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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.

HOLIDAY MARKET

On December 8th, Soromundi held its first concert of the 2024-25 season at the Holiday Market in Eugene. Artists, craftspeople, food truck restauranteurs, and of course, holiday shoppers come from far and wide to kick off the holiday season at this bustling annual event. The atmosphere in the Holiday Hall was festive and chaotic – perfect for banishing those first-concert jitters. Soromundi was welcomed as returning performers and took the stage to a raucous round of applause from family, friends, and holiday shoppers alike.

The concert kicked off with an arrangement of “Price Tag” by Jessie J, featuring an amazing solo by Amy Picard. Next in the set was “City Hall” by Vienna Tang, a bittersweet but hopeful song about the joy and resilience of same sex love. Lynn Smith, who introduced the song, told her own story of traveling to San Francisco after gay marriage was legalized and described the air of celebration that surrounded the courthouse that day. The performance continued through songs both old and new, including the dynamic folk song “Vichten” and tongue-in-cheek anthem “Everyone is Gay,” which drew laughs from the crowd. By the end of the set, children were dancing in the audience, and attendees sang along as the chorus laid back with familiar favorites like “Where is the Love” by the Black-Eyed Peas.

by Katie Schau



Soromundi Kicks Off the Holiday Season

Fall Retreat

Everyone gathered, some with camping chairs, others with cushions, and all in comfy clothing, for Fall Retreat, which takes place on a Saturday and includes intense rehearsal time and activities. This year we met on Saturday, November 2nd.

The day started with a shared breakfast and social time. Then the singing began. Most of the reviewed music were the songs to be performed at the Holiday Market in December.

After lunch, the vocal sections (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass) met separately so members could get to know each other. Everyone introduced themselves and shared something about their background and life.

After the lunch break, discussion groups were formed with 7-8 people in each. Ideas and thoughts were shared relating to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging as it applies to our members and the members of the reunion chorus who will be joining rehearsals after the first of the year.

The remaining time was spent working on more music.

There were many comments made about the day. Some of the former members thought it was the largest group at Fall Retreat they could remember. Some of the newer members said they couldn't believe how much was accomplished. One thing for sure... all left exhausted and feeling good about the day.



**Support a
Soromundi sponsor!**



Where Soromundi pooches go to play!

Soromundi's Rehearsal Piano

Thanks to a very generous donor, Soromundi was gifted a 1946 5'7" large baby grand, a Knabe. The piano was moved into Soromundi's rehearsal space on December 5th. Previously a digital piano was used for rehearsals which worked well, but now the chorus can rehearse with a resonate instrument which is glorious.

Wilhelm Knabe immigrated from Germany and settled in Baltimore, Maryland. After several apprenticeships, he and a partner formed the Knabe & Gaehle piano company and built high-quality grands, uprights, and squares. In 1938, Francis Scott Key commissioned the company to build a square grand for his home and the Knabe & Gaehle piano was then a part of American history. Key used this piano until his death.

After Knabe's passing in 1864, his sons William and Ernest took the reins, bought out their partner Gaehle, and formed the Wm. Knabe Piano Company. In 1891, Tchaikovsky was the guest conductor for the opening of Carnegie Hall which featured a Wm. Knabe grand piano.

In 1926, Knabe recorded history once again, as it was chosen to be the official piano of the New York Metropolitan Opera.

Wm. Knabe & Company stopped manufacturing pianos in 1983.



Soromundi – A Volunteer Non-Profit

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

Spotlight on Volunteers – Board of Directors



*Back, Left to Right: Kim Dunn, Rebecca Swing, Dawn DeMars, Micki Varner
Front, Left to Right: Ann Huber, Carrie Bartlett, & Becky Hope. Ruth Danielson missing from photo.*

Micki Varner, President

As the Board Chair, I am responsible for leading the board of directors, overseeing board meetings, facilitating strategic planning, ensuring effective governance practices and providing leadership to guide the overall direction and decision-making, while ensuring all board members have a voice and participate actively in discussions. I've been a Soromundi member for 13 years and this is my 10th year as a board member. I'm a past board member of the Shenandoah Valley Gay & Lesbian Association and First Congregational UCC Eugene. I'm a professional chaplain who's served in healthcare for over 20 years.

Ann Huber, Vice President

As VP, my job is to assist the president and support other endeavors as she directs. I am the co-chair of Soromundi's "history project" this past year that includes an exhibit that will be displayed at the Hult Center this spring, a reunion choir, and a memoir. I joined Soromundi in 2017 and became the Development Director in 2019. I'm a retired English teacher and school principal, educator who spends my free time writing novels under the pen name Ann Roberts.

Rebecca Swing, Treasurer/Finance Chair

My duties as treasurer are managing our finances, including creating budgets, preparing financial reports, banking, and advising the board on financial strategy. I also oversee the Finance Committee. I have been in Soromundi for 18 years and have been on the Board for 2 years. I have been a realtor here in Eugene for the past 20 years. I am slowly retiring. I spend my free time working with my two Brittany dogs, one trains in scent work and the other is doing field work, training to hunt. I love to knit, read, hike, spend time at the beach, garden, and try different coffee shops and restaurants.

Ruth Danielson, Secretary

My duties are taking meeting minutes, records management, maintaining organizational and meeting materials, correspondence, facilitating board communication, and orientation of new members. This is my second year as a board member. Last year I was a member at large, and as "the technical one," I have been spearheading the updates of our email system and website. I've been a member of the choir for 13 years and a section leader for the past 6 years. I work supporting individuals with special needs, and I am a part of a charitable foundation whose goal is to build a fully accessible play place/park.

Carrie Bartlett, Member at Large

I joined Soromundi in 2022. I serve as a board member at large, currently supporting the board secretary with note taking as the need arises. I was a Special Educator for 6 years in Oakland and Berkeley schools and worked as an Occupational Therapist for 30+ years, currently serving schools within Lane County. Other positions include lead organizer of California Aids Ride Pack-up/Set-Up crew 1996 (volunteer) and I volunteered as the Back-of-House Kitchen lead in the summer of 2019.

Dawn DeMars, Marketing Chair

Responsible for brand management, strategic planning to achieve specific goals, (audience engagement), media relations, content creation (for advertising, newsletters, advertising, PSA's, etc.) PR, social media, website, advertising, and the sales of concert program ads. I have been in Soromundi for 3 years and a Board Member for 2 ½ years. Having retired from the Musical Instrument Manufacturing & Retailing industry, I now teach piano, enjoy painting and trips to the coast! Past Board Member and Secretary of PTA, NAMM Trustee, Board Member of National Piano Foundation, International Piano Manufacturing Association, and member of Advisory Council of Music Teacher National Association.

Kim Dunn,_Development

I have been a member of Soromundi for 8 years and served on the board for 4 years. I enjoy my work as a hospice liaison. I am currently on the board of Pegasus Playhouse and Vice-President of Octopus Rhythm Works Board of Directors

Becky Hope, Concert Chair

The concert chair schedules and coordinates the performances for Soromundi and leads production to help performances run smoothly. This is my second year as a board member and seventh year with Soromundi. I am a full-time mom, helping with random tasks for my family and chosen family and you can often find me at local craft markets selling handmade bags. I've been involved in local theatre for over 40 years as a performer and I direct children's theatre productions.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 23, 2:30 pm

"Everyone is Gay" Concert
Featuring Soromundi & EGMC
John G. Shedd Institute of the Arts

Saturday, May 17, 7 pm & Sunday, May 18, 2 pm

"Everything Possible" Concert
Featuring the Reunion Choir
Celebrating 35th Year Anniversary

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