

What's Inside

- Pg 1 Holiday Market
- Pg 3 Fall Retreat
- Pg 4 Spotlight on Volunteers
- Pg 6 *Soromundi the Musical*
- Pg 7 Upcoming Events

Our Mission

Soromundi comes together in song to create a visible expression of Lesbian pride. We strive for musical excellence and embrace our commonalities and differences. Through the power of music and inclusion we effect positive change in our community.

Our Membership Statement

Chorus membership is open to anyone over the age of 18, who identifies as a woman. We welcome members of all orientations, races, ethnicities, abilities, economic statuses, and religions. We embrace a broad definition for self-identified women, which includes lesbian, straight, bisexual, cisgender, individuals with non-binary gender expressions, and gender expansive individuals who find home within women's spaces. This can include gender non-confirming, a-gender, two-spirit, butch, femme, and many other identities. We intend this membership definition to be as inclusive as possible while honoring and reaffirming our history and identity as Eugene Lesbian Chorus.

Holiday Market

Eugene's Holiday Market opened its 56th season on November 22nd. It stands out as the largest maker-made market in the nation. The market is unique as it includes a diverse selection of crafter and artist booths, food vendors, and two stages featuring live music performances.

On Sunday, Dec. 7, at 10:30AM, Soromundi performed on the Holiday Market Stage, the largest of the two stages. Soromundi's 100-plus chorus members filled it to the max! The performance started with "Talkin' 'Bout a Revolution" written by Tracy Chapman, setting the tone for the entire show. The theme of the performance centered on community, inclusion, and love – all things that Soromundi embodies. This was followed by "Everybody Hurts" by R.E.M., "Hang on Little Tomato" by Pink Martini, and a mash-up of "When I Saw Your Face" and "Just A Dream" from Pitch Perfect. Then came "Singing for Our Lives," an anthem written in 1978 by Holly Near. "We Shall Be Free" by Garth Brooks was especially meaningful to the group, as some members had performed it with



Music can Change the world...

the artist himself some years ago. "And So It Goes" was next, written by Joel. While "Stand by Me" by Ben E. King is familiar to most people, this arrangement took some by surprise with its rap sections. The performance ended with "Uprising of Love" written by Melissa Etheridge. The whole chorus seemed to light up and appeared to be starting their own uprising while most of the audience was on their feet and singing along. One audience member, Richard Thomas, notes this as his personal favorite, saying he would be adding it to his playlist. He added, "The concert makes me so excited for the musical in May. The whole performance was so uplifting and now I can't wait to see what comes next."

This was the first public performance for the new members of the chorus. When asked to comment on their experience, their responses were as follows: "It was so much fun," "I was so nervous but was ok after the first song," "I couldn't believe how the audience loved us," and "It felt so good to sing with everyone," and "It was such a great experience."

Soromundi provided its own risers for this performance. A special 'shout-out' goes to those who volunteered to move the risers, set them up, take them down, and load back into the trailer. Those who volunteered are Becky Hope (Concert Chair), Anne Donahue, Brook Hall, Dawn DeWolf, Jane Larrington, Lori Hilterbrand, Samara Williams, Wenmi Klobah, and Cathy Thomas. A special "thank you" also goes to Bert Wong who worked with sound production and Kay Christopher who drove the truck and trailer to and from the market.

Reporters Dawn DeMars & Jayde Hansen



Fall Retreat

All chorus members gathered on Saturday, Nov. 8th for the Fall Retreat. The morning started with a little social time and breakfast. Everyone brought food to share. It was a great way to start the full day of rehearsals and activities.

After some warm-up vocals, rehearsals started with hard work on difficult sections of the season's repertoire. The morning schedule was structured to include dedicated periods for each section to meet independently. This provided time for members of each section to get to know each other.

After lunch, practice began with a run through of most of the season's music. Halfway through the

song list, the DEIB committee (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging) broke the members into small groups to share an "aha moment" or a time when each had a sudden realization of something in their lives. Not to anyone's surprise, these ranged from the realization that their male dog was really a female to some more serious events that changed lives.

The day concluded with work on the last of the song list. Many members commented about the amount of work that was done and how fast the time flew. Some veteran members thought it might have been the most productive retreat they could remember.



Spotlight on Volunteers

Meet Soromundi's 2025-26 Board of Directors



Left to Right: Carrie, Ruth, Dawn, Ann, Kim, Chantelle, Cathy & Becky.
Missing from photo: Rebecca

Ann Huber, President

After seeing Soromundi's tribute to Broadway eight years ago, Ann joined the chorus the following September. Before she was president, Ann served as the vice president and director of development. A former educator with a background in theater and English, Ann and her wife moved to Eugene from Phoenix, Arizona. She considers herself incredibly fortunate to have found the Soromundi community.

Carrie Bartlett, Secretary

Carrie moved to Eugene in 2022. Carrie has worked as an Occupational Therapist for 32 years, and she currently supports students in numerous schools within the 4J School District. She

was encouraged to join Soromundi to meet new people. During her first year in chorus, she was asked to introduce a song composed by a songwriter she knew, and by the end of the year, she was asked to be section leader. For the 24-25 season, she joined the board as secretary. When she's not working or singing, she enjoys weightlifting, gardening, camping, and home improvement.

Rebecca Swing, Treasurer

A native Oregonian, Rebecca found Soromundi in 2004 during a visit to the Saturday Market. She heard them performing and was inspired to join. She would serve six years as the treasurer, capitalizing on her financial acumen as a realtor and former school administrator. After going on hiatus right before the pandemic, Rebecca rejoined the chorus and was asked to serve as treasurer once again. She enjoys training her Brittany spaniels, gardening, reading, and knitting.

Dawn DeMars, Director of Marketing

Even though Dawn lived out of state most of her adult life, she often visited Soromundi's rehearsals, concerts, and other events with family who were members, and joined the chorus when she moved back to Oregon five years ago. As a consultant in the manufacturing and retailing of pianos and other musical instruments, Dawn brings her experience as a former member of many non-profit Board of Directors and expertise in Marketing.

Ruth Danielson, Technology

A transplant to Oregon from Utah, Ruth was invited to join in 2010 but didn't make it until 2012 and hasn't looked back since! She has been involved with chorus and theatre for most of her life. She served as section leader for six years, and once her children were grown (one of whom sings with Soromundi), she joined the board. She's served as the Member-at-Large, secretary, and now is the first Director of Technology. It was a natural fit since she's been immersed in the digital needs of the chorus for several years. She's also the "Chorus Mom," providing cough drops and tissues, and lending support wherever needed.

Rebekah Hope, Director of Concerts

Becky comes from a family of performers and started performing at a very young age. She grew up in Springfield, and after years of performing in local theatre productions she found she really missed singing in groups. So, in 2018 she happily joined Soromundi. Becky is the proud mom of three delightful hooligans, performs and directs for local community and children's theatres, and can often be found vending at local craters markets.

Kim Dunn, Director of Activities and Events

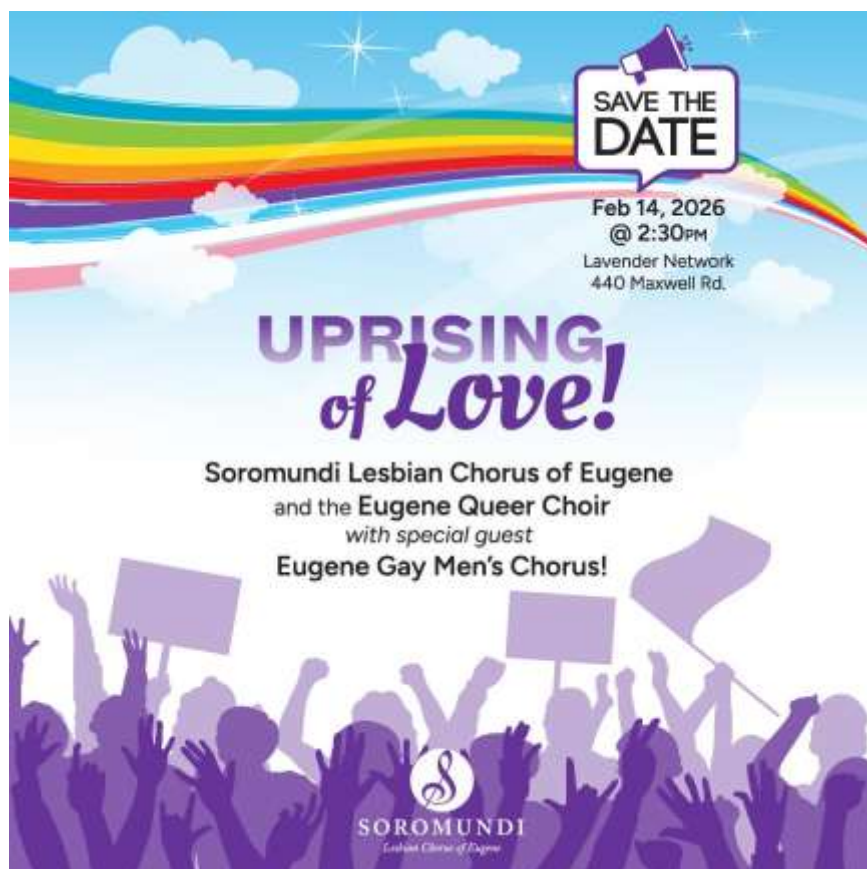
Kim moved to Eugene from Portland in 2016, leaving behind a beloved lesbian community. She found Soromundi, and after attending one rehearsal, she joined in 2017 and never looked back. The next year she joined the board as the chair of retreats and rehearsals, and through the strong community network she's established in Eugene, she's moving Soromundi toward greater community involvement. Some of her favorite Mundi memories include being part of a song and video honoring Ruth Bader Ginsburg and being asked to create a jingle for one of our local eateries. Her thirteen-year-old daughter and partner share her love of the arts, and her professional life is in hospice with extensive experience in dementia and senior living.

Cathy Thomas, Director of Organizational Development

Cathy came to Eugene in 1978 for grad school, and she worked as a swim and water polo coach. Sadly, she was unable to be an out lesbian. After retiring as a coach, she became a research data analyst with Lane Community College. She also found Soromundi through friends and was able to share her true self every day. Becoming a part of the Mundi community is a highlight of her life, and her analytical skills earned her a spot on the board—three times. She currently is focused on finalizing succession plans for all positions in the Soromundi organization. She enjoys camping with her wife, time with her granddaughters, attending Oregon women's sports, and working with her Portuguese water dog, Zoey, who is a Certified Therapy Dog.

Chantelle Baldwin, Member at Large

Dr. Chantelle Baldwin is a Naturopathic Doctor with decades of experience. She has strong ties to the community and is a member of the Eugene Kiwanis organization. As the Member-at-Large, Chantelle is tasked with assisting different directors on key projects and initiatives. Currently, she is involved with coordinating activities and events, and she will become the Assistant Song Selection Coordinator, helping to plan one of Soromundi's most important yearly events—Song Selection.



Soromundi the Musical

Soromundi the Musical will be performed at the Hult Center this coming May and rehearsals are getting exciting! The musical tells the story of Soromundi from its inception through the 35th Anniversary Celebration this past May, and the chorus is already beginning to rehearse some of the songs. Director Lisa Hellemn gathered a group of individuals with experience in “the Soromundi story,” as well as those with musical theater experience for a reading of the entire musical, dialogue and music. This is what some had to say:

“Lisa gathered some of us veterans in her music room to sing through the songs so she could hear how her arrangements would sound as they came to life. It was tons of fun and so true to our story that at one point I was moved to tears. And I don’t cry much.” Karm Hagedorn

“It was fascinating and funny and very moving”.
Judy Smith

“I’m so excited to share our story as a musical!”
Becky Hope



SAVE THE DATE!

Soromundi *the Musical!*

*From radical and rowdy startup to proud
cornerstone of the larger Eugene queer
society—we're singing our story!*

**SATURDAY
MAY 16, 2026
7:30 PM**

Hult Center for the Performing Arts
Soreng Theater



BOUND BY BLOOD
DONATE AS ONE
schedule.bloodworksnw.org



Cathie / Soromundi Virtual Drive
 December 12, 2025 – January 11, 2026

We will be teaming up with Bloodworks Northwest to help support patients throughout the Pacific Northwest. We invite you to make a life-saving difference by donating blood at a nearby Bloodworks NW donor center or community blood drive. It takes 1000 donors each day in order to maintain a safe & stable blood inventory. That's why your participation is so important. Let's come together as a community and roll up our sleeves to ensure blood is available when it's needed most.

GOAL: 36 Donors

Just follow these 3 simple steps:

- 1. Schedule your donation:**
 Call 800-388-7888 or scan the QR code to book your one-hour appointment today!
 - A photo ID is required for all donors.
 - Same-day appointments often available at most locations.
- 2. Check in at your appointment:**
 Let the staff know you're donating on behalf of Cathie / Soromundi, or mention the code "MN20" at check-in.
- 3. Donate. Save a life. Enjoy a cookie!**




800-398-7888 | BloodworksNW.org

**Support a
 Soromundi sponsor!**



Where Soromundi pooches go to play!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Concert. Saturday, February 14th, 2:30pm at the Lavendar Network
 440 Maxwell Rd, Eugene
Soromundi the Musical, Sunday, May 3rd, 2pm at the Florence Events Center
Soromundi the Musical, Saturday, May 16th, 7pm at the Hult Center.

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