

Thank You

WomEnchant wishes to thank all individuals, big and small cogs in the wheel of success, for their work which has resulted in this evening's significant accomplishment to raise funds for the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Our special thanks to:

First Grantham United Church, its Council, Members and Staff for their hospitable partnership with WomEnchant in providing this lovely venue, planning committee support and various essential work behind the scenes:

All bakers and individuals who donated items, services of responsibility for organizing and managing the auctions and refreshments:

Jackie Szymanski for producing concert tickets, posters and programmes;

Gloria Simon-Gould for facilitating this evening's Heart to Heart Meditation;

All individuals who donated much needed dollars;

Scott Rosts of Niagara this Week;
Niagara on the Lake Advance;
The St. Catharines Standard;
The Grimsby Lincoln News;
Cniagara

All community organizations, churches and businesses throughout Niagara, that helped to publicize our event through display and distribution of posters; everyone who helped through social media promotion;

Special Guest **Leanne Vida**, for sharing her beautiful talent of singing with us.

Our audience, without whom success this evening would have been impossible.

The Stephen Lewis Foundation, whose passionate advocacy for Africa motivates us to do all we can towards the eradication of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on the African continent.

Namaste,

the divine in us rejoices in the light of the divine in you

HOPE & STRENGTH

Women of Africa

World AIDS Day Observance and Benefit Concert

PROGRAMME

Monday, November 30th, 2015

First Grantham United Church
415 Linwell Road,
St. Catharines

Proceeds donated to:



the
Stephen Lewis
FOUNDATION

WomEnchant Chorus

Laura Thomas, Artistic Director; Tannis Beamer, Accompanist

WomEnchant is a choir of women from a wide variety of backgrounds and musical experience. Our common thread is the desire to sing music that celebrates our lives, calls for peace and justice, and demonstrates the power of sisterhood and song. We welcome all women who want to learn and sing music that gives voice to our experiences and our commitment to making positive changes in the world.

Since our beginning in 1994, WomEnchant has participated in many events centred around women's equality, peace, anti-violence and social justice. We have performed at benefits for shelters, International Women's Day concerts, Take Back the Night rallies, V-day anti-violence events, The Stephen Lewis Foundation World AIDS Awareness Day and performances for women's centres and social service agencies. Our appearances also include services and events celebrating and supporting Earth Day and environmental concerns.

WomEnchant has also sung at notable historical celebrations including the 160th Anniversary of the first Women's Rights Convention, held in Seneca Falls, NY in 2008 and the 100th anniversary of Harriet Tubman's Memorial held at the Salem Chapel in St. Catharines in 2013. In 2007, the WomEnchant drumming group was formed to give women the opportunity to learn about and perform on hand drums. Some of the drummers come from within the choir, while others belong only to the drummer's circle. The WomEnchant Drummers perform with the choir and on their own.

To accommodate women from both the Hamilton and Niagara areas, we rehearse in Grimsby Monday night September to May. For information about performances and membership email us at: womenchant@yahoo.com

Laura Thomas, Artistic Director

WomEnchant's Artistic Director, Laura Thomas, is a conductor, arranger, composer, percussionist and teacher. In addition to her position with WomEnchant, she is also Music Director of the Dundas Valley Orchestra and the Niagara Youth Orchestra. She is the Music Director and composer for *Filutes en Route!* featuring Douglas Miller. Ms. Thomas was, for six years, Artistic Director of Niagara's Choralis Camerata and was Associate Conductor of the Niagara Symphony for over a decade. She has appeared as a guest conductor with many ensembles including Symphony on the Bay, the Huronia Symphony, and the Etobicoke Philharmonic.

Ms. Thomas holds a master's degree in conducting from New York's prestigious Bard College, where she studied with Harold Farberman. She is also a graduate of Hamilton's Mohawk College and McMaster University, where she studied percussion and composition. Since 1985, she has been the Principal Percussionist with the Niagara Symphony Orchestra. As well, she is a member of Niagara's popular eclectic folk quintet BroadBand and performs regularly with her Vintage Jazz ensembles. She teaches at Brock University and Mohawk College as well as students in her private studio. She designed and presented the popular *Composer in the Classroom* program to thousands of students in the Niagara area.

In her work with WomEnchant and BroadBand, Ms. Thomas has found the opportunity to combine music and activism. Both ensembles perform for a wide variety of social justice events and causes and have raised thousands of dollars through benefit concerts.

Tannis Beamer, Accompanist

Tannis Beamer has been playing piano for the sheer joy of it for as long as she can remember. She completed a major in Applied Human Nutrition and a minor in Music at the University of Guelph. She has spent her career, thus far, further exploring her two passions in life: wellness and music. For over ten years Tannis has taught private piano lessons in the Niagara region while also studying with leading sound therapists in Canada and the U.S. to learn how the intentional use of sound and music can soothe the body, mind and spirit. This is Tannis' third year as accompanist with WomEnchant Chorus and her fourth year with WomEnchant Drummers.

Leanne Vida, Soloist

A graduate of Brock University's Honours Bachelor of Music program, Leanne is currently in her final year of a Masters of Music degree at Western University, studying Voice Performance and Literature. She intends to begin a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Voice Performance next year. Leanne is an active member of the Niagara music community, performing as a soprano soloist as well as working with many local artists as a featured singer, pianist and arranger on studio recordings and at live performances. Leanne is currently the musical director, vocal coach and pianist at Something-Something productions, a music theatre company based in Niagara on the Lake. From her home in St. Catharines Leanne maintains a small teaching studio, providing lessons in voice, piano and theory to students of all ages and levels.

HOPE & STRENGTH

- Women of Africa

Programme

6:00 Penny Auction & Silent Auction

Ruby Carroll Hall

Heart to Heart Meditation

Fellowship Room

7:30 Welcome and Remarks from

Rev Rick Hawley

Sanctuary

Performance by WomEnchant

Chorus & Drummers

with

Special Guest Leanne Vida

Refreshments and Auction Results after the concert in the Ruby

Carroll Hall