

EcoVoce's INDSONG

A Newsletter of Music, Nature, and People

2011 Annual Newsletter



Soprano and founding member of EcoVoce Denise Freeland, left, with flutist Susan Hayes, and pianist Narciso Solero

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EcoVoce is a 501(c)3 organization.

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EcoVoce is Featured on New Smithsonian Web Site

The Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage has launched a web site to showcase visual and performing artists from across the country who draw on nature for inspiration and seek to educate the public about environmental conservation. We are thrilled to announce that EcoVoce has been chosen as one of the ten artists and groups on the site!

Smithsonian curator Jim Deutsch says interest in exploring conservation education through the arts grew with the 100th Anniversary of the US Forest Service which was celebrated during the 2005 Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Performing and visual artists — from totem pole carvers and poets to musicians and dancers — presented creative expressions inspired by our country's magnificent national forests. This cultural expression gave rise to the idea of a web site as an ongoing way to show how the arts can help inform others about the natural world we cherish but often destroy.

So how did EcoVoce get noticed by the Smithsonian? An audience member at an EcoVoce concert, "On the Wing: A Celebration of Birds," was intrigued with EcoVoce's innovation and the concept of raising ecological awareness through music. That person was Tony Tighe, coordinator of Federal Partnerships for the National Endowment for the Arts. "I was impressed with the group's professionalism and their music selections," says Tighe. "I was equally impressed with its educational activities in schools and its work with local and regional parks." Tighe recommended EcoVoce for the Smithsonian web site.

EcoVoce helps broaden audiences' views of nature through the music it performs, taking listeners on a diverse musical journey using humor and compassion. EcoVoce's music may go to the wetlands with Irving Fine's "The Frog and the Snake," to the woodlands with "Sounds of the Forest" by Sofia Gubaidulina, or to peaceful reflections of wild things in Aaron Blumenfeld's "Haiku Miniatures for Soprano and Piano" performed with multimedia.

The concert journey may touch on climate change as expressed in an original work composed for EcoVoce called "Icebergs" — a moving song enhanced by the use of a singing bowl. Or express wonder through a folksong inspired by the Native American Chief Joseph. Or offer practical advice with the "Recycle, Replant, Reuse" aria adapted from a well-known opera.

According to Deutsch, "The new Smithsonian Arts in Conservation Education web site shares model projects of groups that are providing high quality conservation education through their art." The artist takes the audience beyond the science to engage hearts and minds in a way that may inspire changed behaviors and mindfulness of environmental conservation. Read about arts in conservation education at www.folklife.si.edu/ace and at the bottom click "explore case studies" to read about the selected arts groups.

Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

ARTS IN CONSERVATION EDUCATION

EcoVoce

EcoVoce, an ensemble from Northern Virginia, creates educational concert programs by combining their enthusiasm for music and nature. EcoVoce's name comes from the words ecology and voice meaning voice in Italian. The group consists of three members: Denise Freeland, soprano and founder of EcoVoce; Susan Hayes, flutist and baritone saxophone; and Narciso Solero, pianist. EcoVoce is closely affiliated with nature teacher Denise Freeland, who encourages larger discussions and new methods on conservation. The ensemble often incorporates multimedia, or other arts components, to enhance the "artistic" experience of a concert program. EcoVoce's tenth anniversary theme (in 2008) was "Another Way to Be," which inspired the public to look at the natural world in another way. EcoVoce not only produces programs to perform in classrooms, but has also performed in a wide variety of settings including nature centers, concert halls, and outdoor amphitheatres. With its commitment to conservation education, EcoVoce is recognized both nationally and internationally for its inspirational and environmentally educational music.

For more information please visit www.ecovoce.org



EcoVoce

917 Crestwood Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302

Telephone
703-683-0322

Visit us at www.ecovoce.org

Email
eco.voce@verizon.net

2010-2011 DONOR HONOR ROLL

We had a record season, thanks to YOU, our generous donors who gave during the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Your contributions helped us reach our goals and touch more people than ever before! Thank you for your on-going, continued support of EcoVoce's mission.

Individual Donors

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NEW THIS SEASON!

You can make your donation by credit card online. Visit our web site www.ecovoce.org and click the "Donate" button. It will take you directly to our secure RAZOO page for making your donation.

Of course, you may still contribute using the enclosed reply card and envelope.

All contributions are tax-deductible. EcoVoce is a 501(c)3 organization.

Who Is the EcoVoce Ensemble?

EcoVoce is a trio of musicians with a passion for music and ecology. The Ensemble is acclaimed at home and internationally for its innovative vocal concerts combining the theme of nature with music, woven together with creative commentary about the environment. Audiences of all ages rediscover the wonders of nature through EcoVoce's inspiring musical performances.

EcoVoce can customize a concert for your next special event or conference, or perform an outreach program for schools that teaches ecology through music!

Visit us on the web at www.ecovoce.org.

Top to bottom: soprano Denise Freeland, pianist Narciso Solero, and flutist Susan Hayes.



EcoVoce Receives Grant



From left to right: Alexandria Arts Commissioner Pat Miller, EcoVoce Board Member Pam Cornelio, Alexandria Vice Mayor Kerry Donley, EcoVoce Board Member Paul Smyth, and Alexandria Councilman Frank Fannon pose for photos after awarding EcoVoce an Alexandria Commission for the Arts Grant for 2011 - 2012.

Partnerships with Parks Highlights Huntley Meadows

This season, EcoVoce expanded its partnerships with parks initiative to Huntley Meadows Regional Park in Alexandria, Virginia with a music and multimedia concert event, *Inspired by Nature*. Huntley Meadows, a unique site featuring a freshwater wetland, is one of the rarest habitats left in Fairfax County. Performing in the Visitor Center auditorium, EcoVoce created an opportunity for the audience to

experience music about nature that

also included sound effects of birds and stunning visual images of nature, all surrounded by an exhibition of photography by Marilyn Aber on

Monarch butterflies that hung on the walls of the auditorium.

EcoVoce seeks to create artistic presentations in settings like Huntley Meadows to inspire a deeper understanding of our natural world.

"EcoVoce's concert was food for my soul — beautiful, funny, and reflective."

— audience member

Behind the Scenes

EcoVoce Welcomes New Stage Manager

A chance to bring together my love of music, theater, and nature? How could I not say yes when Denise suggested a role for me as EcoVoce's stage manager? I look forward to bringing my directing and behind-the-scene skills to support EcoVoce's performances and to becoming, with the group, a "musical voice for ecology." About my background: I have performed as a singer — a mezzo — in recital and as a member of the choir at Immanuel Church on the Hill; taken workshops in opera directing and performance; and directed a number of operas and musical offerings both at Immanuel and Northern Virginia Community College. My "background" in ecology and nature is like that of so many of us — a delight in the natural world and a commitment to doing all we can to preserve it.

— Mary Ann Sutherland



Mary Ann Sutherland hiking in the Swiss Alps.

Making a Difference in 2012



Children and the Arts

In the spring of 2012 EcoVoce will perform a concert program to celebrate children and the arts as part of a statewide collaboration of performing artists to present performances by, for, or about children and the impact of the arts on their lives.



Alexandria City Public Schools Arts Partner

To improve academic achievement of students in Alexandria, Virginia, the school board recently created an innovative Center for the Arts to address deficiencies by incorporating the use of arts disciplines as an effective, fun way to broaden a student's understanding of a subject area. EcoVoce will be an "arts partner" during this inaugural season, sharing our music to help students in science and ecology.

Volunteer Extraordinaire!

EcoVoce wishes to acknowledge the leadership of Betsy Faga, who singlehandedly managed the assembly and mailing of EcoVoce's important mid-year appeal. A round of applause to Betsy — we couldn't have done it without her!

EcoVoce is looking to expand its roster of volunteers. For more information, contact Denise Freeland at 703-683-0322 or eco.voce@verizon.net.

And the Winning School is William Ramsay Elementary!

EcoVoce is proud to announce that Alexandria's William Ramsay Elementary School had the most students participating in EcoVoce's Earth Day 2011 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 trees and gardening for its library. As an added bonus, EcoVoce will perform its innovative "Celebrate Nature" concert program at the school in the spring of 2012.



EcoVoce

917 Crestwood Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302

Support EcoVoce A Musical Voice for Ecology

Dear EcoVoce Friends,

You deserve a standing ovation! Your financial gifts empower EcoVoce, enabling us to help concert audiences better understand their impact on our precious Earth and to inspire an ethic of conservation. We shared our music at many venues this year, thanks to you!

More great news! The Smithsonian Institution has recognized our meaningful work. Its new web site (see article on first page) features EcoVoce and nine other artists and arts groups from across the country, whose programs or concerts help inform the public about the natural world we cherish but often destroy. **We are truly unique in what we do!**

EcoVoce invites you to continue with us on our musical journey to help children, families, music-lovers, and the general public make a difference in preserving our environment. Your financial gift this season will help expand our reach to even more lives.

Highlights for spring/summer 2012 include:

- “Minds Wide Open” concert as part of a statewide celebration of children and the arts
- “Arts Partner” outreach concert for Alexandria City Public Schools
- “Partnerships with Parks” concert expanded to the National Parks

Our programs feature music woven together with poetry, art, and visuals offering a unique and uplifting concert experience that touches hearts and transforms lives.

Please consider contributing as much as you can during this season of giving to support EcoVoce’s work of inspiring and educating audiences to value and protect the gifts of nature.

We appreciate your dedication to and support of our mission. You are an amazing group of people!

Best wishes,

Denise Freeland

Denise Freeland
Founder and Artistic Director

All donations are tax deductible.

You may make a secure donation online with Razoo by going to EcoVoce’s web site, www.ecovoce.org and click on the “Donate” button.

If donating by check, please make your check payable to EcoVoce and send it to EcoVoce at 917 Crestwood Dr. Alexandria, VA 22302.

