

The Teaneck Community Chorus

Steven Bell, Artistic Director

Proudly Presents



You Don't Own Me! Singing for Equality



www.teaneckcommunitychorus.org

This program has been made possible in part by a grant administered by the Bergen County Department of Parks, Division of Historic and Cultural Affairs from funds granted by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.



Greetings from the Chorus President

Welcome to the 24th season of the Teaneck Community Chorus! We are excited to be performing today. As always there is a never-ending array of important and delightful ideas as we continue to refresh ourselves with new themes. Our winter concert; You Don't Own Me; Singing for Equality celebrates and honors the struggles and contributions of women in the past and present.

The recent assault on woman's rights inspired this concert. As we researched songs for this concert, we found many songs and poems about woman equality and thoughts written by women. The fight for equal treatment, enfranchisement and control of one's body has been a long one, with many gains and some setbacks. The sentiments expressed by Abigail Adams' "Remember the Ladies," resonate with us today.

While some songs speak to women's issues specifically, others embrace a wider audience because we understand our connection to all groups that are once again fighting to protect and preserve rights that have been taken for granted or are in danger of being removed.

This concert is dedicated to the memory of our beloved Mary Comins who passed away last September. She was a devoted and enthusiastic member of our Chorus almost since its inception. Her energy, sense of humor and beautiful singing voice will always be remembered. She had a long history as a performer beginning with an acapella woman's trio, The Charmonizers. Mary's love of music and theater kept her busy. She was a member of the Bergen County Players and a lifelong member of The American Recorder Society. Even as her health and vision were failing she attended rehearsals whenever possible and faithfully attended our chorus concerts when she could no longer perform. We are sure she would have embraced the theme of this concert and energetically participated.

Greetings from the Chorus President

Today we offer our voices as we meet the challenges ahead.

We are grateful to our Board, our wonderful choral members and our donors and patrons.

We also thank the staff and students of Teaneck High School for their assistance with our technical production.

Thank you for joining us!

Visit our website at www.teaneckcommunitychorus.org and our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/Teaneck-Community-Chorus-105307001058> for information and updates about our events.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Anita Bluestone

President

Teaneck Community Chorus



Remembering Mary...



This concert is dedicated to long-time member Mary M. Comins. Mary not only participated as a second soprano in the chorus, but she blessed us by sharing her dancing talents with us several times over the years! Mary left us on September 22, 2022, but the memory of her joyful spirit continues to bring us joy. We love and miss you, Mary!



YOU DON'T OWN ME: SINGING FOR EQUALITY PROGRAM ORDER

- Suffrage Song..... Smith/Linn, arr. Bell
- You Don't Own Me Madara & White, arr. Althouse/Bell
- Everybody Says Don't Stephen Sondheim, arr. Hayes
- Emily's Creed Emily Dickinson / Silvey
- No Mirrors in My Nana's House Ysaye M. Barnwell
- I Wish I Knew Taylor & Dallas, arr. Bremer
- Remember the Ladies Abigail Adams / Barnett
- What Happens When a Woman? Alexandra Olsavsky
- I Am Woman Helen Reddy / Burton
Gabrielle Rayls, solo
- One Woman Lyle & Blatt, arr. Bell
Monica Hodges, Barbara Kinter, Judy Mars, soloists
- A Change is Gonna Come Sam Cooke
Gail Smith, solo
- Equality Is in the Air We Breathe Langston Hughes / Walker
- We Rise Again Leon Dubinsky, arr. Adams
Gail Smith, solo

Artistic Director – Steven Bell

Steven L. Bell has been the Artistic Director of the Teaneck Community Chorus since 2000. He recently retired as the Director of Vocal Music at Teaneck High School where he conducted the Mixed Chorus, Concert Choir, and award-winning Madrigal



Singers. He also served as the Instructional Leader of the Teaneck High School Department of Fine and Performing Arts.

He taught AP Music Theory and was the Director and Musical Director of the school's annual musical. He had also taught Choral Methods at Montclair State University. Previously he taught music at Leonia Middle School, the Dwight School in Manhattan, and elementary and junior high schools in Teaneck. In his role as Musical Director, Mr. Bell has been nominated four times as Outstanding High School Musical Director by the Papermill Playhouse's Rising Star Awards and has won this distinction in 2004 for his production of Company at Fair Lawn High School.

Chorus Pianist – Daniel Stocker



Our guest pianist for this concert is Daniel Stocker. Mr. Stocker played with the Teaneck Community Chorus as its pianist in its 2019-2022 seasons. He is currently on staff at Porch Light Studio, Stage and Schools (Glen Rock, NJ) as music director where he teaches private voice lessons and music directs a number of musical theater productions. His favorite credits at Porch Light include, Into the Woods, Matilda, and The 57th National Mathlete Sum-It. Daniel is also a member of the music ministry at St. Mary's R.C. Church in Pompton Lakes,

The virtual TCC season saw Daniel take on additional responsibilities within the chorus, including audio editing and mixing a number of songs in Bagpipes, Banjos and Songs (Winter 2021) and The Arc of Justice (Spring 2021).

He earned a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance at Boston University under the instruction of Dr. Linda Jiorle-Nagy and graduated cum laude in May 2019.

Juliette Bowen

Juliette Bowen is a Sign Language Interpreter, who has won the hearts of the Teaneck Community Chorus audiences for over ten years. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hofstra University, a Master's of Education in School Counseling, Herbert H. Lehman College, Bronx, NY and a Master's of Education in General and Special Education, Touro College, New York. She is fluent in Spanish, English, and American Sign Language.



She currently works with multi-handicapped, autistic, blind emotionally disturbed, deaf, and severely learning-disabled students in NYC. Her first experience with the deaf and hard of hearing was when she was approached to add these students to her caseload while counseling in Valhalla, NY. Juliette did not shrink back but willingly accepted the challenge and decided to provide equal access to these students by learning their language. She began working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing students in 1994 and later counseled and taught at the Lexington School for the Deaf, Queens, NY. She currently interprets for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Clinton Hills, Brooklyn, as well as Trinity Baptist Church in the Bronx.

Remembering our friend
Bob McGrath
(1932-2022)



Teaneck Community **Chorus Members**

Artistic Director
Steven Bell

Guest Pianist
Daniel Stocker

Sopranos

Maria Adorno

Barbara Kinter

Winnie Asa-Awuku

Mai Lu

Diana Feinberg

Cabrielle Rayls

Ilene Gilbert

Cail Smith

Monica Hodges

Fern Wilensky



Teaneck Community Chorus Members

Altos:

Judy Bellini

Judy Mars

Anita Bluestone

Ellen Ray

Carole Boutry

Nadege Stretz

Cinger Cordon

Eileen White

Cynthia Jacobs

Tenors

Jack Aaker

Wes Matsui

Adina Hirschmann

Patrick Montessano

Justin Lu

Bases

Reggie Bennett

Michel Kinter

Patrons

**Includes donations made in memory of Mary Comins*

Founder's Circle

(\$1000+)

Elena Matsui

**Wes & Mary Matsui*

Director's Circle

(\$500-\$999)

**Jack & Margaret Aaker*

**Gary Ostroff and Ellen Ray*

Gerri Martin

Benefactors

(\$250-\$499)

Steven Bell*

Judith Bellini

Carole Boutry

Gina Mannix and Patrick Montesano

**Anita Bluestone and David Lyon*

Michael Kinter

**Nadege Stretz*

Fern Wilensky

Patrons

Friends

(\$100-\$249)

*Suzanne & Serhat Akiska

Winnie Asa Awuku

Janice & Ed Dabney

Rhonda Eisenberg

*Diana Fainberg

Debbie Feldman

Jean & Paul Friedman

Rose Gordon

Monica Hodges

Susie Hoffman and Mel Grizer

Jeremy Hoffman

Jacqueline Kates

*Linda Konopka

Chi Mai Lu and Justin Lu

Gabrielle Rayls

*Gail Smith

Ray and Edie Turkin

*Alice Waespy

Roberta and Kari Walker

Maredia and Charles Warren

Margaret White

Patrons

Supporters

(Up to \$99)

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*Carol F. Bell

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Coleen A. Bruce

Pamela DeFeo

Anita Faulding

Margot Embree Fisher

*Friederike Garval

Michele Garval

*Ilene and Jim Gilbert

Ramon and Elena Gil

*Rita Goldenberg

*Cynthia Jacobs

Susan Kirschenbaum

Nina Lazar

Gene and Gail Matsui

Lorraine Peter

Mark Rinis

*Jean Strickholm

Linda Berghorn Stepson

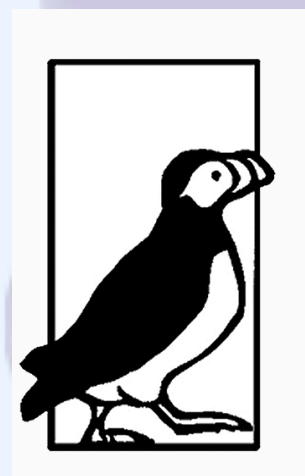
*Eileen and Jim White

Sponsors



Bergen County Division of Cultural & Historic Arts

The Puffin Foundation, Ltd



Program Notes

YOU DON'T OWN ME: SINGING FOR EQUALITY

Suffrage Song This 4/4 march served people agitating in the streets for the vote for women in Britain and the US over a hundred years ago. Lyrics are by James Weber Linn (1876-1939) who also was biographer of Jane Adams, peace activist, suffragette and socialist. Music by Eleanor Smith c. 1915.

You Don't Own Me was composed by John Madara and David White who, born during the 30s, were creative youth in Philadelphia at the right time. They received advice from Dick Clark to change their "Do the Bop" to "At the Hop". Leslie Gore, a student at the Dwight School for Girls in Englewood recorded "You Don't Own Me" in 1963 and only "I Want to Hold Your Hand" topped it on the charts. She sang it in many European languages and it became an inspiration to the second wave feminist movement. It was the theme for the film "The First Wives Club" and used in "Dirty Dancing" and "Hairspray".

Everybody Says Don't from Sondheim's 1964 Broadway flop "Anyone Can Whistle". How we make choices and just who is sane are asked. Barbara Streisand included it in her 1993 album "Back to Broadway".

Emily's Creed by Philip E. Silvey adapts the poetry of Emily Dickenson that captures themes of loneliness, affection, loss and longing. Her poems include moments of optimism on the prospect of a well-spent life, with the affirming statement "I shall not live in vain." She lived in isolation in Amherst, MA but maintained many correspondences. Not recognized during her lifetime (1830-1886), the first volume of her poetry was published in 1890 after her sister found nearly 2,000 poems in a box under her bed. Her life is captured in the play "The Belle of Amherst" by William Luce. Her house was opened as a museum in 2003 and sponsors lively programs from poetry to rock concerts. Composer Silvey is Assistant Professor of Music Education at the Eastman School of Music where he directs the Women's Chorus.

No Mirrors in My Nana's House is based on the book by Dr. Ysaye M. Barnwell. The lyrics describe a little girl who discovers the beauty in herself—and the beauty of the world around her—not by looking in the mirror, but by looking in her Nana's eyes. Writer/Composer Barnwell was a vocalist with Sweet Honey in the Rock and has spent decades off stage working as a master teacher and choral clinician in African American cultural performance. Her work as a Sign Language Interpreter led her to facilitate the group's tradition of including an interpreter in the ensemble, a tradition that TCC has embraced.

YOU DON'T OWN ME: SINGING FOR EQUALITY

I Wish I Knew was sung by the TCC at its first concert on First Night, 1999. This gospel/jazz piece became an anthem of the civil rights movement. Composed by Billy Taylor for his daughter in 1952 with Richard Carroll “Dick Dollar” Lamb, it was recorded in 1963 and released the next year on the album “Right Here, Right Now”. Taylor had been the Birdland house pianist, head of David Frost Show band, instituted the Jazzmobile in NYC and was an NPR personality. With a Ph.D. from U. Massachusetts, Taylor died in 2010. Of the dozens of artists covering the song, Nina Simone’s 1967 work was acclaimed. The song was chosen as theme for the 2004 Olympics.

Remember the Ladies captures the letter from Abigail Adams (1744-1818) to her husband, John Adams, in 1776 with her advice on what should be put into the newly proposed government at the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia. While John was in Philadelphia, Abigail was at home running the farm, raising four children and maintaining a lively correspondence with news of family and friends and the activities of the British troops. As an intellectually open-minded woman, her ideas on women's rights and government would eventually play a role in the founding of the United States. She is recognized as an early supporter of women’s rights 70 years prior to the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848 and 150 years before women won the vote in 1920. Composer Carol Barnett set the text for women’s voices in the style that would have been heard in Europe during the late 1700s.

Abigail wrote:

“I long to hear that you have declared an independency—and by the way, in the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies. Be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could; that your sex are naturally tyrannical is a truth so thoroughly established as to admit of no dispute. Why then not put it out of the power of the vicious and the lawless to use as with cruelty and indignity. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation. But such of you as wish to be happy willingly give up the harsh title of master for the more tender and endearing one of friend. Adieu. I need not say how much I am your ever faithful friend.”

Program Notes (continued)

YOU DON'T OWN ME: SINGING FOR EQUALITY

What Happens When a Woman? serves to empower young women through the asking of strong, motivated questions about women holding positions of leadership. Composer Alexandra Olsavsky, a soprano born in 1990, is a Chicago-based artist collaborating with musicians and dancers of diverse genres.

I Am Woman lyrics by Helen Reddy; music by Ray Burton, both Australians. Released in 1971 at the peak of the feminist movement, she wrote it after experiencing many sexist slights in show business and after a spiritual insight. In 1972 when *MS Magazine* began, the song reached #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 list. Much later, David Letterman's show featured her repeatedly singing the number.

One Woman was introduced on International Womens' Day 3/8/2013 by 25 singers from 20 countries. Our TCC soloists give it passion and meaning.

A Change is Gonna Come was written by Sam Cooke after he and his band were turned away at a racist Louisiana Holiday Inn in 1963. He protested and later was arrested in Shreveport for "disturbing the peace". It was also inspired by Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind" and speeches by Martin Luther King. "I wanted to make my father proud" he explained. Arranged by Rene Hall, it appeared the next year on the album "Ain't That Good News". Rolling Stone magazine touted it #3 greatest songs of all time. The words are on the wall of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington.

Equality Is in the Air We Breathe is based on a poem by Langston Hughes, the preeminent poet of the Harlem Renaissance (1901-1967). It comes from his poem "Let America Be America Again". The poet wishes for his land to be a place where opportunity is real and life is free.

We Rise Again written by Leon Dubinsky in 1984 has been made popular by his fellow Nova Scotian musicians, the Rankin Family. It has inspired people after mine and hurricane disasters. Anne Murray also has sung it with various choirs and comments: "It is about survival, the power of the sea and the importance of family and children in our lives." Lydia Adams is the arranger.

YOU DON'T OWN ME: SINGING FOR EQUALITY

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Teaneck Community Chorus

A logo for the Teaneck Community Chorus, featuring a treble clef and musical notes in white, blue, and orange.

The Teaneck Community Chorus
Steven Bell, Artistic Director
Proudly Presents:

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You Don't Own Me!
Singing for Equality

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Thank you for sharing this day with us!

Updates and information about TCC
will be posted on

www.teaneckcommunitychorus.org

And

<https://www.facebook.com/Teaneck-Community-Chorus-105307001058>