

WHEN I SING



SISTER
CITIES
GIRLCHOIR



A VIRTUAL CONCERT EXPERIENCE

Season 2020 - 21 | April 30, 2021 @ 7:30PM



ABOUT US

Intercultural Journeys boldly leverages the power of the performing arts to catalyze social change, challenge bias, and create spaces for dialogue and understanding by presenting culturally diverse voices that celebrate and affirm our shared humanity.

VISION

We imagine a world of more:
more welcome, more curiosity, more empathy, and more connection.

Where more voices tell our history and shape our future,
and we create an inclusive space to be still, to listen, to watch, to dance, and to learn together;
Where recognition and respect for one and all are the starting point, and not the finish line,
and love drives our journey forward.

STAFF

Carly Rapaport-Stein, Executive Director

Marla Burkholder, Artistic Director

Nia Benjamin, Program and Communications Manager

SUPPORT

If you'd like to support the work of Intercultural Journeys, please visit interculturaljourneys.org/donate, or contact Executive Director Carly Rapaport-Stein at carly@interculturaljourneys.org.

interculturaljourneys.org

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From the Artistic Director

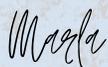
When Intercultural Journeys and Sister Cities Girlchoir conceived of the When I Sing project, we imagined something more like Philadelphia's own legendary opera singer Marian Anderson would have experienced. We envisioned in-person gatherings to compose original music and lyrics, and a big culminating concert at Marian Anderson's home church in Philadelphia. But the world turned upside down in the middle of the process, and everything had to be re-imagined. The Sister Cities community pivoted to provide a powerful choir experience for their singers that was totally online. And we re-envisioned a performance where the voices of these youth can travel the world as Marian Anderson did — but completely virtually.

Working virtually throughout this process created both opportunities and challenges. If staff were able to be in many of the sessions where the creative work was happening because we could attend Saturday morning rehearsals with Sister Cities by Zoom. We were able to expand the circle of artistic collaborators who worked with the choir all the way to Boston (VOICES 21C) and California (Martha Gonzalez). The students got to work with and learn from filmmaker Stephanie Malson because the final performance is a filmed piece instead of a live concert.

But there was also the reality of distance. Collaborating artistically when no one is in the same room is a real challenge. The shared screen became the point of connection for sharing ideas, musical notes, poetry, images and inspirations.

For filmmaker Stephanie Malson, the disparate pieces of the puzzle began to come together when she envisioned a trip inside the imagination of a girl. Like Marian Anderson, the young woman is starting to claim her voice, to step into the power of her unique identity. She is taking inspiration from artist activists like Denice Frohman and Ruth Naomi Floyd who speak through the words and notes of their art. She is using the creative gale-force of her imagination to envision a world where her own voice rings out and speaks truth to power.

This has been a powerful adventure for all of us involved, and we're delighted to invite you to share the journey!



Production Staff

Cinematography / Editing
Stephanie Malson

Audio
Jon Picciano

Editing / Animations
Nia Benjamin

the artists of when i sing

Sister Cities Girlchoir (SCG) builds communities of music makers that empower girls to occupy their unique position in creating a better world. SCG is an El-Sistema-inspired organization that employs the power of collaboration, creativity, and community while eliminating access barriers to music training and global sisterhood. SCG is modeled on the powerful impact that investments in the lives of girls make for a city block, a neighborhood, a city, and for the world.

Vocalist and composer **Ruth Naomi Floyd** has "an unmistakable emotional integrity that conveys her music's power." (The Times London)

In 2020, Ruth was a Kimmel Center Jazz Residency artist. Recent compositions include "Freedom," focused on human rights activist Mende Nazer's story of survival as a slave, and the Frederick Douglass Jazz Works, a body of compositions for jazz septet. Ruth is Director of Jazz Studies at Cairn University, Langhorne, Pennsylvania and an Adjunct and Artist in Residence at Temple University. Ruth wholeheartedly believes that it is the duty of the artist to be the truth-teller of society and to speak against injustice.

Denice Frohman is a poet, performer and educator from New York City. A CantoMundo Fellow, she's received residencies and awards from the National Association of Latino Arts & Cultures, Leeway Foundation, Millay Colony and Blue Mountain Center. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, The BreakBeat Poets: LatiNext, Nepantla: An Anthology for Queer Poets of Color, ESPNW and elsewhere. A former Women of the World Poetry Slam Champion, she's featured on hundreds of stages from The White House to The Apollo, and co-organized #PoetsforPuertoRico. She lives in Philadelphia.

Dr. Stephen Framil has performed as concert soloist, chamber musician and conductor around the world: including Carnegie Weill & Avery-Fisher Halls (New York), Verizon Hall (Philadelphia), and Hong Kong City Hall. Stephen is the Music Director & Conductor of CAMERATA PHILADELPHIA, and Artistic Director of the Port City Music Festival (North Carolina). As a versatile and dedicated educator Stephen has given cello and chamber music masterclasses throughout the world, is a member of the artist faculty at the Killington Music Festival in Vermont, and is currently the Symphony Orchestra Music Director & Conductor at Eastern University.

VOICES 21C is a Boston-based chamber choir who seeks to combine high technical proficiency with creativity and compassion. The choir creates personal meaning in performance by connecting their musical messages to social justice issues in the USA and abroad, representing the voices of the silenced, the forgotten, and the marginalized. VOICES 21C is a welcoming space for LGBTQ, committed to contemporary composers, and improvisational, interdisciplinary modes of performance through their co-creating, egalitarian consensus model.

the artists of when i sing

Martha Gonzalez is a Chicana artista (artist/activist) musician, feminist music theorist and Associate Professor in the Intercollegiate Department of Chicana/o Latina/o Studies at Scripps/Claremont College. A Fulbright (2007-2008), Ford (2012-2013) and Woodrow Wilson Fellow (206-2017), her academic interests have been fueled by her own musicianship as a singer/songwriter and percussionist for Grammy Award (2013) winning band Quetzal.

Stephanie Malson is a multi-hyphenate filmmaker who specializes in the craft of cinematography. She has developed content for varying independent, non-profit, and corporate entities over the years. Her cinematography was recently featured in the short experimental film *We Are Free Because of Harriet Tubman*, which was an official BlackStar Film Festival selection. Through her company Dandelion Pictures, she is developing a short narrative film and co-producing a feature documentary. Stephanie is currently an Adjunct Professor at Temple University where she teaches Creative Scriptwriting. She holds an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Rosemont College. Stephanie currently lives and works outside of Philadelphia, PA.

A Philadelphia-based audio engineer, **Jon Picciano** has over 25 years of experience in live sound production and has toured in over 43 countries. He has mixed live performances for President Barack Obama and for the British Royal Family, and has worked on projects with the likes of Ledisi, Dave Matthews, Pete Townsend, Pete Seeger, and the iconic Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

His recording/mixing credits include Ladysmith Black Mambazo's 2014 Grammy Award-winning live album, *Singing For Peace Around The World*; Mambazo's 2018 Grammy Award-nominated album, *Songs of Peace and Love for Kids*; and the 2019 critically-acclaimed *Songs From Lindiwe*.

Special Thanks

Nina Castillo, Magnolia, Shakia, Judy Zhang, Eastern University, and the Board of Directors of Intercultural Journeys. We extend our deepest thanks to the Intercultural Journeys Board of Directors.

We also thank Mural Arts Philadelphia for their generosity in allowing us to film Denice Frohman in front of Soul of the Black Bottom © 2017 City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program / eL Seed, Market and Preston Streets.

Set List

A Woman's Place

Written and performed by Denice Frohman

Home

Performed by

Sister Cities Girlchoir, Martha Gonzalez, Quetzal Flores and Sandino Gonzalez-Flores

Composed by

Addison, Angelique, Anika, Chelsea, Izzy, Leilany, London, Mahala, Samaiya, Sanaa, Summer, Tyler and Willa

Solos by

Anika and Chelsea

Small Group Solos by

Addi, Angelique, Leilany, London, Mahala, Samaiya, Sanaa, Summer, Tyler and Willa

Compositional Facilitation by

Martha Gonzalez

Blurry Vision

Performed by Sister Cities Girlchoir

Composed by

Angelique, Alana, Chelsea, Cherie-Amour and Summer

Solos by

Angelique and Katie

Compositional Facilitation by

Alysia Lee

Music

#7 ACOUSTIC PIANO - ADELE x JOHN LEGEND by Atlas

One Voice

Composed and Performed by Ruth Naomi Floyd

Cello Accompaniment by Stephen Framil

Interlude

Composed by Ruth Naomi Floyd

Performed by Stephen Framil

Words by Marla Burkholder

Set List

When I Sing

Written and performed by Denice Frohman

When I Sing

Composed and Performed by
Sister Cities Girlchoir

Compositional Facilitation by
VOICES21C

We Shall Sing

Composed and Performed by Ruth Naomi Floyd
Cello Accompaniment by Stephen Framil

One Day

Performed by Sister Cities Girlchoir

Composed by
Leilany, Addison and Mahala

Solos by
Leilany, Addison and Mahala

Compositional Facilitation by
Anne Agresta Dugan

Music
Float (Macklemore Type Beat) by Elliot Cesta

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ENDOWMENT** for the **ARTS**

 [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov)

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