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## 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-conforming, 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 Soromundi Lesbian Chorus of Eugene.

## EVERYONE IS GAY CONCERT

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Eugene Gay Men's Chorus (EGMC) and Soromundi shared the stage at the John G. Shedd Institute for the Arts. They created a very special afternoon of music, tears, and laughter.

Under the direction of Evan Miles, EGMC kicked off Act 1 with a lovely performance of "In Meeting, We Are Blessed" by Troy D. Robertson. This was followed by an older tune, "Sweet Dreams (are made of this)" by David Stewart and Annie Lennox, which brought back fond memories for many. Next, EGMC's a cappella subgroup, Intersections, stepped forward to sing "Time" by Jennifer Lucy Cook. "Pirate Song" by Tim Y Jones had people laughing and was reported to be a crowd favorite. Maddux's arrangement of "The People in Your Neighborhood" from *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* brought smiles to all. EGMC concluded their set with "Earth Song" by Frank Tichelli, "The Village" by Andrew Pearson, et al., "Please Stay" by Jake Runestad, and "Banned Together" by Pax Ressler. Their final songs highlighted the importance of destigmatizing conversations around mental illness and conveyed a strong message of solidarity within queer and trans communities.



**EGMC & SOROMUNDI SHARE THE STAGE**

After intermission, Soromundi took the stage while singing Jessie J's 2010s hit "Price Tag." The tune had everyone swaying, and some were singing and rapping along. Led by musical director Lisa Hellemn, the chorus followed with "Gold" by Fergus O'Farrell, "Vichten" (a traditional Acadian song), and "City Hall" by Vienna Teng. "Adiemus" from *Songs of Sanctuary*, featured a small group of singers, special percussion, and recorder. They finished their set with "A Beautiful Noise," made popular by Alicia Keys, "Where Is the Love," recorded by the Black-Eyed Peas, "Everything Possible" by Fred Small, "Everyone is Gay" by A Great Big World, and "Bridge Over Troubled Water" by Paul Simon.

To conclude the afternoon, EGMC joined Soromundi (getting everyone on stage at the same time was a "tight fit," but what a sound!) to sing "Crowded Table," arranged by Ramsey, and "Choose Something Like a Star," based on Robert Frost's poem. Then, to everyone's surprise, the choruses sang an encore, Chappell Roan's "Pink Pony Club" accompanied by an array of festive props and dancing.

The audience was very appreciative of the coloration of the two groups. There were many comments about their emotional journey from feelings of joy, sorrow, and happiness. They went on to say the music also brought back memories and reflection. There were several comments about how it was especially fun to finish the afternoon with some dancing!



Soloist Amy Picard



Soloist Becky Hope

# Soromundi – A Volunteer Non-Profit

Our last newsletter featured the volunteers who serve on the Board of Directors. We will continue through this season to feature all our volunteers. This newsletter will feature those who serve on the DEIB Committee.

## Spotlight on Volunteers – DEIB COMMITTEE



*Left to Right: Kim, Tracy, Kate, Ann, Harriet & Wave. Misti & Alanna are missing from the photo.*

**DEIB** stands for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging. The committee's mission is to foster an environment within our choir in which every member feels valued, respected, and supported. We want to give everyone the opportunity to succeed.

**Diversity** refers to the presence and representation of different characteristics, identities, and backgrounds. These include races, ethnicities, genders, sexual and romantic orientations and affections, abilities, socioeconomic statuses, ages, religions and spiritualities, and other characteristics.

**Equity** goes beyond fairness and focuses on ensuring that every member has access to the resources, opportunities, and the support they need to succeed. The committee accounts for individual needs and addresses potential barriers.

**Inclusion** involves creating a welcoming and respectful environment in which everyone feels comfortable being themselves and can participate fully.

### Committee Members

Ann Huber (she/her) has sung for seven seasons with Soromundi and serves as the Vice President. She encouraged the Soromundi Board to form a DEI team at the onset of the Social Justice movement, and while it's taken some time to build a strong foundation, she's excited about the progress and energy of the current team.

Misti Colombo has warbled for a season and a half with Soromundi. She strongly believes in equity and social activism and was thrilled to be asked to join at the same time as becoming a new Alto Section leader. She is trepidatious, but excited to be bringing her unique perspective and work ethic to the current team.

Alanna Michelsson (they/she) has sung and performed with Soromundi unofficially since 2017 and officially since 2022. She has been serving as a member of the DEIB committee for two seasons and is a strong believer in the power of the voices and experiences of the people. They are excited to continue to support, share, and communicate with Soromundi and its community as part of the DEIB team.

Tracy Bartlett (she/her) moved to Eugene in 2019 and immediately joined Soromundi, for obvious reasons. Tracy has a long history of environmental and social justice activism, so joining the DEI committee was an easy decision. She is very appreciative of Soromundi's legacy and current support of all kinds of inclusion. The more diverse an ecosystem is the more stable it is, same with humans.

Wave Melen (they/he/she/Tigger) is celebrating 3 wild years in Soromundi and 2 fabulous years causing chaos with our spunky DEIB team! Wave is here for smashing gender norms with glitter bombs while honoring the badass queers who paved the way. Standing on the shoulders of legends, Wave dreams of lifting others to reach the gayest, sparkiest stars imaginable.

Harriet Merrick (she/her) moved to Eugene from Portland in 1972. Graduated from Community Service and Public Affairs. Spent several decades advocating for the queer community in variety of roles. Served on boards for choice, HIV, Soromundi, free speech, and just finished serving two mayors in a “kitchen cabinet” capacity. We all belong. Harriet joined Soromundi in 2012 as a Tenor and continues to be foreign language shy.

Kim Dunn. (she/her) has been a member of Soromundi for 8 years and served on the Soromundi Board of Directors for 4 years. She enjoys her work as a hospice liaison and is currently on the board of Pegasus Playhouse and Vice-President of Octopus Rhythm Works Board of Directors

## SWEETHEART’S BANQUET



This year’s Valentine’s Day brought together two distinct musical worlds for a memorable evening: Soromundi and the Eugene Gleemen. The “Sweetheart’s Banquet,” held on February 14th, was more than just a performance—it was a celebration of love, community, and the power of music.

The program for the night was intentionally chosen to reflect the world we live in, addressing issues of intolerance, violence, and hope. “Where Is the Love?” written shortly after 9/11 and performed by the Black-Eyed Peas, resonated deeply, particularly with the lyrics: “If you only got love for your own race, then you’re gonna leave space to discriminate, and to discriminate only generates hate, and when you hate then you’re bound to get irate.” In a time when discrimination and hate seem to be fueled by the actions of those in power, the song served as a stark reminder of how hatred begets more hatred,

creating a cycle of conflict and division.

Another highlight of the evening was the rendition of “Everything Possible” by Fred Small— a song that envisions a world where all people can live authentically and freely, regardless of who they are or whom they love. The song was a beautiful reminder that love, whether romantic, familial, or platonic, is a force that transcends boundaries and divisions.

After the concert, the wife of one of the Gleemen approached a chorus member, expressing that their performance had truly resonated with her and touched her heart.

The night may have ended with applause, but the spirit of the Sweetheart’s Banquet lingered long after the final bow.

# SOROMUNDI'S 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONCERT & HISTORY EXHIBIT

This year Soromundi is celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> season with two performances of its annual spring concert at the Hult Center. These celebration concerts feature two special events.

The first is an exhibit, *Artists, Activists, & Allies*, illustrating Soromundi's history of 35 years of song. The exhibit will feature banners representing different aspects of the chorus, a digital timeline, a commemorative program, and photos and music over the years. There will also be the opportunity to preorder *Sisters of the World*, a memoir of Soromundi's 35-year journey from Karm (our founder's) living room to the 90-voice strong chorus of the present. The exhibit will be in the Hult Center Jacobs Room and will be open and free to the public before each concert, Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> 5.30PM -6.30PM and Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> from 1.00PM -2.00PM.

Both concerts will also feature a Reunion Chorus of people traveling from Florence, Portland, Seattle, Texas, North Carolina, and Michigan. Local Reunion Chorus members have been rehearsing with Soromundi monthly since January, with our more distant singers rehearsing via Zoom. We are so happy to have them participate in our 35<sup>th</sup> Year celebration!

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**Soromundi**  
Lesbian Chorus of Eugene  
35TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

# Everything Possible

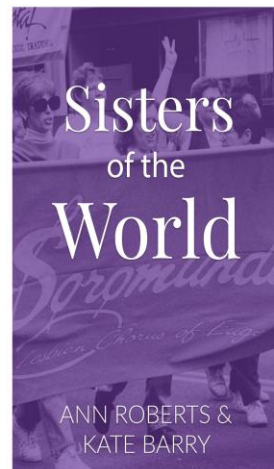
SATURDAY, MAY 17, 7:00 PM  
SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2:30 PM

Hult Center  
for the Performing Arts

Tickets:  
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528 Adults, 523 Seniors/Students  
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## THE SOROMUNDI HISTORY EXHIBIT

Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>  
5:30-6:30 PM

Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>  
1:00-2:00 PM

**FREE ADMISSION**

The Hult Center  
Jacobs Community Room

ARTISTS, ACTIVISTS,  
AND ALLIES  
35 SEASONS OF

**SOROMUNDI**  
Lesbian Chorus of Eugene

**Support a  
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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Saturday, May 17, 7 pm & Sunday, May 18, 2:30 pm**

35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert, "Everything Possible"

History Exhibit open 90 minutes before concert time and closes 30 minutes before curtain.

Tickets: \$28.00 and \$23.00 for Seniors & Students

Published By

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