffin

Melodia Singers

Soprano

Caroline Bauman
Lindsay Cornelio
Deliana Daskalova
Caroline Fjeldheim
Larissa Flint
Deb Howard
Colleen Maher
Peri Margolies
Amy Morrisett
Nicole Owen

Maggie Parker
Theresa Pascoe
Ashley Paskalis
Chiara Pierangelo
Sarah Woodruff

Alto

Cara Brownell
Faith Ciavarella
Jenny Clarke
Shivani Jacelon
Karen Meberg
Kym Mendez
Jordana Moldauer
Jeanne Ruskin
Peggy Samuels
Emily Segal

Melodia Women's Choir History

Founded in 2003, Melodia explores and performs rarely heard music for women's voices in many different styles, and nurtures emerging women composers through commissions and performances. 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, the Church of Saint Ignatius Loyola in collaboration with Sacred Music in a Sacred Space, and others. Melodia has been heard on WQXR and WNYC radio, including as part of "Her Music: 24 Hours of Emerging Women Composers," in 2014 and again in 2015 and 2016, and seen on NBC television.

Melodia was selected to participate in the WNYC/WQXR Radio's Salute the ARTS Initiative (STAR) 2013 – our second STAR award. Melodia was honored to receive a special proclamation from the New York City Council in April 2018 for "delighting listeners with high quality musical performances and for fostering greater harmony throughout our community and beyond."

Melodia released their first commercial recording in 2014, Lullaby, a collection of soothing pieces selected from among the many rare and special works Melodia has performed over the first twelve years of music-making.

Notes on the Program

Tonight marks the start of the 19th season of Melodia Women's Choir of NYC, as well as the first in-person concert since November 2019 when we fell silent due to the Covid-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, we continued with rehearsals and virtual productions on zoom, but of course it's not the same. We are beyond ecstatic to be singing together again and to have you in the audience.

Melodia decided to open the season with a celebration of the universe as a force of constancy and wonder, even as our planet faces overwhelming challenges. We recognize the monumental issues that the world is facing and we wholeheartedly embrace the privilege to reunite in search of a greater good. Our concert centers around the theme of the sun, moon, and stars, with music that offers a healing perspective on the universe.

Stars, written by Latvian composer **Ēriks Ešņvalds**, highlights the evocative words of **Sara Teasdale** from her 1920 poem of the same name. Tuned water glasses played by some of the singers provide a magical accompaniment. *Stars* begins softly, but slowly swells to a crescendo, as we glimpse the mystery and magnitude of the cosmos.

Sure On this Shining Night by **Morten Lauridsen**, with words by **James Agee**, imagines a vast night sky. The "kindness" that "must watch for me" offers a warmth, a gentleness, and a hope that the universe holds us in its gentle care. The melody draws out the delight of that kindness - the playfulness of our voices singing the word "shining" brings us joy. We are full of wonder. The stars are close, humanly felt.

Grief, loneliness, placelessness, a sense of wandering the earth without community, friends or family, is also present within the poem. The music becomes a glorious container for the awe and isolation evoked by that single line: "I weep for wonder wand'ring far alone."

Imant Raminsh, a Canadian composer of Latvian descent, uses Navajo and Algonquin Indian texts in his *Songs of the Lights*. These four movements look at sun, moon and stars through the imagination of indigenous peoples. The personification of stars in their constellations, the blinding sun, the moon, and the brilliant coming of dawn are the inspirations for this delightful set.

Clair de Lune (Moonlight) is a movement from the *Suite Bergamasque* by **Claude Debussy**. One of the most beloved and well-known pieces of piano literature, we offer this evocative piece in a transcription played by flutist Francesca Ferrara and Melodia's award-winning collaborative pianist, Taisiya Pushkar.

Moonplay is by **Lee R. Kesselman**, who served as a university professor of choral activities in Illinois. Kesselman uses Chinese characters *yi* and *yu*, which stand for change and constancy, and other nonsense syllables that symbolize the line, “I play in the moon of time; I fly in the pale moon of wonder.” In the center section, when we sing those very words, he instructs us to “sing them with as much sexiness as you dare.”

Randall Thompson wrote “Choose Something Like a Star” as the final movement of *Frostiana*, his larger work dedicated to the townspeople of Amherst, MA based on poems by **Robert Frost**. The music and poetry evoke inquiry, wonder, frustration, and acceptance of the human struggle for deeper meaning in our lives.

I Dream a World by **André J. Thomas** inspired the theme of our virtual concert in May. Based on the poem written by Langston Hughes, the plea is for sanity, justice and the better attributes of humanity to prevail.

If *When You Wish Upon a Star* from Disney’s *Pinocchio* doesn’t fill you with nostalgia and optimism for better things to come, we’re not sure what will.

It’s our hope that *Sun, Moon, and Stars* gives you some reassurance that, despite ongoing adversity, our program will calm your nerves and give you some semblance of peace and hope for our pale, blue dot of a planet, hurtling in the vastness of a (hopefully) caring universe.

Contributed by Peri Margolies, Cynthia Powell, and Peggy Samuels

Texts

Stars

Poem by Sara Teasdale

Alone in the night
On a dark hill
With pines around me
Spicy and still

And a heaven full of stars
Over my head
White and topaz
And misty red;

Myriads with beating
Hearts of fire

The aeons
Cannot vex or tire;

Up the dome of heaven
Like a great hill
I watch them marching
Stately and still

And I know that I
Am honored to be
Witness
Of so much majesty

Sure on this Shining Night

Poem by James Agee

Sure on this shining night
Of star made shadows round
Kindness must watch for me
This side the ground

The late year lies down the north
All is healed, all is health

High summer holds the earth
Hearts all whole

Sure on this shining night
I weep for wonder
Wandering far alone
Of shadows on the stars

Songs of the Lights

Algonquin Indian text translated by Nellie Barnes
Navajo Indian text translated by Eda Lou Walton

Song of the Stars

We are the stars which sing
We sing with our light
We are the birds of fire
We fly o'er the sky

Our light is a voice
We make a road for spirits,
For the spirits to pass over

Among us are three hunters
Who chase a bear
There never was a time
When they were not hunting

We look down on the mountains
This is the song of stars

The Sower

I hold pollen of dawn in my hand
With it I sow the night
Over the mountain
Spring the first pale blades of the day

Daybreak Song

All night the gods were with us
Now the night is gone
Silence the rattle
Sing the daybreak song

For in the dawn bluebird calls
With voice melodious
And out from his blankets

Moonplay

I play in the moon of time
I fly in the pale moon of wonder

Choose Something like a Star

Poem by Robert Frost

O Star (the fairest one in sight)
We grant your loftiness the right
To some obscurity of cloud
It will not do to say of night
Since dark is what brings out your light

Some mystery becomes the proud
But to be wholly taciturn
In your reserve is not allowed
Say something to us we can learn
By heart and when alone repeat
Say something! And it says "I burn."
But say with what degree of heat
Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade

The Sun is a Luminous Shield

The sun is a luminous shield
Borne up the blue path by a god
The moon is the torch of an old man
Who stumbles over stars

Of tumbled grey
The sun comes
Combing his hair for the day

We are the stars which sing
We sing with our light
We are the birds of fire
We fly o'er the sky

Use language we can comprehend
Tell us what elements you blend
It gives us strangely little aid
But does tell something in the end

And steadfast as Keats' Eremit
Not even stooping from its sphere
It asks a little of us here
It asks of us a certain height
So when at times the mob is swayed
To carry praise or blame too far
We may choose something like a star
To stay our minds on and be staid

I Dream a World

Poem by Langston Hughes

I dream a world where man,
No other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn.
I dream a world where all will
Know sweet freedom's way.
Where greed no longer saps the soul,
Nor avarice blights our day.

Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the Earth,
And every man is free.
Where wretchedness will hang Its
Head, and joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind
Of such I dream, my world!

When You Wish Upon a Star

Text by Ned Washington

When you wish upon a star
Makes no difference who you are
Anything your heart desires
Will come to you
If your heart is in your dream
No request is too extreme
When you wish upon a star
As dreamers do

Fate is kind
She brings to those who love
The sweet fulfillment of
Their secret longing
Like a bolt out of the blue
Fate steps in and sees you through
When you wish upon a star
Your dreams come true

Meet the Directors



Jenny Clarke, Founder and Executive Director of Melodia, combined her lifelong love of choral music and her career as an arts administrator to form Melodia in 2003. She has a B.A. in music and English from Leeds University, England, and an M.A. in arts management from New York University. In addition to singing with Melodia – her true passion – Jenny has sung with the Royal Choral Society in England, and Riverside Choral Society in New York, performing at venues including Avery Fisher Hall (Mostly Mozart Festival), Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, Symphony Space, and Merkin Concert Hall. Jenny has worked extensively in arts administration in music, theater, and dance in London including at the South Bank Concert Halls, the Royal Court Theatre and London Sinfonietta, and – for the past 30 years – in New York, including at Symphony Space, the NYC Arts in Education Roundtable, and Chamber Music America. Jenny is the Executive Director of the National Flute Association.



Cynthia Powell, Conductor and Artistic Director, celebrates her 19th season with Melodia. A graduate of Westminster Choir College, she has worked with many musical groups in the NY metropolitan area and has conducted major works for chorus and orchestra. She has served on the guest faculty at Sarah Lawrence College, led the St. George's Choral Society in NYC, and was a guest conductor at the International Choral Festival in Havana, Cuba. She is also the Artistic Director of the Stonewall Chorale, and Organist/Choirmaster of Temple Sinai in Tenafly, NJ. Her passion for music and commitment to the choral art is coupled with a desire to generate awareness and funds for timely causes, and she has produced recitals, oratorios and concerts to benefit Bailey House, a homeless residence for people with AIDS, for Doctors Without Borders, the Pastors for Peace Cuba Caravan, and Water is Life, Kenya.

Meet the Chamber Ensemble



Described as “a graceful pianist”, with an “impeccable sense of timing”, **Taisiya Pushkar** is in demand as a dynamic performer and a sensitive collaborator. A long time musical partnership with the cellist Amber Docters van Leeuwen has led to the recording of their debut CD "Flavours", which has been released on the Brilliant Classics label. Together, the duo has made their debut at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York, and at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

Dr. Pushkar has been on the faculty of the Lucy Moses School at Kaufman Center, the Ethical Culture Fieldston School and the Horace Mann School, and is a teaching artist for the Manhattan School of Music Distance Learning Program. In 2019, Taisiya joined the Young People's Chorus of New York City as their first full time collaborative pianist. Dr. Taisiya Pushkar holds a Bachelor's Degree from Oberlin College, and a MM and DMA Degrees from the Manhattan School of Music. Taisiya has been the official pianist of the Melodia Women's Choir since 2009. www.taisiyapushkar.com.



Lauded by the New York Times as a “brilliant soloist” and by Strad Magazine for her “marvellous and lyrical playing,” violinist **Emilie-Anne Gendron** enjoys an active and versatile freelance career based in New York City. A deeply committed chamber musician, she is a member of the Momena Quartet (currently Artists-in-Residence at Binghamton University), whose eclectic vision encompasses contemporary music of all aesthetic backgrounds alongside great music from the recent and distant past. Ms. Gendron

has been on the roster of the Marlboro Music Festival and the touring Musicians from Marlboro since 2011, and also regularly appears with A Far Cry, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Talea Ensemble, Sejong Soloists, and conductor Michael Stern's IRIS Orchestra.

She is a founding member of Ensemble Échappé, a new-music sinfonietta, as well as the Gamut Bach Ensemble, in residence with the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society. Her extensively varied international appearances have included recitals in Sweden and at the Louvre in Paris; festivals in Russia, Finland, and Jordan; and recently, major venues in China, South Korea, Argentina, Chile, and Colombia, in collaboration with such artists as Bruno Canino, Leon Fleisher, Richard Goode, Edgar Meyer, Gil Shaham, and Jörg Widmann, among many others. A dual citizen of the U.S. and Canada, Ms. Gendron was trained at the Juilliard School where her teachers were Won Bin Yim, Dorothy DeLay, David Chan, and Hyo Kang. She holds a B.A. in Classics from Columbia University (magna cum laude and with Phi Beta Kappa honors), and a Master of Music degree and the coveted Artist Diploma from Juilliard. For more information, please visit www.emilieannegendron.com.



Adventure and collaboration are at the heart of violinist **Clara Kim**. By commissioning, premiering, and championing the works of living composers, she has quickly established herself at the forefront of her generation in the interpretation of contemporary music, collaborating with some of today's most celebrated and imaginative musical voices such as Christopher Cerrone, Stephen Hartke, Andrew Norman, Kaija Saariaho, Juri Seo, Chris Theofanidis, and Augusta Read Thomas. Clara continues to actively premiere works through her solo and chamber music projects, and has received commissioning support from organizations such as Chamber

Music America, The Koussevitzky Foundation, Concert Artists Guild, and Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts. Significant appearances include Carnegie Hall, Jordan Hall, Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Hall, and Amsterdam's Concertgebouw. Please visit www.clarakimviolin.com for more information.



Stephanie Griffin is an innovative violist and composer with a unique and eclectic musical vision. Born in Canada and based in New York City, her musical adventures have taken her to Indonesia, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, England, Ireland, Germany, Belgium, Mexico and Mongolia. From large concert halls to the sand dunes of the Gobi desert, she has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in classical, contemporary and improvisational contexts. As a soloist, she has worked closely with numerous composers, among them Salvatore Sciarrino; Tristan Murail; Tony Prabowo; Kee Yong Chong; Ursula Mamlok; Matthew Greenbaum; and Arthur Kampela.

A founding member of the Momena Quartet, she has given over 200 chamber concerts at such esteemed venues as the Library of Congress and the National Gallery in Washington, DC and led residencies at major American institutes of higher education, among them Cornell and New York Universities and the Eastman School of Music. Ms. Griffin performs regularly with the New York contemporary music institution, Continuum, now in its 50th year, and has given American premieres of major works by leading European composers, among them Georg Friedrich Haas and Michael Jarrell, as a member of the Argento Chamber Ensemble.

As a composer, Stephanie is the recipient of the prestigious 2017 Emerging Composer and Sound Artist Fellowship from the Jerome Foundation, and the 2016 composition fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts. Ms. Griffin is now in her twelfth year as principal violist of the Princeton Symphony, and teaches viola at Brooklyn and Hunter Colleges. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The Juilliard School where she studied with Juilliard Quartet violist Samuel Rhodes. Stephanie's varied viola sounds can be heard on a diverse array of classical, new music, jazz and world.

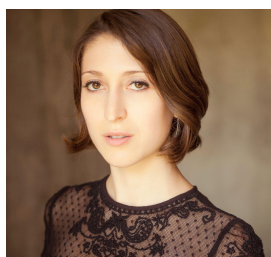


Texas native **Laura Andrade** is a Latina cellist who calls Austin home. She enjoys a diverse musical career as a solo, orchestra, and chamber musician. Laura is a prize-winning laureate of the 2019 Sphinx Competition and has been featured as a soloist with the Austin Civic Orchestra and San Antonio Symphony under the baton of maestro Ken-David Masur. Laura has a passionate love and curiosity for chamber music. As the current cellist of Carnegie Hall's Ensemble Connect, Laura curates and performs chamber music concerts in world-class venues, brings interactive performances to the community, holds a bi-annual teaching and performance residency at Skidmore College, and is a teaching artist at City College Academy of the Arts in Manhattan. In the past, she has collaborated with members of the Juilliard, Borromeo, and Miró string quartets. She has performed concerts in IMS Prussia Cove Open Chamber Music, Verbier Festival, and Accademia Isola Classica in Italy.

In 2019, Laura joined the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra as its inaugural Colton Fellow. She holds a bachelor's degree and performer's certificate from the Eastman School of Music, and a master's degree from The Juilliard School. Her core cello mentors include Amy Levine-Tsang, Steven Doane, Rosemary Elliott, and Natasha Brofsky.



New York-based Double Bassist **Ha Young Jung** captivates audiences and music critics alike with her dynamic and engaging performances. She is the current Fellow at Carnegie Hall's Ensemble Connect, guest Principal Double Bass for Riverside Symphony, New York, as well as being a doctoral candidate at Boston University. Jung plays actively with many ensembles and orchestras including A Far Cry Ensemble, Chineke! Orchestra, Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players and New York Philharmonic. Jung also performs in various notable venues as a soloist and a chamber musician including Cadogan Hall (London, UK), Carnegie Hall (New York, United States), David Geffen Hall (New York, United States), Opera House (Tel Aviv, Israel), and The Wigmore Hall (London, UK). Jung has been a featured soloist with prominent orchestras such as Royal Philharmonic, Moscow Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, Southbank Sinfonia, and Novosibirsk Symphony Orchestra.



Flutist **Francesca Ferrara** received a Master of Music degree in Contemporary Performance from Manhattan School of Music, and a Bachelor of Music degree from Boston Conservatory. She was a finalist for the 2021 New York Flute Club Competition, and has performed with a number of ensembles around NYC, including Cygnus Ensemble, Argento New Music Project, Sound Icon, Access Contemporary Music,

ShoutHouse, Dance Theatre of Harlem, and Camerata Washington Heights Orchestra. Francesca is currently a performer in residence for the Louis Moreau Institute in New Orleans, and in August of 2018 was a resident fellow in the Contemporary Performance Institute at Brandeis University. As a committed advocate for new music, she frequently collaborates with composers, and has premiered over 75 new works. With a passion for collaboration and sharing new music with a wider community, Francesca co-produces Blank Canvas at Future Space, a concert series dedicated to presenting diverse programs by up and coming composers and ensembles from around NYC. Along with performing, Francesca teaches private flute lessons and is on the faculty of Willan Academy of Music.

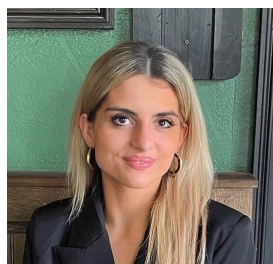
Meet the Melodia Singers



Caroline Bauman is thrilled to be singing with Melodia this season! She began singing in choirs from an early age in her community. She continued studying music as a student at Syracuse University's Setnor School of Music, where she graduated with a B.M. in Music Industry and participated in Crouse Chorale, Concert Choir, Hendrick's Chapel Choir, The Mandarins all female a cappella group, and University Singers. She currently works in music as a digital release planner at Sony Music Entertainment.



Cara Brownell joined Melodia in 2013. Choral singing and harmony have been her intercessors from an early age, in church & community choirs, high school (and a folk rock band, of course), SUNY Binghamton University Chorus and Women's Madrigal Ensemble. Cara's guitar-playing soprano sister nourished the pathway! Transplanted from Saratoga Springs in the 1970's, early years in NYC found her accompanying dance classes at NYU, Marymount Manhattan College, active in the downtown Soho/Lower East Side performance scene (Simone Forti, Douglas Dunn, Collaborative Projects, Inc.) and teaching vocal and movement improvisation in her loft. Cara is a founding member of the Lafayette Inspirational Ensemble (celebrating 27 years), a gospel choir based at historic Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, Ft. Greene, Brooklyn and also sings in the classical Lafayette Choir.



Faith Ciavarella (she/hers) is ecstatic to have found a special place in the Melodia Women's Choir. Faith graduated from Florida State University's College of Music with a Bachelor of Music Education and now works as a K-8 general music teacher at Marion P. Thomas Charter School in Newark, NJ. During her undergraduate experience, Faith sang with University Singers under the direction of Dr. Kevin Fenton and studied voice in the studio of Dr. Sahoko Sato Timpone. She sang with FSU's Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Women's Chorale, and served as the music director for the collegiate acapella group, the AcaPhiliacs. Faith lives in Jersey City and in her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, and cuddling her guinea pig, Cooper. Faith is currently studying at Johns Hopkins School of Education working towards a Master of Science in Education degree. Her long-term goals include continuing to spread the joy of music as a music teacher in the NY/NJ area.

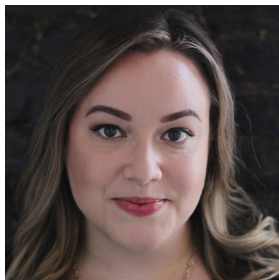


Lindsay Cornelio is brand new to Melodia and is so excited to be a part of the group! Lindsay comes from a very musical family and was part of choirs and musical groups all throughout her youth and through college, and after a long hiatus, she is eager to jump back into singing with a choir, which has been one of her greatest sources of happiness. Lindsay currently lives in Brooklyn and is the Operations & Human Resources Director at a non-profit law firm. Lindsay is passionate about social justice, and loves live music, going out to dance, meeting new people, traveling, culture, running, yoga, meditation, nature and being outside.



Deliana Daskalova has been singing in choruses since the age of eight, starting with the youth chorus “Danube Waves” in her hometown of Ruse, Bulgaria. After moving to the US she continued singing mainly in the Washington, DC area with The Washington International Chorus, Rockville Chorus, and Montgomery College Chorus. With a background in Theatre (BA/University of Maryland), Visual Anthropology (MA/Goldsmiths, London), and Film/TV in New York, she is a documentary filmmaker eager to get back on the road with her camera.

Deliana joined Melodia in January 2020 and is excited to take the audience to the Sun, Moon, and Stars in this year’s concert.



Caroline Fjeldheim is a soprano based in the New York City area. She is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi's graduate voice program where she received her Master of Music degree in Voice Performance in the studio of Dr. Maryann Kyle. During her time there she performed on stage in productions of Carmen (Micaela, Costume Designer), Trial by Jury (The Plaintiff), West Side Story (Rosalia), Mary Poppins (Mrs. Corry), and The Merry Widow (Sylviane). Her experience with the University led to the opportunity to work with Mississippi Opera

as the costume designer and the cover for Micaela in their production of Carmen. She spent two summers as a training artist at the International Performing Arts Institute in Kiefersfelden, Germany while in graduate studies. Before that she earned her Bachelor of Music degree in Voice Performance from the University of Florida where she performed in Die Fledermaus (ensemble), Dido and Aeneas (Spirit), Suor Angelica (Suor Osmina), and a world premiere of a new opera, The Red Silk Thread (Cocachin cover).



Larissa Flint has been singing in choirs since the age of eight. She moved from Wisconsin to New York in 2012 with her now-husband to pursue her Masters of Music from NYU Steinhardt in Voice Performance with a Music Theater Concentration. She graduated in 2014 and has continued to perform both on the stage and in choirs around NYC. She is a proud member of the Stonewall Chorale and a repeat performer in NYU's New Plays for Young Audiences series in June. For more information about her various performances, go to www.larissaflint.com.



Deb Howard retired from a career in affordable housing and community development and sought to join another choir, which would be both challenging and rewarding. She has been singing in choirs since she was five years old and has sung at Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church in both the Inspirational Ensemble and classic choirs for 40 years. After attending several concerts given by Melodia, she knew that this was the choir of which she wanted to be a part as the sound was so beautiful and the repertoire amazing! She is very glad to be in this wonderful choir!



Shivani Jacelon is very excited to be singing again with this wonderful choir and lovely group of talented women. She is a Housing Attorney at Bronx Legal Services and enjoys recreational reading and taking her dog for long walks during her downtime.



Colleen Maher is so thrilled to be singing again (in person!) with such an amazing and talented group of women in Melodia! She currently works in cancer research at one of NYC's hospitals. In her free time, Colleen enjoys gelato, biking, and taming all the feral cats in her backyard.



Peri Margolies is excited to be making her debut with Melodia! Currently, she serves as the Administrator for the choir. Peri graduated from Ithaca College in 2019, where she trained with John Holiday as a classical voice major combined with Communication, Management, and Design. She is also no stranger to the stage, as she has been involved in numerous theatrical productions, both onstage and off. At the start of 2020, she served as a Public Relations and Digital Media fellow at 21C Media Group. Peri enjoys teaching private voice lessons and volunteering at the local animal shelter.



Karen Meberg is delighted to be singing with the women of Melodia for another concert season. Karen is a graduate of American University and New York University, and spends her days as a part of the marketing team at Carnegie Hall. In her spare time she enjoys making yarn crafts, playing video games, and cheering on the Mets.



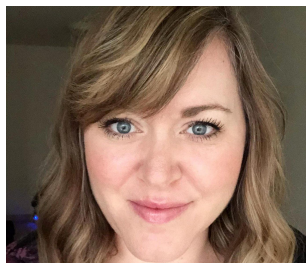
Kym Mendez is excited to be singing with Melodia again for her fourth season. Equally from Jamaica, the U.K. and the U.S, Kym holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations and a Master's degree in International Education. Kym has been an avid chorister for most of her life; most recently she enjoyed singing in her undergraduate women's choir for all four years, even returning to the choir for a 5th year after graduating. Kym loves to travel (especially traveling to Asia) and works as an elementary school teacher in the city.



Jordana Moldauer joined Melodia in 2014 and is thrilled to be singing with Melodia once again this season. She began singing at a very young age in her native Switzerland, where she was lucky enough to perform at the Geneva opera house as a member of the Geneva Conservatory children's choir. She has been singing ever since. A graduate of the University of Geneva and Fordham Law School, she currently works as an attorney in the advertising and entertainment fields.



Amy Morrisett is excited to be joining Melodia for the first time this season! She first sang with a treble choir in high school. Later, she found a home in Harvard University's Radcliffe Choral Society, where she also performed in and served as conductor of 'Cliffe Notes, RCS's student-led subset a cappella group. Amy currently works as an HR recruiter and loves to relax by playing classic Mario and Legend of Zelda games.



Nicole Owen is thrilled to be making music with Melodia! Nicole loves choir so much she made it the focus of her education, culminating in a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Florida. Now working in marketing, she enjoys baking and decorating cakes, playing board games, visiting Disney parks, and spending quality time with friends. Nicole's favorite duet partner is her husband, Brian.



Maggie Parker is a trained actress and singer who attended Marymount Manhattan College for theatre and NYC's esteemed LaGuardia High School for classical voice. She is also a journalist specializing in entertainment and travel. She has worked with People Magazine, The New York Times, The Washington Post and others.



Theresa Pascoe was overjoyed to become a Melodian in 2011 after sitting entranced in the audience of two Melodia performances. She has felt at home in treble choruses since the age of eleven, when she was an inaugural alto in the Battle Creek (Michigan) Girls' Chorus. She sang with the Wellesley College Choir and Tupelos a cappella group and had a brief post-college stint as a folk singer/songwriter. From 2009-2017 Theresa was a proud soprano and board member of The Stonewall Chorale, and on Sunday mornings she sings and plays flute at Metropolitan Community Church of New York. When she isn't making music, Theresa is the AVP for Financial Planning, Budgeting, and Analysis at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken.



Ashley Paskalis had been singing with Melodia since fall 2010. Singing since grade school, Ashley studied vocal performance and sang in the Treble Choir at Wagner College, where she graduated in 2006 with a degree in Arts Administration. Currently working in healthcare media relations, she spends her free time playing softball and of course, singing with Melodia. She'd like to thank her NYC family for continuing to support our concerts.



Chiara Pierangelo is thrilled to be joining Melodia for the first time. She started singing at a very young age in various vocal groups in her hometown of Padova, Italy: Baroque Ensemble "La Fonte d'Elicon"; "J.S. Bach" Choir; Concentus Musicus Patavinus (Choir of the University of Padova); Caterina Ensemble, Chroma Ensemble. Since 2009 she has been singing with "Cantus Anthimi", conducted by Livio Picotti, with which she made three recordings of Medieval music and Josquin Desprez's works. She is a founding member of "SolEnsemble", a female vocal group performing mostly a cappella medieval and contemporary music. Chiara earned a Master's in Ancient Greek Literature at the University of Padova and has been studying classical voice with Elisabetta Tiso, Francesco Signor, Rosetta Pizzo and Sandro Naglia.



Jeanne Ruskin has appeared on Broadway, and in many roles for the Roundabout Theatre, regional theaters, summer stock, and television. She has taught acting, voice and speech in colleges and universities and as a private coach. She is founder/artistic director of RFTC, Inc/Red Flute Theatre, and has presented four productions to date, including "Awakenings", her dramatization of Kate Chopin's 1899 novel *The Awakening*. www.awakeningsproduction.com As a teenager she toured South America with the Michigan Youth Chorale. She toured with the USO during the Vietnam years. She performed as Ma Joad in "The Grapes of Wrath" in Moscow. Her travels changed her life. She is very happy to be able to resume singing again in person with Melodia (of which she has been a member since 2010) after this challenging time. Music is truly the international language and we need the arts now more than ever.



Peggy Samuels feels privileged to sing with such a talented group of women and is excited to be part of bringing new compositions to life. She spent several decades teaching literature at Drew University, where she sang in the Drew University Choral Union. She and her husband, Lester, enjoy exploring the back roads of Vermont on their e-bikes. So grateful to be hearing these beautiful voices in person. Let music weave us together!



Emily Segal returns to choral singing after an extended hiatus of many years. When not rehearsing, she pursues her long-standing interests in the arts and in live theatre. Spending time with her family is also something she loves to do. She is particularly thrilled to be continuing her vocal work with so many talented and supportive performers in Melodia.



Sarah Woodruff is happy to be back with Melodia! She sang in multiple choirs during her time at Penn State University, and has been singing most of her life. After ten years in book publishing, she recently joined a Brooklyn-based environmental nonprofit to work on outreach around NYC's Curbside Composting program. She can frequently be found writing, hiking, and playing guitar.

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Institutional Supporters:

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council - thanks to NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson - and with public funds from *Restart NY* supported by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by LMCC.



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the Arts**

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PLEASE HELP keep women's choral music alive and well in New York City! Your fully tax-deductible donation helps us to perform gorgeous, rarely-heard music for women's voices and commission composers to write new works. Please help by mailing a check to the address below. Make checks payable to Melodia Women's Choir. You can also donate with a credit card at our website: www.melodiawomenschoirnyc.org or via Venmo: Melodia Women's Choir NYC @MelodiaWomensChoir. Your support truly makes a difference!

Special Thanks

Special thanks to all those who have helped make this concert possible, including Cindy Cooper; Allison Sniffin; the staff at Holy Apostles Church and St. Luke in the Fields Church; and the Melodia Board of Directors for their endless help navigating the challenges of COVID19.

Postcard design: Jill Falcone Vedric

Thanks to Melodia singers for all the extras, including:

Section leaders: Ashley Paskalis, Colleen Maher, Jeanne Ruskin, Jenny Clarke; program notes, Cynthia Powell, Peri Margolies and Peggy Samuels; social media, Melodia singers.

Audition for Melodia

Do you love to sing? We are a women-powered organization exclusively dedicated to exploring, creating, and performing exemplary music for women's voices. Come and explore this wonderful repertoire with us! We're auditioning experienced choral singers in December/January. Contact Jenny Clarke: womenschoir@mindspring.com to schedule an audition.

Melodia Women's Choir of NYC

446 West 47th Street, 1B

New York, NY 10036

212-252-4134

www.melodiawomenschoirnyc.org

womenschoir@mindspring.com

Restaurants Recommendations

Melodia Women's Choir at Holy Apostles, 296 Ninth Ave. at 28th St, NYC

Immediate Vicinity

Chelsea Square

Ninth Ave and W. 23 St., corner

368 W 23rd St

<https://menupages.com/chelsea-square-restaurant/368-w-23rd-st-new-york>

(212) 691-5400

Open 24 hours

One hundred percent everything diner

Grand Sichuan

229 Ninth Ave

Btw W. 24th St. and W. 25th St

(212) 620-5200

<http://www.grand-sichuan.com/>

11 am to 11 pm

Delicious Sichuan dishes without a big bill; popular

Jun-Men Ramen Bar

249 Ninth Avenue, New York, NY 10001

Btw W 25th and W 26th

<http://www.junmenramen.com/#home>

646-852-6787

Sun lunch 11:30AM-3PM; Sun dinner, Sun 5-9PM

Traditional ramen menu as well as unique flavors completed through high quality ingredients and attention.

Tequila Chitos Mexican Bar and Grill

358 W 23rd St

Btw Ninth Ave and Eighth Ave.

<https://www.tequilachitos.com/>

212-463-0535

Sun 2 pm to 8 pm

Wide ranging Mexican fare

aRoqa

206 Ninth Ave.

Btw W. 22 and W. 23

<https://aroqanyc.com/>

646-678-5471

Sunday brunch: 11 am – 3 pm

Sunday dinner: 5 pm – 9:30 PM

High-end Indian cuisine and fusion dishes

Outdoor seating

Harbs Chelsea

198 Ninth Ave

Ninth Ave and W. 22, corner

646-336-6888

<https://www.harbsnyc.com/>

Sun: 11 am–6 pm (lunch service ends, 3 pm)

Cakes, sandwiches, teas

Before the concert ...

Citizens of Chelsea

401 W 25th St, New York 10001

W. 25th and 9th Ave

<https://citizens.coffee/theog>

(347)-554-7496

Sunday, 8:00am - 6:00pm

Brunch, bowls, burgers, all day brekkies

Outdoor seating

Before the concert

Sullivan Street Bakery

236 Ninth Ave

Btw W. 24 and W. 25 St.

<https://www.sullivanstreetbakery.com/location/chelsea-sullivan-street-bakery/>

212-929-5900

Sunday 8:00 am – 4 pm

Fresh bread, rolls, Roman-style pizzas, and other treats

Before the concert ...

Tia Pol

205 Tenth Ave.

Betw W. 22 and W.23

<https://www.tiapol.com/>

212-675-8805

Sun- 12pm - 4 pm

Tapas from the richly varied regional cuisines of Spain

A walk further**Cookshop**

156 Tenth Ave

at W. 20th Street

<https://www.cookshopny.com/>

212.924.4440

Brunch Sunday 10:00am-4pm

Dinner Sunday 5pm-10pm

American fare, popular brunch, “energetic, greenmarket-driven hot spot” Reservations recommended

Lasagna Chelsea Restaurant

196 Eighth Ave

Near W. 20th St

<https://lasagnarestaurantchelsea.com/>

212-242-4551

Sun Brunch: 12 pm to 4 pm

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17 different types of baked-to-order lasagnas, including vegan and gluten-free options, plus other Italian specialties

Motel Morris

132 Seventh Avenue

Near W. 18th Street

<https://www.motelmorris.com/>

646-880-4810

Brunch and Lunch Sunday: 11 am - 3:30 pm

Dinner Sunday: 4 pm - 9 pm

Updated American classics in a retro motel setting; popular

Elmo

156 Seventh Ave, NYC

W. 20 St and Seventh Ave

<http://elmorerestaurant.com/>

212-337-8000

Sunday 10 am - 11 pm

Popular, high-end comfort food

Reservations recommended

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Staying Put in New York Facebook Group

