

eVoco  
Treble Ensemble

Still I Rise



**Saturday, June 14th @ 7pm**

St. Peter's by-the-Sea  
500 S Country Road, Bay Shore, NY

**Sunday, June 15th @ 5pm**

Cathedral of the Incarnation  
50 Cathedral Ave, Garden City, NY 11530

David Fryling, *conductor*  
Brianna Blake, *piano*

eVoco Voice Collective is supported by Long Island Grants for the Arts through funds provided by the office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and administered by The Huntington Arts Council.





eVoco  
VOICE COLLECTIVE

[www.evoco.vc](http://www.evoco.vc)



## ***Still I Rise***

*Please hold applause until the end of each section*

**She Who Makes Her Meaning Clear**.....Joan Szymko  
*Mary Beth Finger, Eva Sheldon, and Mel Tschinkel, small group*



**Richer for Her**.....Andrea Ramsey  
**While We Are on Earth**.....Libby Larsen



**I Rise: Women in Song**.....Reena Esmail

1. The Beauty of Their Dreams (Eleanor Roosevelt)
2. Phenomenal Woman (Maya Angelou)  
*Annie Rodriguez & Kyla Surajbali, soloists*
3. River Song (Arlene Geller)
4. Love is Anterior to Life (Emily Dickinson)
5. Still I Rise (Maya Angelou)



**Your One and Only Life**.....Susan Crowe, arr. Smith



**Bridge over Troubled Water**.....Paul Simon, arr. Kirby Shaw  
*Jessica Felber & Rachel Mathew, soloists*

*Treble Ensemble joined by our Invited High School Voices*

## **PROGRAM NOTES**

“This is your one and only life. What will you do?”

-Susan Crowe

“I rise.”

-Maya Angelou

Our program takes as its point of departure this brief—and very much imaginary—exchange between Ms. Crowe and Dr. Angelou. And we find no sparsity of the poet’s perspective here. In fact, it occurred to me while choosing the repertoire for this program that poetry may have been invented for the exact purpose of answering the imagined conversation above.

There are as many ways to respond, of course, as there are individuals on the planet; each individual’s context to some extent dictates their available choices. But, still, Ms. Crowe wants to know—how about you? Given the limited time and your unique appearance on this beautiful blue marble, how do you plan to spend your priceless gift?

-Dave Fryling

## **SHE WHO MAKES HER MEANING CLEAR**

Gamba Adisa!\*

When I dare to be powerful,  
to use my strength in the service of my vision  
then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid.

Gamba Adisa!\*

-Audre Lorde

*“When Dr. Catherine Roma, director of MUSE: Cincinnati’s Women’s Choir asked me to compose a new work to celebrate the choir’s 25th Anniversary celebration, I was both honored and delighted. Both Cathy and I have led ensembles dedicated to choral excellence, while featuring repertoire that promotes ‘peace through justice.’ For over thirty years Roma and her women’s choirs in Philadelphia and Cincinnati have broken ground in many areas; researching existing repertoire for women’s ensembles, creating new relevant literature by way of commissioning countless arrangements and original compositions, and by modeling authentic performances of music from the African American tradition. MUSE walks its talk-singing for over thirty community events each year, with a singing membership diverse in age, race and sexual orientation. In selecting a text to honor MUSE’s legacy, I turned to this quote spoken by writer/activist Audre Lorde, self-described as: ‘black feminist lesbian mother poet.’*

*While researching Lorde, I learned that she spent the end of her life on the Caribbean island of St. Croix and there, before her death, in an African naming ceremony she took the name ‘Gamba Adisa,’ which means: \*‘Warrior, She Who Makes Her Meaning Clear.’ The opening measures ‘call out’ to the strength and spirit of Audre Lorde / Gamba Adisa. The singer then draws on her own courage as she sings the text of Lorde’s quotation. Gamba Adisa then returns as a lively celebration of each singer’s own ‘warrior spirit.’”*

-Joan Szymko

## RICHER FOR HER

For the love of a tree,  
she went out on a limb.

For the love of the sea,  
she rocked the boat.

For the love of the earth,  
she dug deeper.

For the love of community,  
she mended fences.

For the love of the stars,  
she let her light shine.

For the love of spirit,  
she nurtured her soul.

For the love of a good time,  
she sowed seeds of happiness.

For the love of the Goddess,  
she drew down the moon.

*[For the love of nature,  
she made compost.]*

For the love of a good meal,  
she gave thanks.

For the love of family,  
she reconciled differences.

*[For the love of creativity,  
she entertained new possibilities.]*

For the love of her enemies,  
she suspended judgment.

For the love of herself,  
she acknowledged her own worth.

And the world was richer for her.

*-Charlotte Tall Mountain, "Love of the World"*

*Charlotte Tall Mountain (1941-2006) was a woman that had deep love of our planet earth and humanity. Her most widely circulated poem "For the Love of the World" was born of her kindred connection with the Indigenous spirituality. First published in 1998 by Syracuse Cultural Works as a poster and post card, this work also circulated in the Street Spirit newspaper with her other poems. Much of Charlotte's poetry centers on themes of the natural world, spirituality, and issues of social justice. Beyond her work as a poet, Charlotte was also a visual*

artist, showing her works in the San Francisco Bay area where she resided. Her vivid watercolor prints were also published in calendars by We Moon and Pomegranate Press. Described by friends as soft spoken, quiet, and humble, those who knew her well share that her spirit moved most powerfully through her creative paintings and writings.

-Andrea Ramsey

## **WHILE WE ARE ON EARTH**

You must believe with all your heart and soul  
that we cannot live for ourselves.

We live for others.

We live for all races and creeds and colors.

While we are on earth, we are all brothers.<sup>1</sup>

I slept and I dreamed that life is all joy.

I woke and I saw that life is all service.

I served and I saw that service is joy.<sup>2</sup>

While we are on earth, we are all brothers.<sup>1</sup>

If you are joyful, do not worry

Joy will shine in your eyes

Joy will shine in your conversation,

Joy will shine in your countenance.<sup>3</sup>

While we are on earth, we are all brothers.

There is a light in this world,

a healing spirit more powerful than darkness.

Suddenly, the spirit will emerge and hear a call  
and answer in extraordinary ways.<sup>3</sup>

While we are on earth, we are all brothers.<sup>1</sup>

You must believe with all your heart and soul

There is a light in this world

that we cannot live for ourselves.

more powerful than darkness.

We live for others.

Suddenly, the spirit will emerge and hear a call

We live for all races and creeds and colors.

While we are on earth, we are all brothers.<sup>1</sup>

-<sup>1</sup>Eleanor Roosevelt (attrib.), <sup>2</sup>Kahlil Gibran & <sup>3</sup>Mother Teresa

*Though Eleanor Roosevelt was indeed one of the most quoted (and quotable) minds of the twentieth century, it's interesting to note that the attributions to her of the quote in this piece as well as the quote in the first movement of the next work cannot be verified. In fact, we can know for sure that it was actually her husband, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who stated, "We are all*

brothers now, brothers in a new understanding" when making the case that post-war farmers and industrial workers each had an equal stake in working toward the well-being of the nation in his Memorial Day address at Gettysburg on May 30, 1934.

*The closest statement on record from Ms. Roosevelt matching the above is from an address she made that same year to the National Conference on Fundamental Problems in the Education of Negroes: "I think the day of selfishness is over; the day of really working together has come; and we must learn to work together, all of us, regardless of race or creed or color...we go ahead together or we go down together." As for "The Beauty of Their Dreams" quote, below, the closest match found is a July 4th, 1957 column in which, describing early Revolutionary Americans, she writes, "It was by living hard and courageous lives that these people tried to bring their dreams of liberty to reality." (The more epigrammatic quote set to music, below, seems to come from ad copy in the 1978 classified section of "The Surrey Leader" of Surrey, British Columbia, Canada for an "exciting business you run from your home to give you the income to make these dreams a reality").*

*-Dave Fryling*

## **I RISE: WOMEN IN SONG**

### **1. The Beauty of Their Dreams**

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. The purpose of life, after all, is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear.

*attrib. -Eleanor Roosevelt*

### **2. Phenomenal Woman**

I'm a woman  
Phenomenally,  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

It's in the reach of my arms,  
The span of my hips,  
The stride of my step,  
The curl of my lips.

It's the fire in my eyes,  
And the flash of my teeth,  
The swing in my waist,  
And the joy in my feet.

It's in the arch of my back,  
The sun of my smile,  
The ride of my breasts,  
The grace of my style.

It's in the click of my heels,  
The bend of my hair,  
the palm of my hand,  
The need for my care.

*-Maya Angelou (excerpted by the composer)*

### 3. River Song

She heard the song by the river  
And reached to capture every note  
Holding her treasure close to her heart

Her muse heard her river song  
And a crescendo filled  
The head, the heart, the soul  
Of everywoman

And they harmonized

They sang a song for the downtrodden  
And the forgotten  
Those cast off made whole again  
Those ordinary made extraordinary  
Through the magic of music

With her muse by her side, she flourished  
Her voice, uplifted, heard by every woman

Her sisters joined her  
Across the oceans and continents  
Singing with one voice, one song

*-Arlene Geller*

### 4. Love is Anterior to Life

Love — is anterior to Life —  
Posterior — to Death —  
Initial of Creation, and  
The Exponent of Breath —

*-Emily Dickinson*

### 5. Still I Rise

You may write me down in history  
With your bitter, twisted lies,  
You may tread me in the very dirt  
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Just like moons and like suns,  
With the certainty of tides,  
Just like hopes springing high,  
Still I'll rise.

You may shoot me with your words,  
You may cut me with your eyes,  
You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Out of the huts of history's shame  
I rise  
Up from a past that's rooted in pain



I rise  
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.  
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
I rise  
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear  
I rise  
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,  
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.  
I rise  
I rise  
I rise.

-Maya Angelou

*"The genre of women's choral music is very special to me. The first piece of music I ever wrote, at age 13, was for the choir at the all-girls middle school I attended in Los Angeles, long before I knew it was even possible to be a professional composer. Each of the movements of I Rise: Women in Song is inspired by the words of a female author who has shaped our world with her thoughts and actions. Some of the movements are sweet, subtle, and nostalgic. Others are fiery and bold. Some coalesce into their shape as they move along and others unravel towards their ends. Each movement is a reflection on a single facet of the multifaceted experience of being a woman in this world.*

*I Rise: Women in Song is not just my work – it is the product of so many incredible women and their creative spirit: the four authors whose words are the centerpiece of this work (Emily Dickinson, Eleanor Roosevelt, Maya Angelou and Arlene Geller), the wonderful Lehigh Women's Ensemble – Dolce, and the many other singers who are joining them for this performance, and of course, their incredible conductor, Sun Min Lee, whose vision and belief in this piece of music has inspired me at every step of the creative process."*

-Reena Esmail

## **YOUR ONE AND ONLY LIFE**

About a thousand years ago, when I was very young,  
My hair burned like the sea beneath an ever-rising sun;  
My blood ran thick with promise, I was tender to the bone;  
But now I'm Evangeline, made of stone.

This is your one and only life. What will you do?

Now the meteors of August, they fly all through my hair.  
The day will come when I will rise to find my eye less fair;  
And this body scorched by beauty and these hands I left unplayed-  
What was I waiting for, afraid?

This is your one and only life. What will you do?

You can dream, you can imagine, you can simply hope and pray,  
You can save yourself for glory, you can wait 'til judgement day;

...continued

You can hold out til you stand a breath away from heaven's gate;  
Your day of redemption will come – too late.

This is your one and only life. What will you do?

-Susan Crowe

*Pianist and arranger Stephen Smith grew up in rural Nova Scotia, where he sang and played the piano from an early age. After initial studies in his home province in both piano and organ, he attended the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England. About the Canadian singer-songwriter Susan Crowe, Smith writes:*

*"[Susan] brings an enviable wealth of talent to her song writing—an abundance of originality which reveals itself clearly in her solo recordings and performances. Over the course of her career, which has taken her from her home in Nova Scotia to points in Europe, the United States and all across Canada, Susan has been recognized for her artistry through several Juno award nominations and repeat invitations to perform at leading folk music venues. The critical acclaim which has followed from this work has established her as one of Canada's leading folk artists. The Georgia Straight has described Susan's work as offering 'a sense that the singer has tapped into the collective unconscious in a way that what she is singing about is not only true for her but true for all of us.' "*

-Stephen Smith

### **BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER**

I'll be your bridge o'er troubled water,  
When you're down, I will carry you  
Like a bridge o'er troubled water,  
I will lay me down.

When you're weary, feeling small,  
When tears are in your eyes, I will dry them all;  
I'm on your side. Oh, when times get rough  
And friends just can't be found,  
Like a bridge over troubled water  
I will lay me down

When you're down and out,  
When you're on the street,  
When evening falls so hard I will comfort you.  
I'll take your part.  
When darkness comes and pain is all around,  
Like a bridge over troubled water  
I will lay me down

I'll be your bridge o'er troubled water...

Sail on silver girl, sail on by.  
Your time has come to shine  
All your dreams are on their way.  
See how they shine!

If you need a friend I'm sailing right behind  
Like a bridge over troubled water  
I will ease your mind

I'll be your bridge o'er troubled water...

-Paul Simon

*"The experience of writing [Bridge over Troubled Water] was unique. I was in my late 20s and I wrote it in a night. The music and lyrics came completely naturally. It was like a gift. Because I hadn't experienced one with that intensity before I didn't think anything of it other than, 'That's unusually good for me.' It was better than I usually write. Even in terms of the chord structure, I was using chords that I didn't usually use, diminished chords and the length of the melody is 14 notes. That's kind of a long phrase."*

*"At the time I didn't think it was about a spiritual experience. It would have been something I recognized later but I didn't know it then. To write something that effortlessly and that quickly is a very unusual kind of inspiration. It's happened to me a few times in my writing career and 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' is one of the notable examples of that. It was definitely one of those experiences that separated itself from the rest of my writing."*

-Paul Simon in Goldmine Magazine, 2015



## **HIGH SCHOOL INVITATIONAL SINGERS**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our  
High School Guest Artists on *Bridge over Troubled Water*

Mosie Bradley - *Oyster Bay*  
Stella Fraser - *Locust Valley*  
Christina George - *Sewanhaka*  
Ace Gerace - *Seaford*  
Cora Gillespie - *Sachem*  
Mahaveen Iftikhar - *Sewanhaka*  
Athanasia (Sia) Kacharaba - *Bay Shore*  
Maya Karagiannakis - *Locust Valley*  
Aaizah Lakhani - *Herricks*  
Emeylee Lewis - *Hicksville*  
Yalisah Lozada - *Sewanhaka*  
Melanie Luis - *Westbury*  
Emely Manzano - *Westbury*

Erin McAndrew - *Seaford*  
Eleni Misetic - *Manhasset*  
Scarlett Modlin - *Locust Valley*  
Gianna Moreano - *Locust Valley*  
Mallory Pasquale - *Manhasset*  
Raven Preis - *Hewlett-Woodmere*  
Alexandra Rivas - *Locust Valley*  
Sophia Rupert - *Hicksville*  
Ava Sehn - *Seaford*  
Natalie Thelamy - *Valley Stream*  
Charlotte Thiele - *Middle Country*  
Summer Torres - *Valley Stream*

*Thank you for adding your voices to ours.  
We hope to see and hear you again in the near future!*

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



**eVoco\* Voice Collective** is an award winning collection of singers of the highest musical, technical, and expressive abilities whose shared mission is to invite listeners into the extraordinary experience of singing, together. We are passionate advocates for excellence in the choral & vocal art, presenting evocative concerts and recitals of the highest caliber, summoning the power of the human voice to remind us all of our shared human experiences. Our current projects include the Mixed Ensemble, the Treble Ensemble, Community Summer Sings, and our Young Artist Vocal Competition and Recital. In 2017, the eVoco Mixed Ensemble received the second place award in the national American Prize for Choral Performance–Community Chorus division.

eVoco firmly believes in the transformative and educational power of music, and we welcome everyone to observe our work together. All of our Mixed and Treble Ensemble rehearsals are open to the public. Teachers and students of music, especially, are encouraged to join us throughout the process. Our hope is that our weekly work together will not only prepare us for each concert series, but also—and just as importantly—will serve as a continual learning space for students, educators, and music enthusiasts alike.

*\*From the Latin evocare [ex- (“out”) vocare (“to call”): to lure, to summon; to evoke*

**eVoco  
Treble Ensemble**

***Soprano 1***

Jessica Felber  
Mary Beth Finger  
Andrea Galeno  
Grace Rowan  
Kayla Sorensen  
Kyla Surajbali  
Joslyn Thomas  
Leandra Wahlen

***Soprano 2***

Haley Califano  
Margo Cohen  
Hanna Cozzolino  
Rachel Goodman  
Anthea Jackson  
Grace Shin  
Tess Siegel

***Alto 1***

Dory Agazarian  
Isabella Bouklas  
Christine Fena  
Anna Izzo  
Karina Lee  
Rachel Mathew  
Jeanine McNulty  
Diana Minerva  
Annie Rodriguez  
Maria Rueda  
Amy Russo  
Rebekah Strohmeyer  
Donna Zarrabi

***Alto 2***

Terry Bendel  
Jennifer Corrado  
Hannah Marrero  
Leah Master-Huth  
Quinn McClure  
Antonia Nargentino  
Maria Pignataro Nielsen  
Joanna Rocco  
Eva Sheldon  
Kristina Strang  
Mel Tschinkel

***Piano***

Brianna Blake

**eVoco  
Chamber Orchestra**

***Violin 1***

Lisa Casal-Galietta

***Violin 2***

Jill Boardman

***Viola***

Kevonna Shuford

***Cello***

Andrew Albani

***Bass***

Jess Block

***Flute***

Kennedy Burgess

***Harp***

Karen Lindquist



For more than twenty-five years **Dr. David Fryling** has engaged audiences, singers, and educators as a professional conductor, teacher, adjudicator, and clinician. His many years of work with students and choral educators on Long Island was honored with an induction into the Long Island Music Hall of Fame as the 2014 “Educator of Note,” and his artistic leadership on the podium has been recognized with two 1st Place American Prizes in Conducting, one each in the community chorus and college & university categories.

An energetic and engaging conductor, clinician, and adjudicator of professional, community, and high school choirs, David’s recent invitations include various all-state

and regional honor choirs, master classes, workshops, and adjudications throughout New York and in Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Virginia.

Since 2001, David has been Director of Choral Activities at Hofstra University, where he conducts the select Hofstra Chorale and Hofstra Chamber Choir, teaches choral conducting, and supervises choral music education student teachers in the field. From 2007 to 2013, Dr. Fryling spent his summers as coordinator of the Vocal Artists program at the Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan, where he was conductor and music director of the World Youth Honors Choir and Festival Choir & Orchestra. He has since served as a guest artist on the conducting faculty of the New York State Summer School of the Arts (NYSSSA) School of Choral Studies, as well as the Sitka Fine Arts Camp in Sitka, AK. David is a proud past president of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Eastern Region, and currently serves as National President of the ACDA.



Pianist **Brianna Blake** is a music educator, conductor, and collaborative pianist. Originally from Nyack, NY, Brianna received both a B.S. in Music Education and an M.A. in Music Education with a concentration in choral conducting from Hofstra University. Ms. Blake is the High School Choral Director and Theater Music Director in the Locust Valley Central School District, as well as Adjunct Professor of Music at Hofstra University, where she conducts the University Chorus. Brianna originally joined eVoco as a singer, but is grateful to now be part of the dance at the piano bench.

*We'd love to hear your thoughts on today's concert.  
Scan the ❤️ QR code to share your feedback with us!*



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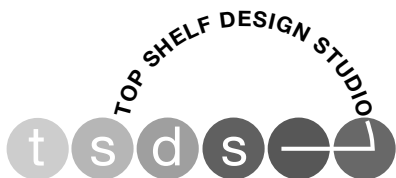
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Like to sing? Then you'll love eVoco's 2025 Summer Sings!**

Friendly, fun, and full of beautiful music, each night includes a light rehearsal on some eVoco faves, a break for snacks, finishing up with an informal sing-through/performance. Everyone is welcome, and all proceeds go toward eVoco community initiatives like the Young Artist Scholarship fund.

Add these dates to your calendar now!

Wednesday, July 16 @7pm & Wednesday, August 13 @7pm  
Suggested donation is \$10 at the door!

Join our mailing list at [www.evoco.vc](http://www.evoco.vc),  
or follow us on Instagram & Facebook for more details.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Top Shelf Design Studio and Bill Stefanowicz for their graphic design, to our friends who assisted at this concert by helping with tickets and ushering, and to the staff at St. Peter's by-the-Sea and the Cathedral of the Incarnation. A special thanks to the Hofstra University Department of Music and Dr. Francesca Cassio, Chair, for your continued sponsorship.

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