



A Virtual Concert

Welcoming words by Jenny Clarke, Executive Director

Days of Beauty by Emily Brontë, read by Blessing Agunwamba

Melodia Virtual Choir performance: *Days of Beauty* by Ola Gjeilo

Piano interlude performed by Taisiya Pushkar: *Clouds* by Florence B. Price

From the Melodia video archive: *The Angel* from *Six Choruses for Female Voices*
by Sergei Rachmaninoff

Introduction to *Gloria: Lifting the Veil on Vivaldi's Masterpiece*, Pam McAllister

From the Melodia Video Archive: Maddalena's monologue (Erika Rolfsrud), followed by the
First Movement from *Gloria* by Antonio Vivaldi

Let the River Run by Carly Simon, read by Gina Patterson

Melodia Virtual Choir performance: *Let the River Run* by Carly Simon

Remarks by Cynthia Powell, Artistic Director

I Dream a World, by Langston Hughes, read by Sally Burgos

Melodia Virtual Choir performance: *I Dream a World* by André J. Thomas

Contributing Artists

Cynthia Powell, Artistic Director & Conductor
Taisiya Pushkar, piano

Emilie-Anne Gendron & Clara Kim, violins; Stephanie Griffin, viola; and Laura Andrade, cello

Melodia Singers, Virtual Choir videos

Soprano

Blessing Agunwamba
Morgan Russell Banino
Ginny Bartolone
Sasha Berger
Rosie Black
Sally Burgos
Bekah Calverley
Kyra DeTone
Lauren D'Imperio
Larissa Flint
Deb Howard
Yvonne Kemps
Colleen Maher
Emily Martell
Judy Fontana Minkoff
Jennifer Laurin
Steff Lyon
Emily Meszkat

Meg Myette
Maggie Parker
Ashley Paskalis
Annette Pierce
Rachel Porter
Julia Pugachevsky
Katherine Puma
Melodia Mae Rinaldi
Amanda Schulze
Kelly Shoemaker
Erin Siu
Tranisha Thomas
Faye Timmer
Michele Wan
Rachel Younger

Alto

Michelle Ammirati
Frances Biedenham

Cara Brownell
Gabriella Carr
Jenny Clarke
Alex Drozda
Stephanie Larriere
Victoria Levy
Karen Meberg
Kym Mendez
Becky Moody
Jordana Moldauer
Rosemary Palladino
Gina Patterson
Peggy Samuels
Emily Segal
Rachel Silander
Pam Wiczorek
Rachel Wifall
Colleen Christi Willett

A Message from Melodia Women's Choir of NYC

Since March 2020, Melodia has been unable to meet in person or present concerts due to COVID19. Our second virtual concert marks 16 months since the last time we sang together. We offer this virtual event as a special way to stay connected and share the many voices of Melodia as we look to our experiences of the past months and ahead to a time when we can sing together again.

Special thanks to all the singers who participated in the Melodia Virtual Choir since March 2020. Their participation in Monday online rehearsals and in making virtual choir recordings has kept Melodia afloat during this time. Melodia would not have survived without their continued commitment to Melodia and our music. Thank you!

Melodia 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 its 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.



Texts

Days of Beauty by Emily Brontë **music by Ola Gjeilo**

When days of beauty deck the earth
Or stormy nights descend
How well my spirit knows the path
On which it ought to wend

It seeks the consecrated spot
Beloved in childhood's years
The space between is all forgot
Its sufferings and its tears

Let the River Run by Carly Simon **arr. Kirby Shaw, orch. Allison Sniffin**

Let the river run
Let all the dreamers
Wake the nation
Come, the New Jerusalem

Silver cities rise
The morning lights
The streets that meet them
And sirens call them on
With a song

It's asking for the taking
Trembling, shaking
Oh, my heart is aching
We're coming to the edge
Running on the water
Coming through the fog
Your sons and daughters

We the great and small
Stand on a star
And blaze a trail of desire
Through the dark'ning dawn

Come run with me now
The sky is the color of blue
You've never even seen
In the eyes of love

Let the river run
Let all the dreamers
Wake the nation
Come, the New Jerusalem
Oh come, the New Jerusalem!

I Dream a World by Langston Hughes **Music by André J. Thomas**

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!

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 29 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 17th 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.



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.

More About Melodia

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Cynthia Powell

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And to all those who donated when registering to attend our virtual concerts. Thank you!

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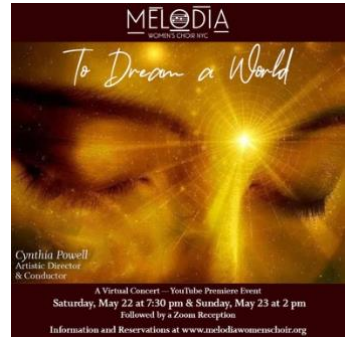
This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council - thanks to NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson.



Donate to Melodia and help us find and sing music for women's voices

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.melodiawomenschoir.org.

Special thanks to: Judy Fontana Minkoff for Audio editing – *Days of Beauty*, *Let the River Run* and *I Dream a World*; Julia Pugachevsky for video editing *Days of Beauty*, and *Let the River Run*; Stephanie Larriere for video editing *I Dream a World*; Pam McAllister; Allison Sniffin; Declan Zhang, Zoom Technical Presenter; section leaders: Ashley Paskalis, Colleen Maher and Colleen Christi Willett; and to the Melodia Board of Directors for their help navigating the challenges of COVID19.



To Dream a World design by Jill Falcone

Join Melodia in Partnership with Creative Time

On Wednesday, June 16 from 6-8 PM, Melodia Women's Choir will be leading a participatory treble-voice sing at Astor Place in New York City (E. 8th St bet Lafayette St. & 4th Ave). All are welcoming to join in. CDC guidelines will be observed - social distancing and masking as required.

Creative Time is an organization that creates large-scale public arts projects in New York. They are working on a project in June that consists of a massive sculpture by artist Rashid Johnson, which incorporates a platform for invited groups to use for activities of their choosing. For more information, please visit <https://creativetime.org/>.

Audition for Melodia

Do you love to sing? We are welcoming new singers into the group as we reassemble to sing our first live concert since November 2019! Come and explore this wonderful repertoire with us! We're auditioning experienced choral singers in July/August. Contact Jenny Clarke: womenschoir@mindspring.com for virtual audition details.

Melodia Women's Choir of NYC
446 West 47th Street, 1B, New York, NY 10036
212-757-2945 · www.melodiawomenschoir.org · womenschoir@mindspring.com

Melodia November 2019

