

Newsletter of Singers Marin

Choral Singers of Marin P.O. Box 2102 Mill Valley, CA 94942 (415) 383-3712

Singers
MARIN

"touching hearts . . . uplifting spirits"

February 2013, Volume 4, Number 1

Upcoming

Registrations

still being accepted for our youth choruses.

Call: 415.383.3712

Solo Spotlight

Friday, Feb. 1

6:30pm

Private Residence
Tiburon

25th Anniversary ~ A Silver Serenade "How Can We Keep From Singing"

Tuesday, April 23

7:30 PM

Davies Symphony Hall
San Francisco

YSM Concert "Alive with Song"

Sun., May 18 & 19

3:00 PM

San Rafael, Location TBD &
Mt. Tamalpais UMC
410 Sycamore
Mill Valley

A Tribute to Catherine "Kitty" Houghton



Kitty with fellow singers in New York, posing for photo prior to singing in Carnegie Hall.

Singers Marin suffered a tragic loss this past week when we learned of the death of our dear friend, singer, former board member and strong supporter, Catherine "Kitty" Houghton. Kitty was the victim of a senseless random act of violence in a hotel lobby while attending a board meeting of her alma mater, White Mountain School in Littleton, New Hampshire. We are shocked and deeply saddened by the loss of this remarkable

**Just Voices
"Melodies through the
Centuries"**

Sun., June 23

5:00 PM

Location TBD

**Summer Camp
"Musical You!"**

July 29 - Aug. 9

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Mt. Tamalpais UMC

Mill Valley

**Joyful Sound
"Motown in Marin"**

Sun., August 18

4:00 PM

Community Congregational
Church, 145 Rock Hill Dr.

Tiburon

Auditions

by appointment for Just

Voices a cappella

Call: 415.383.3712

Ongoing

eScrip

If you haven't already done so, please register with eScrip.

Go to their website at www.escrip.com. Our ID number is **3376093**.

Participating merchants include Mollie Stones, Andronicos, Paradise Foods, Macy's and more. For a complete list of merchants click [here](#).

woman.

Kitty joined the Singers Marin family of choruses in the fall of 2007. She sang with the Wings of Song women's chorus as an Alto 1, served as Secretary on the Board of Directors, as well as the Development committee, and generously donated to the organization on a regular basis.

Catherine Houghton earned her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley and later her M.A. and Ph.D. from Stanford University. Before retiring, Kitty was a business counselor with the U.S. Foreign Service. She served in the Peace Corps in Nepal and worked as an international officer for Bank of America. Kitty spent most of her professional career as a commercial counselor in the global business arm of the U.S. Foreign Service. She served all over the world including Colombia, Austria, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Germany and Canada. She spoke 14 languages, with fluency in German, French, Spanish, Mandarin, Nepali and Bengali.

She was very active in charitable aviation activities, including membership chair of the Marin chapter of the Ninety-Nines, an international organization of women pilots and a volunteer for Angelflight, which provides plane trips for people with medical needs. She was also a board member of the Indian Valley Associates homeowners association where she lived -- and the list just goes on and on....

Below are some thoughts and memories of Kitty from members of our organization:

"Kitty was one of the warmest, most humble people I ever met, yet she was among the most accomplished. This woman could do pretty much anything. Fly a plane, hike in Nepal, play piano, speak any number of languages. Yet she was the one who preferred to stand in the second row on the risers (despite her somewhat diminutive height) because she never wanted to call attention to herself. Kitty and I ran together in the Marin Human Race, benefitting SingersMarin. In her late sixties, she did her race and went home; not even realizing she had come in second in her category and won a medal! She was looking forward to this year, when she hit seventy, because she knew she was going to ace her age group- but of course she would never say that! She was competitive with herself, but never with others. I will always remember her lovely holiday parties, when she opened her home to her friends, and we all gathered around the piano to sing Christmas carols. Kitty had a soft voice and a peaceful spirit. She only thought of others and gave so much. She will be missed beyond words. We know she will be smiling down on us, and whenever we sing "Let There Be Peace on Earth", we will think of Kitty, who accomplished so much and was taken from us too soon." - Susanne Lyons

"Kitty was a remarkable woman with a gifted spirit, sense of adventure and love of life. We connected when Kitty joined Wings of Song sharing meaningful conversations about life and our deep love of music, and how singing with our chorus (as altos) was so much fun. I will miss her standing behind me at rehearsal and performances, but I will think of her when I open my mouth to sing and feel her presence. I feel honored to have known Kitty." - Donna Saberman

"Although Kitty was a great Alto 1, she would often show up at our alto 2 practice sessions. We loved having her with us since she would be the

Mill Valley Market

When you shop at Mill Valley Market, be sure to let the cashier know that you want to donate to SingersMarin. Our ID # is **7051**. It is a simple and easy way to help contribute to our organization.

CafePress Merchandise

Purchase SingersMarin merchandise from CafePress by clicking [here](#).

For more information on all of these upcoming events, Please visit our website:

www.singersmarin.org

harmony and we could sing with her and determine how well we know our part. We certainly got a lot out of having her with us and she got in a little practice herself. She knew her part very well singing against 6 - 8 others. on occasion, she would impart some interesting information about the composer of a song and why a passage was constructed in a particular way. I gather from this that she not only loved to sing, but also had an extensive knowledge of music." - Carol Feren

"I always felt so peaceful in Kitty's presence. I will hold my memories of her gentle nature close to my heart. Additionally, I was deeply touched when Kitty gave a donation to Singers Marin honoring me back in 2011. RIP Kitty ~ you humbly made a difference and touched so many. I know you are filling the halls of heaven with song!" - Maureen Sweeney

"I remember meeting Kitty for the first time...her caring smile and warm personality. We'd ride share to rehearsals from Blackfield Drive. She always had nice things to say about rehearsals and people." - Frieda W. Zolan

"What I remember most about Kitty is her beautiful, gentle smile that reflected the sweetness of her nature. She was always so soft-spoken and modest, never intimating how very accomplished she was. She seemed so happy in her lovely home that was filled with the fabulous art she collected from all over the world. The views and tranquility of the setting were perfect for someone who loved flying and the peace of the natural world." - Susie Jacobs

"I first met Kitty several years ago when I was invited to a SingersMarin board retreat at her beautiful home in Novato. At the time, I was a singer in JustVoices, a new a cappella ensemble, and was looking for a musical home in my retirement. Kitty was among those who convinced me to join the board just a few months later. After getting to know Kitty, I was delighted to help her to wire up her audio/video home setup, and our friendship blossomed as I grew to know of her many accomplishments! Her annual Christmas parties, with her at the piano, were always a high point of the season. At her 2012 Christmas party, we only had time to chat briefly, and agreed to see each other in the New Year. I had tea with Kitty at her place just a few weeks ago, and we had a wonderful conversation, which I will treasure in her memory. We spoke at length of our mutual love of choral music, the upcoming 25th Anniversary Concert, travel in China, and how the naming of her faithful dog, Kepler, came about. She also told me excitedly of her plans to visit relatives in Nevada, after a trip to New Hampshire for a board meeting, and a whole host of other projects and events for the coming year. I know that Kitty would want us to remember her fondly, and continue her legacy with love." - Charles Seagrave

"I will always remember that first visit with Kitty. She came to listen to a rehearsal and thought she was going to be listening to children singing. She had already established a strong relationship with the Pacific Boychoir Academy, based in Oakland. She was devoted to children receiving a choral music education, and was so pleased that we offered singing opportunities for both youth and adults. She liked what she heard in our rehearsal, and when I told her she wouldn't need to audition (she told me she played piano -- and had sung in her school choirs), she jumped right in! She often attended both the Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning rehearsals when she wasn't traveling, as she hated

missing rehearsals. My next most memorable experience was seeing her radiant smiling face following our performance in Carnegie Hall. **She said that choral singing is the closest you can get to eternity and still be here!** I know that she will continue to grace our rehearsals with her spirit and be singing along with us!" - Jan Pedersen Schiff

Kitty's loss will be felt by so many and we are honored to have had the chance to know her. **If you care to make a donation to Singers Marin in her memory, please click [here](#).**

"How Can We Keep From Singing!"



We will present this concert **in memory of Catherine "Kitty" Houghton.**

Save the date! Join us on **Tuesday, April 23** for our 25th Anniversary concert, ***"How Can We Keep From Singing!"*** at **Davies Symphony Hall**. The performance will host a variety of choral groups and will feature a newly commissioned piece by Gwyneth Walker written specifically for this concert that commemorates 25 years of wonderful music brought to the community by Singers Marin under the leadership of Artistic Director, Jan Pedersen Schiff. Singers Marin is celebrating 25 years of bringing musical joy to the community and invites you to share in this experience. **Guest ensembles include: Branson High School Chamber Singers, Golden Gate Men's Chorus, Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble, and the Mill Valley Philharmonic.**

Singers Marin's youth and adult ensembles along with the guest choirs will each perform selected works by **Gwyneth Walker**. In addition, our guest orchestra, the Mill Valley Philharmonic, will perform a chosen work of their own, followed by **Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms** with 200 singers from the combined Singers Marin and guest adult and teen choruses. Igor Stravinsky described his choral/orchestral works: *"It is not a symphony in which I have included Psalms to be sung. On the contrary, it is the singing of the Psalms that I am symphonizing"*. Our conductor, Jan Pedersen Schiff reflects: "This composition is one of the most profoundly spiritual pieces I have ever sung in my life", and she looks forward to conducting and sharing this experience with the singers and the audience.

Be part of this special event and **meet our guest composer, Gwyneth Walker at two special receptions**, one before the event at a lovely Tiburon home and also after the concert by [making a donation](#) to help us underwrite the costs of this Gwyneth Walker commission and the

anniversary concert.

Appropriately, the concert will close with Gwyneth Walker's powerful arrangement of the Quaker hymn, "How Can I Keep from Singing!" A reception for donors and those who purchase the \$100 tickets will follow with the composer in the beautiful Wattis Room at Davies. We hope you will join us in this post-concert celebration by making a donation toward our 25th anniversary season or purchasing your tickets through City Box Office: Click [here](#) to donate now or visit our website at www.singersmarin.org!

Jan Pedersen Schiff Inducted into the Marin Women's Hall of Fame!



25th Anniversary Celebration

2013 Honorees

Marin Women's Hall of Fame

LeeAnn Bartolini, Ph.D.: Dominican University
EDUCATION

Christine Bronstein: Founder, A Band of Wives
TECHNOLOGY

Rev. Jan Heglund: Chaplain, San Rafael PD & FBI
RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Kim Kaselionis: Financial Services
BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS

Jennifer Siebel Newsom: CEO, Miss Representation
SOCIAL CHANGE

Jan Pedersen Schiff: Founder/Director, Singers Marin
COMMUNITY SERVICE

EARLY BIRD Tickets \$165 - After 2/28/13... ALL Tickets \$175
<http://galaapr13.eventbrite.com> OR MAIL check to:
MWWHF, P.O. Box 4142, San Rafael, CA 94913-4142
www.marinwomenshalloffame.org

SAVE THE DATE ~ Saturday, April 13, 2013

The Marin Women's Hall of Fame has proclaimed its 25th anniversary year, 2012-2013, as "The Year of Women Leaders." **Congratulations to Singers Marin Founder and Artistic Director, Jan Pedersen Schiff, who will have the honor of being inducted into the Marin Women's Hall of Fame** at their Annual Gala Tribute Dinner and Awards Ceremony on April 13. Visit their website at <http://marinwomenshalloffame.org/> for more information.



Join us on Facebook and Twitter!

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