

A Newsletter of Music, Nature, and People

EcoVoce's

Windsong

15th Anniversary Issue 2013

15

YEARS!

"Thank you for making a local impact on environmental education and conservation."

— Audubon Naturalist Society, DC Region Headquarters

90

CONCERTS!

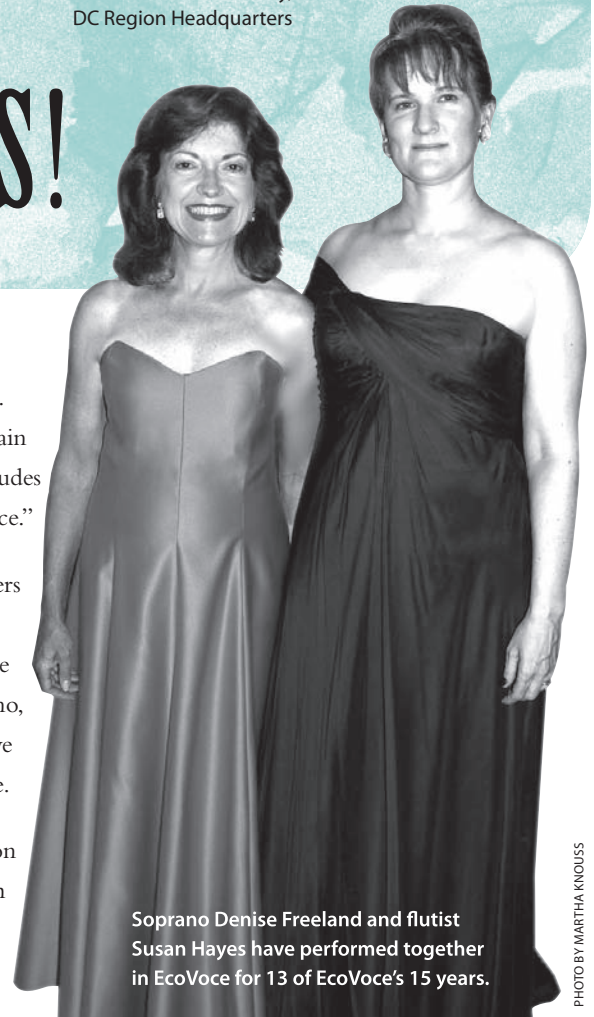


PHOTO BY MARTHA KNOUSS

Soprano Denise Freeland and flutist Susan Hayes have performed together in EcoVoce for 13 of EcoVoce's 15 years.

CELEBRATE!

EcoVoce was born 15 years ago with a "Splendors of Nature" concert performed at The George Washington University in Washington, DC. Ninety concerts later, our passion for the planet has never wavered and our goals remain unchanged: to create a concert experience that makes a difference, to inspire new attitudes about the natural world, and to "give musical voice to that in nature which has no voice."

NEW ENSEMBLES!

We are expanding — adding more singers to our ensemble, broadening our repertoire to include artistically rich vocal pieces for more voices, and commissioning new vocal and instrumental works. We will have three programming strands — an instrumental ensemble, the current EcoVoce trio of soprano, flute, and piano, plus a new vocal ensemble with more voices. With three ensembles, we can perform in more venues to reach even more audiences with our powerful message.

OUR DONORS!

Your generosity and commitment to our mission over the years has made all this possible. We are deeply grateful for your support. Watch your mail and email for invitations to our Gala Concerts in the fall — celebrating EcoVoce's 15 years — and premiering our new ensembles.

We're in Baltimore!

As this newsletter goes to press, EcoVoce is performing the Maryland premiere of *Another Way to Be* for soprano, flute, piano — a commissioned work by Winifred Hyson on poetry by Ursula K. Le Guin, and Michael Horwood's *Birds for Piccolo and Piano* with visual images.

Performances are for The Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC):

- April 17, Catonsville Campus
- April 19, Essex Campus

The students and faculty of CCBC have read Colin Beavan's "No Impact Man." EcoVoce's

concerts are an artistic response to the book, taking the audience beyond the science to engage hearts and minds in a way that may inspire changed behaviors and mindfulness of environmental conservation.

EcoVoce

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Our 15th Anniversary Vision

This fall, EcoVoce will expand to three performing 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:

- Bring a rich concert experience on themes of nature and ecology to a wider 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.

*“EcoVoce offers a wonderfully inventive program!
 The creative commentary adds a very meaningful touch.
 Truly enjoyable!”* — Tuesday Concert Series, The Church of the Epiphany, Washington, DC

A Taste *of Italy*

A Reception Celebrating YOU!



PHOTO BY MARTHA KNOUSS

Last June, EcoVoce prepared a special reception to honor you — dedicated donors, volunteers, and special friends. The evening was generously hosted by Arthur Peabody and Lucy Thomson (front row left to right) at their lovely home in Alexandria. EcoVoce performers Denise Freeland, Susan Hayes, and Gary Fitzgerald (not pictured) provided musical entertainment. Special guests (back row left to right) Tony Tighe, National Endowment for the Arts, and Jim Deutsch, Smithsonian Arts in Conservation Education Web Site, were guest speakers sharing the news about the Smithsonian's web site and why EcoVoce is being included for this national recognition.



The Smithsonian Arts in Conservation Education web site shares model projects of arts groups from around the country that are providing high quality conservation education through their art. Read about arts in conservation education at www.folklife.si.edu/ace and at the bottom click "case studies" to read about EcoVoce and the other arts groups.

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.



BEHIND THE SCENES

Artwork Celebrates EcoVoce's 15th Anniversary

EcoVoce has commissioned an original watercolor painting from Martha Knouss Watercolours for audiences and donors throughout EcoVoce's 15th anniversary year. Ms. Knouss was selected because of the artistic beauty with which she expresses aspects of nature. EcoVoce's music is often inspired by birds and, as human beings, we are moved by bird song. The yellow warbler was chosen because of its exuberant song.

"Inspiration to paint comes in many ways; but for me, the natural world and its visual delights get my juices flowing: The afternoon light filtering through trees. The delicacy of apple blossoms. The brilliance of a bird's plumage. All these were present when I painted the yellow warbler bookmark for EcoVoce. Capturing those moments is my passion."

— Martha Knouss, Artist

You can view other watercolors by Martha Knouss at www.marthaknousswatercolours.com.

Make your donation to EcoVoce and you will receive this custom watercolor bookmark painted by Martha Knouss.



EcoVoce in the Community

EcoVoce is proud to announce that Alexandria's Douglas McArthur Elementary School had the most students participating in EcoVoce's Earth Day student activity than any other area school. In recognition of the students' knowledge about caring for our planet, EcoVoce presented the winning school with a variety of books on the environment for its library.



EcoVoce sponsored an activity table at Alexandria's Earth Day Festival asking students to express what they notice in their backyards and school yards. The children created an abundance of drawings, some of which we share with you here.



The "Citizen Scientists" book is one of five books selected by EcoVoce Board Member Bonnie Thompson to inspire children's curiosity about the natural world in their own backyards or schoolyards.



With a Voice of Singing...



Please join EcoVoce in welcoming our newest board member, Karen Hill, a former banker who has a musical theatre and choral singing background, including seven years with Washington's Paul Hill Chorale. Over the past ten years, Karen has also worked in

acquisitions for twelve school fundraising auctions in Alexandria and Washington DC, and will Co-Chair the 2013 Christmas Gala for Gonzaga College High School. Karen currently sings at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Old Town. Her passion for music and expertise in fundraising is a great fit for EcoVoce!

Stage Manager Extraordinaire

EcoVoce wishes to acknowledge the leadership of stage manager Mary Ann Sutherland who has joined EcoVoce's Board of Directors. She will be helping to guide EcoVoce's expansion. Mary Ann continues to serve as EcoVoce's stage manager which includes operating the video component of the major work, *Birds for Piccolo and Piano*. Thank you, Mary Ann, for your commitment to EcoVoce!

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Support EcoVoce Celebrating 15 Years!

Dear EcoVoce Friends,

I am writing this reflection from the Kalahari Desert of South Africa. This is an extremely harsh yet magical place that reminds me how precious the gifts of nature are. Our human spirits need wild places like this to experience the joy of a magnificent moonrise, the awe of being in the presence of leopards and lions, and the botanical beauties of nature offering up new surprises everyday.

Living in wild South Africa inspires me in many ways, but reaffirms why I continue to sing with and create concert programs for EcoVoce: It is through the singing word that I can hope to touch hearts, change attitudes about caring for the natural world we cherish, and give voice to those wonders in nature that have no voice. This is my calling. This is EcoVoce's calling.

We are on an exciting journey of expansion during our 2013 celebratory year. And we invite you to join us as we present our new programs. Our music will be more global, reflecting the expressions of other cultures on our planet, and our three ensembles will reach even more people here and abroad.



We could not have come this far without your support. Your financial gifts empower EcoVoce to help audiences everywhere reconnect with and better understand our natural world.

Best wishes,

Denise Freeland

Denise Freeland
Founder and Artistic Director



PHOTO BY KENDRA SMYTH

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