Hold Fast To Dreams

June 11, 2022 | 7 p.m.

Parkrose High School
12003 NE Shaver St,
Portland, OR 97220
Welcome to Hold Fast To Dreams! We are thrilled you are with us for our first in-person concert since February 2020. Since we last saw you in-person, we have produced three virtual concerts, held 15 months of rehearsals over Zoom and in park shelters, and found a new rehearsal home with good ventilation and space for us to spread out.

Throughout that time, we dreamt of performing for you again! Continuing to dream and hope strengthened our resilience as we navigated the impact of a global pandemic on our ability to sing together.

Tonight, you will hear the world-premiere performance of “Reverie,” a new piece by composer Alysia Lee commissioned for this concert. In February 2021, we included the west-coast premiere of her “Say Her Name” in our virtual concert The Power of Music. Ms. Lee consulted with us on the creation of the video and also recorded an introduction for it. We are excited to continue our connection to her. With text by the composer, “Reverie” is a call to action: we must take time to dream, and to create a revolution to make our dreams real.

In January 2022, we were forced to cancel our concert Be a Light due to the rise in the Omicron variant, just a few weeks before the scheduled date. All of our preparations were not in vain; we are happy to announce that we will present Be a Light in November 2022. Keep watch for details!

Thank you for supporting the Portland Lesbian Choir.

Mary McCarty, Artistic Director
Melissa Casburn, Board President

Concert Credits

**Concert Coordination:** Sparky Lindsay

**House Manager:** Rick Jung

**Stage Manager:** Michael Sanchez

**Sound:** CJ Awalt

**Lighting:** Sara Szymanski

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Sawyer Castleberry-Backman

**Videographer:** Mark Biedermann

**Wardrobe:** Lottie Zorn

**Program Design and Ads:** Nori La Rue

**Ferran Nicolls**

**Max Williker**

**Business Expo:** Susan Hunter

**PLC Riser Lead:** Nancy King
Mary has cultivated a lifelong passion for music via the choral and instrumental arts, performing on both sides of the baton as a singer, flutist and conductor within a wide range of ensembles taking her from her roots in upstate New York to her adopted home in Oregon. In addition to her work with PLC, Mary also serves as the Interim Artistic Director for the Portland Gay Men’s Chorus. Mary holds a music degree from the State University of New York at Potsdam.

PLC is thrilled to have Colin as our principal accompanist. Colin is not only the music director and conductor at Cedar Hills United Church of Christ, he is also an active collaborative pianist and music coach in the region. Having received his Masters in Piano Performance at Portland State University, he was the Graduate Teacher’s Assistant for collaborative piano accompanying the PSU Chamber Choir and opera studies program. Colin has accompanied and performed in over 600 recitals and played for masterclasses with opera legends Lawrence Brownlee, Frederica von Stade, Angela Meade, and Vinson Cole.

Beca Rasch is thrilled to be bringing movement to PLC again this term. She has always been enamored with the joy found in dance, and how it can expand the way an audience perceives a piece of music. Beca received her BFA in Musical Theatre from Missouri State University, has performed in regional and professional theatres, and is now the owner and instructor at Firefly Dance. She strives to see beauty in all things, and is honored to be able to share that perspective with you all.

Alysia Lee receives national recognition for advancing access, equity, and decolonization with leaders, organizations, and communities. Her methods center on youth, anti-racism, creativity, and justice. Lee is the Founder and Artistic Director of Sister Cities Girlchoir (SCG), the El Sistema-inspired, girl empowerment choral academy in Philadelphia, Camden, and Baltimore in its tenth season. Lee has an emerging voice as a choral composer. She has recent composition commissions from Baltimore Choral Arts, Portland Lesbian Choir, and GALA Choruses. Lee is also a Board member of Chorus America and a National Advisor to ArtsEdSEL.

Bass: Amy Roesler
Drums: Ward Griffiths
Guitar: Liz Chibucos
ASL Interpreters: Jessy Severe JMe Antonick
Dance Captain: Amanda Matteo

PLC would like to thank the following grantors for funds received:

Grants received for 2020-2021 season:
Oregon Arts Commission
Regional Arts & Culture Commission (RACC)
Oregon Community Foundation
Oregon Cultural Trust
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Oregon Arts Commission

Grants received for 2021-2022 season:
Oregon Community Foundation
Funds supporting project: Roy & Diane Marvin
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CJ Await (2021)
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Olivia Benavidez (2022)
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Kyre Niemeyer (2019)
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Mary Weaver (2022)
Leticia West (2014)
*Andrea Whittaker (2019)
'Max Williker (2016)
Brooke Winter (2016)
Em Wooden (2017)
'Shelly Wozniak (2019)
Cindy Zrinyi (1987)

SPECIAL THANKS to the Portland Gay Men's Chorus for Land Acknowledgement language, risers, and all the riser crew volunteers, especially Joel Bradshaw, as well as Karl Metz, Parkrose High School; Jonathan Dyer, Westminster Presbyterian Church; Ainsworth UCC; and Dot Hearn

HOLD FAST TO DREAMS

One Dream
featuring Drew Robinson-Woods, Althea Gregory and Sebastien Eichvalds

Hold Fast to Dreams
Susan Labarr;
Text by Langston Hughes

Rockstar
Ian Axel and Chad Vaccarino;
Arr. by Roger Emerson

I Dream a World
Brandi Carlile, Tim Hanseroth and Phil Hanseroth; Arr. by Ash

Dreams
featuring Rachel Carina
Alysia Lee; Commissioned by Portland Lesbian Choir

Reverie
Justin Timberlake, Anthony Clemens Jr., Uforo Ebong, Jacob Kasher Hindlin,
Larrance Dopson, Khiry Tyler, Kenyon Dixon, Tarron Crayton, Dylan Del Olmo, and Christopher Payton;
Arr. By Mac Huff

Better Days
Rosephanye Powell;
Text by Langston Hughes

To Sit and Dream
Ruth Morris Gray;
Text by Sara Teasdale

Stars I Shall Find
Fabian Andre and Wilbur Schwandt;
Lyrics by Gus Kahn; Arr. By Jay Althouse

Dream a Little Dream of Me
featuring Shelly Wozniak
Ivy Hunter and William Stevenson;
Lyrics by Marvin Gaye; Arr. Mac Huff

Dancing in the Streets
Sarah McLachlan and Pierre Marchand; Arr. Mac Huff

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Steering Committee
PLC Donors Honor Roll

This list covers all donors from January 1, 2021 to December 2021.
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Kathleen Clayberger
Katie and Max
Kelly Skellenger
Kent Johnson
Kim Sullivan

Become a Member of 1,000 Friends of PLC

We at Portland Lesbian Choir are holding fast to our dreams and you are invited in too. We look back and appreciate the journey of the trailblazers who fought to create and maintain this choir over 36 years ago to sing out the message that gay rights are human rights. We know that the LGBTQIA+ community enjoys the rights we have today because of those who came before us. We DREAM to do the same for those who will come after us in the next 36 years to come. Our choir, which began as a small gathering of women in 1986, has grown to be a choir of 100 singing each term.

A few short years back, we created 1000 Friends of PLC which is a sustaining membership support drive. By partnering with hundreds of individuals and businesses to support PLC monthly, we have created a sustainable base which will insure the choir’s long-term survival and allow PLC to continue Singing Out for the years to come.

We invite you to be a part of this DREAM by becoming a sustaining member of 1,000 Friends of PLC at plchoir.ejolme.org/donate. You are invited to email me if you would like to be invited to a garden party of 1,000 Friends of PLC this summer with our Artistic Director and leadership team to celebrate this exciting effort. Thank you!

Susan Hunter  fundraising@plchoir.org

Kimberly Casey
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PROGRAM NOTES AND LYRICS

One Dream
We can feel a change is coming
Like a kiss upon a tide
Breathing life into every heart
The hope for kinder times
'Cause we all walk this road together
Though at times we felt alone
In the struggle to lift us up we find a
Strength un-yet defined
You carry your courage
Carry the history
Of who’ve gone before you
Wherever you come from
You’re born of the one dream
That finds you standing here
And you know that you can make it
You’ve got the whole world
In your hands
And you’ve spent a lifetime
Working for this moment
And you are shining
You’re all that you wanted to be
When you’re airborne and free
At peace with gravity
High above everyone can see
The spirit of human ecology
How your flame keeps burning
When you leave all doubt behind
It’s a giant leap for humankind
In peace we all shine

Hold Fast to Dreams
The text of our title piece, “Hold Fast To Dreams” is from a poem by Langston Hughes, “Dreams,” set to stunning music by composer Susan LaBarr:

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.
Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.

Langston Hughes (1901-1967) is particularly known for his insightful portrayals of black life in America from the 1920s to the 1960s. It has been noted that unlike other black poets of the time, Hughes addressed his poetry to the people, specifically black people. His words about dreams still resonate with us today. In our personal lives and our dreams for an equitable and just society.

Rockstar
There’s a girl in the backyard
Bangin’ on her drum
Sittin’ in a junkpile
Laughin’ at the sun
Singing Ah ha ha
I just wanna be a rockstar
There’s a boy in the backseat
Singing to the song
Playing on the radio
Knowing he’s the one
Singing Ah ha ha
I just wanna be a rockstar
Singing Ah ha ha
I was born to be a rockstar

There’s a girl in the treetop
Looking at the stars
Waiting for a touchdown
Coming in from Mars
Thinking, is there anybody out there

There’s a boy thinking of her
Playing his guitar
Searching for the answer
Buried in his heart

“I Dream a World” by composer Rollo Dilworth has lyrics based on a poem of the same name by Langston Hughes. Rollo Dilworth’s setting has a gospel feel, amplifying the message “I dream a world where all will know sweet freedom’s way…”

I Dream a World
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.

A world I dream where
Black or white,
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!

GALA
PLC is a proud member of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA). GALA leads the North American LGBT choral movement and cultivates the artistic development of 10,000 singers from more than 190 choruses in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. The next GALA Festival is scheduled in Minneapolis, MN in July of 2024.
**Dreams**

Dreams, I have dreams
When I’m awake when I’m asleep
And you, you are in my dreams
You’re underneath my skin,
How am I so weak

And now in my dreams,
I can feel the way,
I can just come clean
I keep it to myself
I know what it means
I can’t have you, but I have dreams

How long can you hold your breath?
Can you count to ten,
Can you let it pass?
Keep, can you keep it in?
Keep it behind latches,
Can you let it pass?

Oh, and I have dreams, I have dreams
Mind, can you read my mind?
Has it come undone
Am I showing signs?

I have dreams, I have, I have, I have dreams

---

**Reverie**

Radical imagination,
Blueprints, liberation
Revolution, revolution!

What dreams may come
From an echoey room
A barren page
An unplugged afternoon?

Take time for reverie
Slow down
Make room for fantasy
Share your delusions out loud
Revolution, revolution!

What dreams may come
In the liminal rest
The lean on the in-between?

Take time for reverie
Lock tight the door
Make room for fantasy
Sink and soar

Revo...lution!
Revolution, revolution!

Take time for reverie
Slow down
Make room for fantasy
Share your delusions out loud
What dreams may come
From an echoey room

---

**Better Days**

Better Days was performed at the 2021 inauguration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. We are excited to sing about the better days that emerge knowing that there continue to be dark times on the road to seeing dreams come to fruition.

Better Days
There’s a light at the end of the tunnel
Keep your eyes on the road ahead
But if you’re feeling lost in the night
It’s okay to cry, just as long as you hold your head

‘Cause we’re on our way to better,
Better’s ahead, better’s ahead
It gets worse ‘fore it gets better
But better’s ahead, better’s ahead

Better days are coming, better days are coming
Better days, better days

I know you’ve been kicked down, slept on, let down, faith gone
Waited for too long for something to lean on
You feel weak, just be strong, deep breaths, stay calm
If you just press on, press on, press on, you gon’ see

I know you feel left out and stepped on, keep goin’, keep goin’.
Shine bright don’t dim yours for no one
Keep going higher, higher, higher, higher

Because better days are coming, better days are on their way
I know, better days are coming

---

**To Sit and Dream**

To sit down and dream, to sit and read,
To sit and learn about the world
Outside our world of here and now
Our problem world
To dream of vast horizons of the soul
Through dreams made whole
Unfettered free - help me!
All you who are dreamers, too.
Help me make our world anew.
I reach out my dreams to you.

---

**Stars I Shall Find**

There will be rest and sure stars shining
Over the rooftops crowned with snow
A reign of rest, serene forgetting
Music of stillness, holy and low

Stars I shall find, I will make this world of my devising
Stars I shall find, out of a dream in my lonely mind
Stars I shall find, I shall find the crystal of peace above me
Stars I shall find

There will be rest and sure stars shining
Over the rooftops crowned with snow
A reign of rest, serene forgetting
Music of stillness, holy and low

Stars I shall find, I will make this world of my devising
Stars I shall find, out of a dream in my lonely mind
Stars I shall find, I shall find the crystal of peace above me
Stars I shall find

There will be rest, there will be rest
Rest be rest

---

We are thrilled to continue our collaboration with composer, conductor and educator **Alycia Lee**. When Artistic Director Mary McCarty approached her about the idea of a commission on the topic of “Dreams,” she immediately said yes, and talked about building a piece based on a quote from Lucille Clifton: “We cannot create what we can’t imagine.” What resulted is a stunning new work with lyrics and music written by Ms. Lee. “Reverie” juxtaposes taking the space to dream with a call to revolution, and says that we need both: the first to dream of a world, and the second to fight for what we dream of. **Dreams** by **Brandi Carlile** has a new setting for choir by local composer/arranger **Ash**. Ash did a fabulous job of showing off Carlile’s dream, which is a sincere longing for connection couched in a humorous setting.

**Featured Dancers:**
Ellie Simon Goldman
Shanna Kramer
Amanda Matteo
Beca Rasch
Leticia West
Andrea Whittaker

**To Sit and Dream** by **Rosephanye Powell** is a hauntingly gorgeous setting of the Langston Hughes’ poem “To You.”

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**Better Days** by **Ant Clemons** was performed at the 2021 inauguration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. We are excited to sing about the better days that emerge knowing that there continue to be dark times on the road to seeing dreams come to fruition.
The Portland Lesbian Choir dreams of a just and equitable society. We dream of ways to increase our influence in realizing this dream.

Dream a Little Dream of Me
Stars shining bright above you
Night breezes seem to whisper,
I love you
Birds singing in the sycamore tree,
Dream a little dream of me
Say nightie night and kiss me
Just hold me tight
and tell me you’ll miss me
While I’m alone and blue as can be
Dream a little dream of me
Stars fading, but I linger on dear
Still craving your kiss, your kiss
I’m longing to linger till dawn dear
Just saying this
Sweet dreams till sunbeams find you
Sweet dreams that leave
All worries behind you
But in your dreams whatever they be
Dream a little dream of me

Featured Dancers:
Elena Dupen & Max Williker
Aubrey Stitt & Leanne Todd
Susan Hunter & Sparky Lindsey
Dance Coach: Drew Robinson-Woods

Dancing in the Street
Calling out around the world
Are you ready for a brand new beat?
Summer’s here and the time is right
For dancing in the street
They’re dancing in Chicago,
Way down in New Orleans
Up in New York City
All we need is music sweet music
There’ll be music everywhere
There’ll be swinging and swaying
And records playing
And dancing in the street
Oh, it doesn’t matter what you wear
Just as long as you are there
So come on everyone take a whirl
Everywhere around the world
They’ll be dancing.
They’re dancing in the street
This is an invitation across the nation
A chance for folks to meet
They’ll be laughter, singing
And music swinging
And dancing in the street
Philadelphia, PA,
Baltimore and D.C. now
Can’t forget the Motor City
Dancing in the street
We’re gonna dance, we’re gonna dance
Dance, dance, dance
Dancing in the street

ABOUT PLC
Formed in 1986, PLC welcomes all who want to sing with us. Not all of PLC members are from Portland, nor do all identify as lesbian, and when we sing together, we are a choir. PLC strives for musical excellence in a supportive setting. We offer opportunities to gain confidence in singing while improving musical skills. PLC rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6:45-9:00pm in NE Portland. If you are interested in joining or have questions, contact our membership coordinator at Membership@plchoir.org or visit our website at plchoir.org

WE’RE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE
THE PORTLAND LESBIAN CHOIR
CAN’T WAIT FOR PRIDE

June 18th-19th 2022
Tom McCall Waterfront Park

FOLLOW US!
PORTLANDLESBIANCHOIR
PLCHOIR
PLC presents
“Be a Light”
November 2022
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Follow us on Facebook or plchoir.org for details
Welcome Back PLC!

Your Voices Were Missed.

Gary Boyer

GARY BOYER
CERTIFIED MORTGAGE PLANNER
PORTLAND, OREGON