



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

Instrumentalists:
Allison Sniffin, piano
Emilie-Anne Gendron, violin; Francesca Ferrara, flute

Actors:
Christianne Greiert, Delphi Harrington, Abigail Ramsay

No flash photography. Cell phones should be set to silent. This performance is being video recorded.

Instrumental Prelude

I. Sérénade - Suite en Trio, Op. 59

Mélanie Bonis

To Autumn

John Keats

Reader: Abigail Ramsay

Autumn

Gordon Jacob

November

Maggie Dietz

Reader: Delphi Harrington

Autumn Night

Ron Nelson

Autumn Sonnet

May Sarton

Reader: Christianne Greiert

When October Goes (with Autumn Leaves)

Joseph Kosma and Barry Manilow
arr. Paul Langford

Double, Double Toil and Trouble

William Shakespeare

Readers: Christianne Greiert, Delphi Harrington, Abigail Ramsay

Fire

Katerina Gimon

Instrumental Interlude:

II. Pastorale - Suite en Trio, Op. 59

Mélanie Bonis

Lullaby

Luke Hathaway

Reader: Delphi Harrington

Lullaby

Daniel Elder

From Three Nocturnes

Spellbound

Emily Brontë

Reader: Christianne Greiert

Silent, O Moyle

Traditional arr. Michael McGlynn

Soloist: Hilary Baboukis

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Robert Frost

Reader: Abigail Ramsay

Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening

Elliot Z. Levine

The Wind

Sara Teasdale

Reader: Delphi Harrington

Blow, blow, Thou Winter Wind

Sarah Quartel

Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind

John Rutter, arr. Allison Sniffin

Instrumental Interlude:

III. Scherzo - Suite en Trio, op. 59

Mélanie Bonis

Icicles

Janet Frame

Reader: Christianne Greiert

When Icicles Hang by the Wall

E. J. Moeran

White Eyes

Mary Oliver

Reader: Abigail Ramsay

Water Under Snow is Weary

Harri Wessman

Ring Out, Wild Bells

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Reader: Christianne Greiert, Delphi Harrington, Abigail Ramsay

Vuelie (from Frozen)

Frode Fjellheim and Christophe Beck

Instrumental arrangements by Allison Sniffin

Melodia Singers**Soprano**

Ginny Bartolone

Rosie Black

Lindsay Cornelio

Kyra DeTone

Kate Fiala

Caroline Fjeldheim

Kate Fuglei

Sonali Gattani

Deb Howard

Larissa Flint McDowell

Nicole Owen

Ashley Paskalis

Chiara Pierangelo

Tanya Sharma

Erin Siu

Sydney Weaver

Sarah Woodruff

Alto

Michelle Ammirati

Hilary Baboukis

Cara Brownell

Jenny Clarke

Christine Fiala

Roxanne Joseph

Stephanie Larriere

Karen Meberg

Kym Mendez

Anna Newton

Ruston Ropac

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

The transition from autumn to winter is a gorgeous one. The gentle change from September to December seems to reveal a kind of benevolence in nature, especially this year: the turning leaves have stunned us with their color, the air is cooler and fresher, and the whole process is so sweet - even a little melancholic - “mellow and acute” is how May Sarton put it.

For the first time we are incorporating spoken poetry, short poems by some of the most beloved poets of all time: Mary Oliver, May Sarton, Robert Frost, Tennyson and Shakespeare. Poetry can enable us to have a more expansive outlook, a more spiritual view of everything, where we’re jolted out of our everyday “to do list” mindset and are able to see things in a new light; something that Spinoza called *sub specie aeternitatis*, literally “under the aspect of eternity.”

This concert features three very gifted actors reading the poems, followed by music for treble voices that reflects the words. Some of the composers are quite famous, like John Rutter, probably the best known composer of choral music of our time, but includes others you may have not heard of - Gordon Jacob was a contemporary of Ralph Vaughan Williams; Ron Nelson’s “Autumn Night” is atmospheric and haunting; we’re doing Elliot Levine’s setting of Robert Frost’s poem “Stopping by Woods,” (Levine is a singer as well and is one of the founders of the Western Wind vocal ensemble), then a work by Katerina Gimon, a Canadian composer who wrote a suite of pieces on the four elements: earth, air, fire, and water. We’re performing only “Fire” and it’s very exciting! The syllables don’t *mean* anything, but give the singers a chance to get things off their chest after all the turmoil of the past 6 years. It’s preceded by the witches’ chant from Shakespeare’s “Macbeth,” fiendishly delicious!

The suite for flute, violin and piano is a gem by the little-known Mélanie Bonis, a contemporary of Debussy, who was forced to use the pseudonym “Mel” to avoid any connotation of femininity in her name (the late 19th century did not look favorably on women composers). Other composers include Michael McGlynn, the founder of the Irish choral ensemble, “Anúna,” Sarah Quartel, a rising star of British choral music, E.J. Moeran, a superb composer and contemporary of Gordon Jacob, and Frode Fjellhem’s Sami yoik-style “Vuelie” from the Disney hit “Frozen.”

Special thanks to our readers, instrumentalists and singers, and especially to Allison Sniffin, whose arrangements added such rich sonorities.

We hope there’s something for everyone in this concert, and that it allows you to welcome winter in a new way.

Notes by Cynthia Powell

Texts

To Autumn

John Keats

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the
thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd
cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel
shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy
cells...

Autumn

Richard Watson Dixon

The feathers of the willow
Are half of them grown yellow
Above the swelling stream;
And ragged are the bushes,
And rusty are the rushes
And wild the clouded gleam.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are
they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river salallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

The thistle now is older,
His stalk begins to moulder,
His head is white as snow.
The branches are all barer,
The linnets song is rarer,
The robin pipeth now.

November

Maggie Dietz

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Show's over, folks. And didn't October do
A bang-up job? Crisp breezes, full-throated
cries
Of migrating geese, low-floating coral
moon.

Nothing left but fool's gold in the trees.
Did I love it enough, the full-throttle foliage,
While it lasted? Was I dazzled? The bees

On busted chestnuts. A sky like hardened
plaster
Hovers. The pasty river, its next of kin,
Coughs up reed grass fat as feather dusters.

Even the swarms of kids have given in
To winter's big excuse, boxed-in allure:
TVs ricochet light behind pulled curtains.

The days throw up a closed sign around
four.

**Have up and quit their last-ditch flights of
forage
And gone to shiver in their winter clusters.
Field mice hit the barns, big squirrels gorge**

**The hapless customer who'd wanted
something
Arrives to find lights out, a bolted door.**

Autumn Night
Alice Stretch

Silence deep
Clear, crisp, profound.
As far as the ear's atune,
Broken now
by a sad and lonely loon

Red-gold leaves whisp'ring, soft
as they're stirred by a gentle breeze
Harvest moon full, round, aloft
Shining high above the trees

Autumn night, stars so bright
Autumn moon, softly wink
Of secrets we cannot know

And the autumn night
too soon will sink
into the morning's
brilliant glow.

Autumn Sonnet
May Sarton

**If I can let you go as trees let go
Their leaves, so casually, one by one;
If I can come to know what they do know,
That fall is the release, the consummation,
Then fear of time and the uncertain fruit
Would not distemper the great lucid skies
This strangest autumn, mellow and acute.**

**If I can take the dark with open eyes
And call it seasonal, not harsh or strange
(For love itself may need a time of sleep),
And, treelike, stand unmoved before the
change,
Lose what I lose to keep what I can keep,
The strong root still alive under the snow,
Love will endure - if I can let you go.**

When October Goes (With Autumn Leaves)
Johnny Mercer

The falling leaves drift by my window
The autumn leaves of red and gold

I see your lips, the summer kisses
The sunburned hands I used to hold

Since you went away, the days grow long
And soon I'll hear old winter's song

And when October goes
The same old dream appears
And you are in my arms
To share the happy years
I turn my head away
To hide the helpless tears
Oh how I hate to see October go

And when October goes

But I miss you most of all my darling
When autumn leaves start to fall.

And when October goes
The snow begins to fly
Above the smokey roofs
I watch the planes go by
The children running home
Beneath a twilight sky
Oh, for the fun of them
When I was one of them

The same old dream appears
And you are in my arms
To share the happy years
I turn my head away
To hide the helpless tears
Oh how I hate to see October go
I should be over it now I know
It doesn't matter much
How old I grow
I hate to see October go.

Double, Double Toil and Trouble
William Shakespeare

**Thrice the brinded cat hath mew'd.
Thrice and once the hedge-pig whined.
Harpier cries 'Tis time, 'tis time.
Round about the cauldron go;
In the poison'd entrails throw.
Toad, that under cold stone
Days and nights has thirty-one
Swelter'd venom sleeping got,
Boil thou first i' the charmed pot.**

**Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.**

**Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the cauldron boil and bake;
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting,
Lizard's leg and owlet's wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.**

**Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.**

**Scale of dragon, tooth of wolf,
Witches' mummy, maw and gulf
Of the ravin'd salt-sea shark,
Root of hemlock digg'd i' the dark,
Liver of blaspheming Jew,
Gall of goat, and slips of yew
Sliver'd in the moon's eclipse,
Nose of Turk and Tartar's lips,
Finger of birth-strangled babe
Ditch-deliver'd by a drab,
Make the gruel thick and slab:
Add thereto a tiger's chaudron,
For the ingredients of our cauldron.**

**Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.**

**Cool it with a baboon's blood,
Then the charm is firm and good.**

Lullaby

Luke Hathaway

The poem "Lullaby" is taken from the collection All the Daylight Hours, by Luke Hathaway, published by Cormorant Books Inc., Toronto. Copyright 2013 © Luke Hathaway. Used with the permission of the publisher.

**My little lack-of-light, my swaddled soul,
December baby. Hush, for it is dark,
and will grow darker still. We must embark
directly. Bring an orange as the toll
for Charon: he will be our gondolier.
Upon the shore, the season pans for light,
and solstice fish, their eyes gone milky white,
come bearing riches for the dying year:
solstitial kingdom. It is yours, the mime
of branches and the drift of snow. With shaking
hands, Persephone, the winter's wife,
will tender you a gift. Born in a time
of darkness, you will learn the trick of making.
You shall make your consolation all your life.**

Lullaby

Lullaby, sing lullaby,
the day is far behind you.
The moon sits high atop the sky,
now let sweet slumber find you.
Away,

The day is done, and gone the sun
that lit the world so brightly.
The earth's aglow with speckled show
of twinkling stars so sprightly.
Away,

Where the sunlight is beaming
through a deep, cloudless blue,
and the treetops are gleaming
with a fresh morning dew.
Where the mountains are shining
at the meadows below,
in a brilliant white lining
of a new-fallen snow.

Close your eyes, breathe in the night;
a softer bed I'll make you.
The trial is done, all danger gone;
now let far dreaming take you.
Away,

Where the ocean is lapping
at a soft, pearly shore,
and the swaying palms napping
as their swinging fronds soar.
Now the dark night approaches,
yet so soft and so mild.
Lullaby, sing lullaby;
Sleep now, my child.

Spellbound

Emily Brontë

**The night is darkening round me,
The wild winds coldly blow;
But a tyrant spell has bound me
And I cannot, cannot go.**

**The giant trees are bending
Their bare boughs weighed with snow.
And the storm is fast descending,
And yet I cannot go.**

**Clouds beyond clouds above me,
Wastes beyond wastes below;
But nothing drear can move me;
I will not, cannot go.**

Silent, O Moyle

Thomas Moore

"Moyle" is a former district in Northern Ireland.

Silent, O Moyle, be the roar of thy water
Break not, ye breezes, your chain of repose
While, murmuring mournfully, Lir's lonely
daughter
Tells to the night-star her tale of woes
When shall the swan, her death-note singing
Sleep, with wings in darkness furl'd?
When will heav'n, its sweet bell ringing
Call my spirit from this stormy world?

Sadly, O Moyle, to thy winter-wave weeping
Fate bids me languish long ages away;
Yet still in her darkness doth Erin lie sleeping
Still doth the pure light its dawning delay
When will that day-star, mildly springing
Warm our isle with peace and love?
When will heav'n, its sweet bell ringing
Call my spirit to the fields above?
ADD: A definition of "Moyle"

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Robert Frost

**Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.**

**My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.**

**He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.**

**The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.**

The Wind

Sara Teasdale

A wind is blowing over my soul,
I hear it cry the whole night through,
Is there no peace for me on earth
Except with you?

Alas, the wind has made me wise,
Over my naked soul it blew,
There is no peace for me on earth
Even with you.

Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind

William Shakespeare

Blow, blow, thou winter wind,
Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude;
Thy tooth is not so keen,
Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.
Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly:
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:
Then, heigh-ho, the holly!
This life is most jolly.

Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky,
That dost not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot:
Though thou the waters warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp
As friend remembered not.
Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly:
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:
Then, heigh-ho, the holly!
This life is most jolly.

Icicles

Janet Frame

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**Every morning I congratulate
the icicles on their severity
I think they have courage, backbone,
their hard hearts will never give away.**

**Then around ten or half past,
hearing the steady falling of drops of water**

**I look up at the eaves. I see
the enactment of the same old winter story
- the icicles weeping away their inborn
tears,
and if they only knew it, their identity.**

When Icicles Hang by the Wall

William Shakespeare

When icicles hang by the wall
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail,
And Tom bears logs into the hall,
And milk comes frozen home in pail;

When all around the wind doth blow,
And coughing drowns the parson's saw,
And birds sit brooding in the snow,
And Marian's nose looks red and raw;

When blood is nipt and ways be foul,
Then nightly sings the staring owl:
Tu-whoo!
Tu-whit! Tu-whoo! -- A merry note!
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

When roasted crabs hiss in the bowl
Then nightly sings the staring owl:
Tu-whoo!
Tu-whit! Tu-whoo! -- A merry note!
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

White Eyes

Mary Oliver

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In winter

**All the singing is in
The tops of the trees
Where the wind-bird**

with its white eyes

**shoves and pushes
among the branches.
Like any of us**

he wants to go to sleep,

**but he's restless--
he has an idea,
and slowly it unfolds**

from under his beating wings

**as long as he stays awake.
But his big, round music, after**

all,

is too breathy to last.

So, it's over.

**In the pine-crown
he makes his nest,
he's done all he can.**

I don't know the name of this bird,

**I only imagine his glittering beak
tucked in a white wing
while the clouds--**

which he has summoned

**from the north--
which he has taught
to be mild, and silent--**

thicken, and begin to fall

**into the world below
like stars, or the feathers
of some unimaginable bird**

that loves us,

**that is asleep now, and silent--
that has turned itself
into snow.**

Water Under Snow is Weary

Eha Lättemäe

Water under snow is weary,
Under ice it stretches sleeping
Winds are blowing, no rest for them,

Vesi väsy lumen alle,
jäiden alle jää lepoon.
Tuulee tuuli, ei torkahda.

Thousand footed flakes are dancing,
And the blizzard boy is whirling.
Winds are blowing, no rest for them,

But it is silent where the grass lies,
Withered grass whose stalks are dying,
Under snowdrifts oblivious.

There is time now for slumbering,
There is time for snowing as well.

Tanssii tuisku tuhatjalka,
pyryn poika pyörähtelee.
Tuulee tuuli, ei torkahda.

Sitä ei kuule kuloruoho,
kuloruoho, kuolonkorsi,
hangen alla ei aavista.

Aikaa on olla uninen,
Aikaa olla luminenkin.

Ring Out, Wild Bells

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

**Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.**

**Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.**

**Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more,
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.**

**Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws**

**Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.**

**Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.**

**Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.**

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 32 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 20th 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

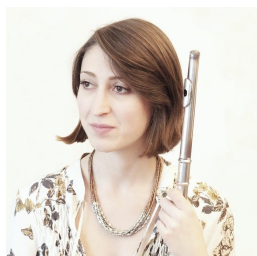
and commitment to the choral art is coupled with a desire to generate awareness and funds for timely causes, and she has produced recitals, oratorios and concerts to benefit Bailey House, a homeless residence for people with AIDS, for Doctors Without Borders, the Pastors for Peace Cuba Caravan, and Water is Life, Kenya.

Meet the Ensemble

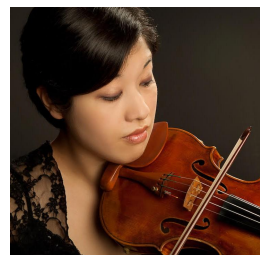


Allison Sniffin is a frequent arranger for Melodia Women's Choir and was the inaugural composer for Melodia's Women's Composer Commission Series (*Oyeme con los ojos: Sor Juana*, 2006). In 2019 Melodia commissioned *Eko*, an atmospheric piece choreographed and danced by Stephanie Larriere. Allison tours and performs with Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble. She is the principal transcriber of Meredith Monk's music, preparing and arranging her scores for ensembles such as the St. Louis

Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Kronos Quartet, Western Wind Ensemble, Bang on a Can and Alarm Will Sound.



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. From 2020 to 2022, Francesca was a performer in residence for the Louis Moreau Institute in New Orleans, and in August of 2018, she 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-produced 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.



Lauded by the *New York Times* as a “brilliant soloist” and by *Strad Magazine* for her “marvelous and lyrical playing,” violinist **Emilie-Anne Gendron** enjoys an active and versatile career based in New York City. She is a committed chamber musician and member of the Momenta Quartet, whose eclectic vision encompasses contemporary music of all backgrounds alongside great music from the recent and 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, and Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. She is a founding member of Ensemble Échappé, a new-music sinfonietta, as well as the Gamut Bach Ensemble. Her international appearances have included recitals in Sweden and at the Louvre in Paris; festivals in Russia, Finland, and Jordan; and major venues in China, South Korea, Argentina, Chile, and Colombia.

A dual citizen of the U.S. and Canada, Ms. Gendron was trained at the Juilliard School. She holds the distinction of being the first person in Juilliard’s history to be accepted simultaneously to its two most selective courses of study, the Doctor of Musical Arts and the Artist Diploma. 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 from Juilliard. For more information, please visit www.emilieannegendron.com.

Meet the Cast



Christianne Greiert is an actress, producer, and teaching artist. Select credits: NYTW, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Primary Stages, Chautauqua Institution, Florida Studio Theatre, and other Off-Broadway and emerging companies. She is a proud member of Actors' Equity and serves as the Producing Artistic Director of Clutch Productions, a nonprofit dedicated to creating opportunities for women artists in theatre and film. www.christiannegreiert.com



Delphi Harrington is an esteemed actress, regularly performing in Broadway and Off-Broadway productions, films and TV shows, and Cabaret performances. Most notably, she starred in Neil Simon's "Chapter Two" on Broadway and was nominated for Drama League Award for her "Madame Arcati" in "Blythe Spirit" at the Pearl Theater. Delphi is also an accomplished Shakespearean, a practiced Shavian, and has worked with Mary Morris, Edith Skinner, Uta Hagen, Julius Monk, and Arthur Miller.

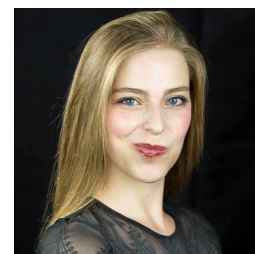


Abigail Ramsay is a classically-trained actress, Theatre for Social Change facilitator, co-caretaker to elderly parents, and nascent writer and project manager for arts projects. Most recently, she had the honor to visit her ancestral land, Jamaica, first as a Fulbright Fellow and then to spend an additional year working. During COVID, she took up a long wished for opportunity and left Jamaica to spend time communing with her parents outside of Atlanta. After being a fan of Melodia Women's Choir for years, she is humbled to be part of this year's fall concert.

Meet the Melodia Singers



Michelle Ammirati is excited to be back singing with these talented vocalists for her seventh year. Originally from Stonington, Connecticut, Michelle pursued her love for singing at Ithaca College, where she graduated with a minor in music in 2014. While at Ithaca, she performed with Janet Galván's Women's Chorale for four years. Continuing her dedication to promote, support and encourage women musicians, Michelle has been an active member of Sigma Alpha Iota, the international music fraternity, for ten years. In addition to Melodia, Michelle proudly sings with the Stonewall Chorale and has performed with the NY Pops at Carnegie Hall as part of Essential Voices USA. When she is not singing, Michelle is working as a VP, Innovation Lead at PNC Bank.



Hilary Baboukis is thrilled to join Melodia for the first time this fall! Ms. Baboukis is the Associate Conductor at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in NYC, the Administrator of Great Music under a Byzantine Dome, and an Adjunct Professor of Voice at Wagner College, Staten Island. As a professional mezzo-soprano, she performs

frequently with ensembles and organizations across New York and New Jersey. Ms. Baboukis studied at Columbia (NYC), the American University in Cairo, and Oklahoma State University (Stillwater). She lives in Jersey City, where she also teaches voice and piano privately.



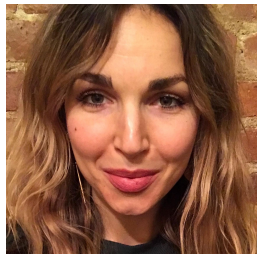
Ginny Bartolone has been a member of Melodia since 2020 and is delighted to be performing with the group in person for the first time. She currently works full time as a writer and an actor and has been singing with choirs across New York and New Jersey since childhood. She studied theatre at Drew University where she performed with a variety of choral and a cappella groups. She is also currently completing a book about her four long-distance hikes across Northern Spain.



Rosie Black has been a part of Melodia since 2017, and is thrilled to rejoin the choir this year to perform this concert. She currently studies social work at Smith College and interns at The Bridge, a nonprofit. She has sung in choirs since she was a child. She adores the changing of the seasons and stepping on crunchy leaves.



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, a gospel choir based at historic Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, Ft. Greene, Brooklyn and also sings in the classical Lafayette Choir.



Lindsay Cornelio just recently joined Melodia in the fall of 2021 and is so happy to be singing again. Lindsay comes from a very musical family and was part of choirs and musical groups her whole life. 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.

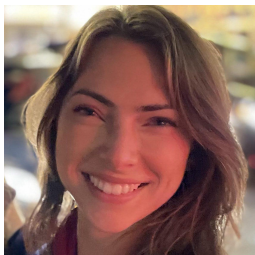


Kyra M. DeTone has been a member of Melodia since 2021, though this is her first in-person season with the group. Currently, she is attending law school where she attempts to bring joy to her studies by participating in the legal parody musical group. Before law school, Kyra spent five years developing and executing grant-seeking strategies for an education justice

non-profit. She double majored in Art History and Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies at Union College and has been singing in musical groups since age seven. When she's not working on her amateur singing career or crying into a legal treatise, you can find Kyra obsessively photographing her dog, Harley, cooking (and eating), and drinking way too much coffee.



Christine Fiala is excited to be performing with Melodia for the first time! She's an actor and writer living in Brooklyn. When not auditioning and performing, she's showing tourists around NYC as a tour guide for TopDog Tours, and making fun TikTok videos and posts for the company's social media. It's been so fun getting back to her choral roots while singing with Melodia, especially since she gets to do it with her sister Kate. Enjoy the show!



Kate Fiala is thrilled to be singing with the Melodia Women's Choir in her second season. A Midwest native, Kate moved from Chicago to New York in August 2021 prompted by a new job, a nudge from her Brooklyn-based sister, and a sense of overdue adventure. Kate has been singing since she can remember and happily shares the stage today with her sister Christine! The opportunity to join together in song with a group of inspiring women is among precisely the reasons Kate now calls New York home. Huge thank you to Jenny, Cynthia, and the Melodia family for creating a wonderful community of singing ladies!



Caroline Fjeldheim is a Manhattan-based soprano, after recently serving as an elementary music teacher at a Title I school. In summer 2022 she performed in Varna International's production of *Suor Angelica* (Suor Angelica) and Vienna Summer Music Festival's *Don Giovanni* (Donna Anna). Other recent performances include: New York Opera Forum: *Ariodante* (Ariodante), *L'elisir D'amore* (Adina); Opera Mississippi: *Carmen* (Micaela cover, head costumer); USM: *Carmen* (Micaela). Caroline holds a M.M. in Voice Performance from the University of Southern Mississippi and a B.M. in Voice Performance from the University of Florida. She currently studies with Amy Shoremount-Obra and Rachelle Jonck.



Kate Fuglei is an actress and singer whose most recent leading man was 'Virgil the Gorilla' in the site-specific production of Mixed Blood Theatre's *Animate*. She was in the First National Broadway tour of *Spring Awakening*. Regional theater includes Arena Stage, Guthrie Theater, La Jolla Playhouse, the McCarter Theater, and the Utah Shakespeare Festival. Her one-woman show *Rachel Calof* toured the country and won best musical at the United Solo Festival. She has appeared in over forty television roles, most recently in *Star Trek: Picard*. Her current project, *In The Blink of An Eye* (intheblink.net) is a one person chamber musical based on her personal experience with gun violence. www.katefuglei.com



Sonali Gattani joined Melodia in fall 2022, making this her first season with the group. She has harbored a love for music and choral singing since grade school and has sung with a number of chamber and a cappella groups from childhood through college. By day, Sonali works as a medical writer and endeavors to try every coffee shop in Manhattan; by night, she enjoys reading urban fantasy novels, cross-stitching, and dabbling in graphic design.



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!



Roxanne Joseph joined Melodia this autumn and is excited to be singing in her first concert with them! She is from Massachusetts where she sang in her high school's honors choirs, central districts choir, and a women's barbershop choir that she helped keep running in her free time. She graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts with a degree in film and television, and she currently works as a broadcast engineer for Yahoo Finance.



Stephanie Larriere is grateful to have been part of this talented and powerful women ensemble since 2018 and to learn and reach new harmonies under the guidance of their company. Aside from singing, she is the director of a children language and Art program based in Brooklyn and a multi-disciplinary teaching artist.



Larissa Flint McDowell has been singing in choirs since the age of eight. She moved to New York from Wisconsin 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. For more information about her various performances, go to www.larissaflint.com.



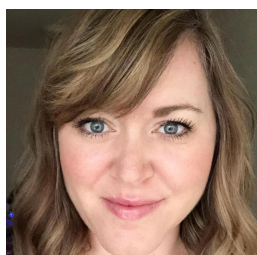
Karen Meberg is delighted to be singing with Melodia for another concert season. Karen is a graduate of American University and New York University, and spends her days as a part of the marketing team at Carnegie Hall. In her spare time she enjoys making yarn crafts, playing video games, and cheering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



Kym Mendez is excited to be singing with Melodia again for her fifth 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.



Anna Newton is originally from Atlanta, GA, and currently lives in Queens. In her free time, she enjoys going to dance class and spending time outdoors.



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.



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 Dave and her NYC family for continuing to support our concerts.



Chiara Pierangelo started singing at a very young age in various vocal groups in her hometown of Padova, Italy: Baroque Ensemble "La Fonte d'Elicona"; "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.



Ruston Ropac is a dynamic explorer of eclectic vocal soundscapes. She is the vocalist for the BlackBox Ensemble, an NYC-based chamber music collective, and Four and Twenty Strings, Long Island’s premier early music ensemble. She holds a Master of Music degree in Contemporary Vocal Performance from the Manhattan School of Music and a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Redlands. She currently lives in Manhattan and enjoys writing poetry and playing tabletop games in her spare time.



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 singing again in person with Melodia (of which she has been a member since 2010). 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 and arrangements 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 has been a part of Melodia for a few years. She loves singing with this choir and to be a part of this very talented group of women! When not rehearsing, she pursues her longstanding interests in the arts and in live theatre. Spending time with her family is also something she loves to do.



Tanya Sharma is a new member of Melodia who joined in the Fall of 2022 and is excited to be performing a beautiful program with a talented group of women. She currently is a graduate student of Clinical Psychology at Columbia University and has always enjoyed singing ever since her experience with choir in middle school. She also loves to read, write, sing, and explore new places in New York City.



Erin Siu is an editor and writer based in New York City. She joined Melodia Women's Choir as a Soprano 1 in 2020. Before Melodia, she sang with the NYU Steinhardt Women's Choir, and the San Francisco Girls' Chorus for seven years. When she's not singing, you can find her playing piano, learning chords on her guitar, doing yoga, or cooking a bowl of ramen.



Sydney Weaver is ecstatic to be performing her first concert with Melodia since joining the group this autumn. Sydney is currently a full-time graduate student at Columbia University. Prior to moving to New York, Sydney had the privilege of singing with the Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco where she was fortunate enough to collaborate with the San Francisco Symphony on multiple projects, premiere a new opera, and tour globally. Sydney looks forward to continuing to grow and share her love of women's choral music at Melodia for seasons to come.



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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This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. This concert is made possible in

part with public funds from Creative Engagement, a regrant program 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.

Special thanks to Erik Bottcher, New York City Council Member District 3.



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Special Thanks

Special thanks to all those who have helped make this concert possible, including Allison Sniffin for Instrumental arrangements; Michael Conwill for lighting; Cindy Cooper; the staff at Holy Apostles Church, St. John's Lutheran 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. Postcard Image by Jane Newland

Thanks to Melodia singers for all the extras, including: Section leaders: Ashley Paskalis, Chiara Pierangelo, Jeanne Ruskin, Jenny Clarke; program notes, Cynthia Powell; social media, Teresa Shyr.

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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 melodiachoirNYC@gmail.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
melodiachoirNYC@gmail.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/>
11:30 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 5-10PM
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 3 pm to 11 pm

Wide ranging Mexican fare

aRoqa

206 Ninth Ave.

Btw W. 22 and W. 23

<https://aroganyc.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–8 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 - 5:00pm

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, 5 - 9:30 pm
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American fare, popular brunch, “energetic, greenmarket-driven hot spot” Reservations recommended

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Dinner Sunday: 4 pm - 9 pm
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Elmo

156 Seventh Ave, NYC
W. 20 St and Seventh Ave
<http://elmorerestaurant.com/>
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*Popular, high-end comfort food
Reservations recommended*

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