

EcoVoce's

Windsong

Winter 2013-2014

Africa and Beyond



PHOTO BY MARY ANNSUTHERLAND

Landscape, sky, birds, exotic animals, music, and the people who inhabit the amazing wild places of South Africa and Botswana inspired me during a trip there last winter. I didn't realize how much I had been impacted by this awesome experience until several months later when we began planning EcoVoce's new season.

EcoVoce is proudly creating *Africa and Beyond*, a concert experience that explores the beauty of southern Africa with engaging music and breathtaking visuals. The multimedia concert features Virginia's University of Mary Washington Chorus

directed by Dr. Jane Tavernier. This 38-voice choir will perform movements from **Adiemus: Songs of Sanctuary**, scored for women's voices, percussion, flute, and piano by Welsh composer Karl Jenkins. The musical style of this work draws heavily on classical and world music traditions with harmonies derived from African music, giving the pieces an upbeat, tribal-like rhythm and feel. This music will touch your heart and soul.

There are no lyrics in **Songs of Sanctuary**. Instead, the vocalists sing syllables and 'words' invented by composer Jenkins. "It was my intention that the vocal sound should be more akin to that heard in ethnic and world music," explains Jenkins.

EcoVoce performed **Another Way to Be: Songs for a Sustainable Earth** at the Essex Community College Campus in Baltimore County, Maryland, for Earth Day 2013. Pictured are pianist Thomas Hetrick, flutist Yvonne Kocur, and soprano Denise Freeland.

This approach captures the essence of southern Africa in a powerful musical and emotional expression that honors the region's beauty, wildness, and people.

Africa and Beyond concerts will premiere in the spring of 2014. There will be one concert at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and one concert in Washington, DC. Watch your email and postcard mailings for details.

Members of the University of Mary Washington (UMW) Chorus from Fredericksburg, Virginia, take a rehearsal break with director, Dr. Jane Tavernier (right front). The oldest choral group on campus, the UMW Chorus has performed with the Richmond Symphony Chorus. The *Africa and Beyond* concerts will be their first appearance with EcoVoce.



PHOTO BY BRONWYN STOKES

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EcoVoce has the best donors ever! Thank you for your generous financial gifts during the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Your contributions make a difference and we appreciate your continued support of EcoVoce's mission.

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PHOTO BY MARY ANN SUTHERLAND

Our Vision

The Africa and Beyond concert is part of our expansion to three ensembles — all committed to EcoVoce's vision of bringing musical messages of nature and ecology to diverse audiences.

Your donations during this time of growth and change will help EcoVoce ...

- Continue bringing a rich concert experience on themes of nature and ecology to a wide range of audiences
- Increase the size of our group and expand our repertoire to include new and more global music
- Commission new music, art, and poetry
- Expand our work with schools, colleges, and environmental organizations
- Create exciting new programs in collaboration with other artists, musicians, and performers
- Continue our "Partnerships with Parks" concerts



Let
**EcoVoce Inspire
Your Audience!**

For more information on booking
EcoVoce concerts, visit us on
the web at www.ecovoce.org.

BEHIND THE SCENES

EcoVoce to Release Anniversary CD

To honor our fifteen years, EcoVoce's artistic team has compiled the best of the live concert recordings made over those years to create an Anniversary Collection of Great Performances. It's quite a body of work — songs about nature's beauty, music that deepens our connection to the earth, different musical styles from folk to opera, and a variety of instrumentation including Native American flute — all giving musical voice to the world of nature which has no voice.

This Anniversary Collection CD will be available January 25, 2014. The variety of selections and the passion of our musical expression make this a memorable CD reflecting EcoVoce's artistic vision. It is a great way to celebrate the ensemble's journey, and to inspire our new directions. All audio recordings are from live concert performances recorded by Edward J. Kelly of Cedar Knoll Media.

EcoVoce's Anniversary Collection CD is available for a donation of \$60 or more.

The Hero Prize



Don Baur is EcoVoce's hero! So is ACT for Alexandria. During the recent Spring2ACTION fundraising event that EcoVoce participated in, ACT for Alexandria randomly selected

donors to receive an extra financial gift on their behalf, which was donated to the organization they supported. Mr. Baur's name was among those drawn, which meant that EcoVoce received an additional \$100 from ACT for Alexandria. EcoVoce received \$2,400 in contributions from the Spring2ACTION fundraising event. Thanks to ALL our heroes!

Priceless Nature

If we put a price tag on nature, would we value it more? When we talk about environmental conservation, most people would preserve nature because of its inherent properties, such as beauty and wonder, its habitat for the fish and wildlife we enjoy, the serenity that being in nature provides, and its capacity to restore our souls. Yet one of the most compelling reasons for preserving nature is often overlooked. Nature provides us with direct economic benefits!

Consider this: Wetlands filter our dirty water; forests sequester carbon, produce oxygen, cool the planet and provide species diversity; soils provide nutrients for and hold in place crops providing food for humans and animals alike; the atmosphere provides rain and snow to water crops and quench our thirst; forests, mountains, rivers, lakes and oceans provide recreational opportunities; the wind, sun, and tidal forces provide an unending source of energy; and oceans, rivers and lakes provide abundant supplies of seafood and transportation from continent to continent and deep within continents. What is the price for these superb natural operating systems on our planet?

People are quick to overlook the unique benefits provided by nature, often destroying the long-term, economically beneficial functions of natural systems for short-term financial gain. Rainforest depredations are especially reckless, given the huge economic benefits rainforests provide. We are plucking the golden goose, feather by feather, to hoard even fewer golden eggs than she would provide if cared for properly.

Slowly, things are changing as modern budget realities force hard choices. Nature's economic benefits are being recognized and more wisely used. For example, New York City purchased numerous farms and adjacent wild lands in the Adirondacks, the source of the city's municipal water supply. By preserving these lands, the city obtains fresh water that does not need extensive treatment, saving billions of dollars in the construction of treatment facilities. Maybe the "eco" in EcoVoce could also stand for economics?

Paul Smyth, EcoVoce Board Member



Support the Work of EcoVoce

There are several ways to make a tax-deductible donation to EcoVoce:

1. **Credit Card Online** – To make a secure donation online, visit www.ecovoce.org and click the "Donate" button. This will take you to our secure Razoo page, where you can make your donation.
2. **Check by Mail** – Make your check payable to EcoVoce and mail to us using the enclosed reply card and addressed envelope.
3. **Matching Funds** — Make your dollars go further with matching funds from your employer.



EcoVoce

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Support EcoVoce Celebrating 15 Years!

Dear EcoVoce Friends,

During this season of reflection, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunities that have been part of the EcoVoce experience during the past 15 years. EcoVoce's journey has led us to create distinctive and artistic concerts on the powerful theme of nature. And it has been so much fun!

We've shared our musical message from Washington, DC as far away as Chautauqua Institution in New York and overseas in Assisi, Italy. We've worked with amazing colleagues including Ron Warren, Thomas Reilly, Narciso Solero, Michael Crabill, Thomas Hetrick, Susan Hayes, Amy Thomas, Yvonne Kocur, Michael Stepniak, and Stephanie Knutsen. We've received the generous gifts of composers who wrote music for us including Jane Tavernier, Jeff Workman, and Winifred Hyson. Then there are composers whose music is so relevant — Lori Laitman, Jamie K. Sims, Aaron Blumenfeld, and Andrea Clearfield — that we programmed their works, too.



"It takes a village" to make something like EcoVoce possible. We could not have come this far without your support and belief in our mission. Your financial gifts empower EcoVoce to help audiences everywhere reconnect with and better understand our natural world. Thank you for all you do for EcoVoce!

Best wishes,

Denise Freeland

Denise Freeland
Founder and Artistic Director



PHOTO BY LYNDEY MARRIS

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