

Newsletter of Singers Marin

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



"touching hearts . . . uplifting spirits"

November 2014, Volume 5, Number 10

Upcoming

Solo Spotlight

November 16

4:30pm

les etoiles &

Celestial Voices

Fundrasier for Carnegie Hall

Tour

Tickets:

\$25 Adults, \$10 Students

[Click here for tickets](#)

***Christmas
Magic...Pure
Enchantment***

December 5

8:00pm

Just Voices

Holiday Concert

Community Congregational

Church

145 Rock Hill Drive, Tiburon

Admission:

\$18 in advance

\$20 at the door

[Click here for tickets](#)

***Tis the
Season....Cheers!***

December 21

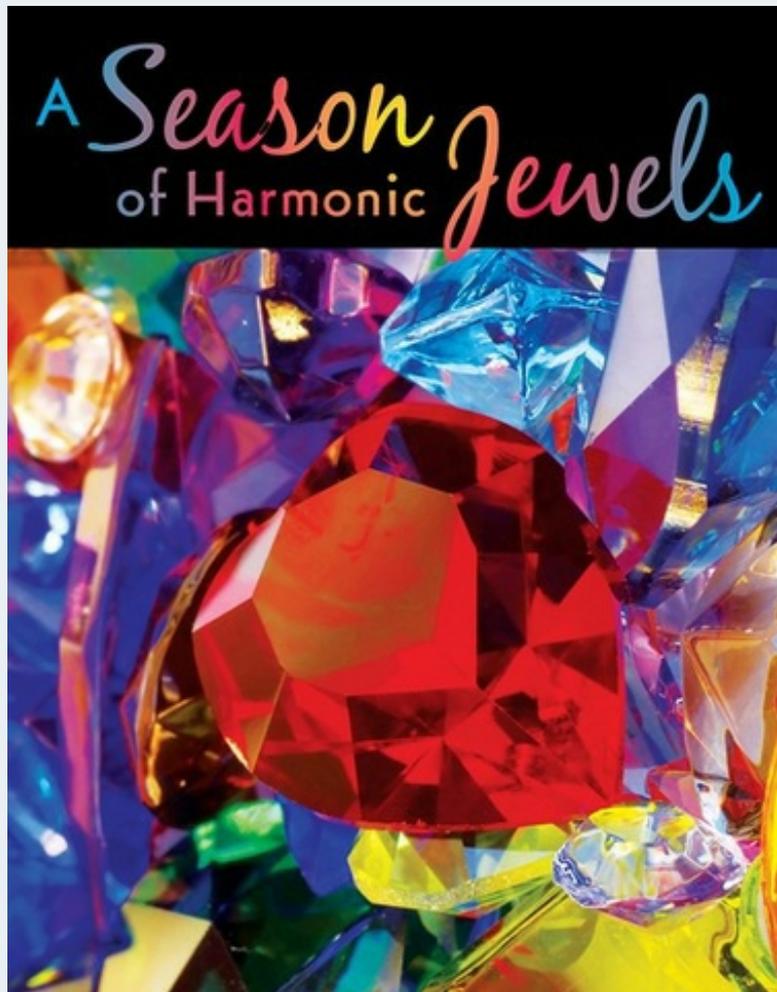
4:00pm

Youth and Adult

Choruses

Marin Center Veterans'

***A Note from our Founder/Artistic Director,
Jan Pedersen Schiff***



Welcome to our **2014-2015 concert season of Harmonic Jewels!** The choral repertoire is filled with musical gems. I love searching for these perfect masterpieces of compositions and arrangements. I make my choices based on our diverse audiences and the level of singers with whom I am working. As we begin rehearsals for each new concert, the initial reading of the notes always has some rough edges. But week after week, the buffing and polishing takes place until each piece of music begins to sparkle. That's the stage we are still at right now, but soon the concert will arrive and we will let our songs shine forth in all

Memorial Auditorium
10 Avenue of the Flags,
San Rafael
Tickets:
\$35, \$30, \$20
Students & children half
price

[Click here for tickets](#)

The Peacemakers,
by Karl Jenkins

January 19,
7:00 pm

Carnegie Hall, NYC

Peace & Brotherhood
Festival

March 10-16

Wings of Song

Rome, Italy

The Choral Art of Eric
Whitacre

April 23/24

Just Voices

Melodic Gems

May 2, 7:30 pm

Wings of Song

Glistening Stars

May 16, 3:00

Combined Youth

Ongoing

Auditions Notice:

Now holding auditions in all
voice parts for spring
concerts with ***Just Voices***

their brilliance – at least, that is our goal! 😊

Setting the Mood for the Holidays!

Singers
MARIN
presents
**Just
Voices**
a professional
a cappella ensemble

Admission:
\$18 in advance
\$20 at the door
Refreshments
to follow

www.singersmarin.org
415.383.3712

Friday, December 5, 2014 8:00pm
Community Congregational Church, 145 Rock Hill Dr, Tiburon

Just Voices, our professional a cappella ensemble, will present an evening of glorious Christmas Magic. This ten voice ensemble of highly trained singers will set the mood for your holidays with gorgeous compositions and arrangements of holiday music in styles that range from classical to jazz.

[Click here for admission!](#)

A Holiday Pops Festival!

singing the music of Eric Whitacre. Check website for requirements.

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, Woodlands Market, Andronicos, **Paradise Foods, Pharmica** and Macy's. For a complete list of merchants click [here](#).

Mollie Stones

Community Card

Mollie Stones is joining **eScrip** with their personal Community Card. It is simple and easy to register. [Click here to download a form](#). All you need to do is fill it out and drop it off during your next shopping trip to Mollie Stone's. Once you have the Card, just show it to the cashier at checkout and 5% of your purchase amount will be donated to us!

Woodlands Market

Community Card

Woodlands Market is also joining **eScrip** with their personal Community Card. It is very simple to register. All you need to do is fill it out and drop it off during your next shopping trip to Woodlands Market. Once you have picked up your card, just show it to the cashier at checkout and 5% of your purchase amount will be donated to us! [Click here to download the form](#)



A Bay Area holiday tradition for 19 years, join with family and friends for an uplifting and wonderfully warm performance of your favorite holiday songs with artistic director, Jan Pedersen Schiff and the eight youth and adult choral ensembles of Singers Marin. This year's concert will take on a British theme, with two popular Christmas songs by Beatles' members, Paul McCartney and John Lennon. In addition, there will be those cherished seasonal favorites and the popular sing-alongs, all accompanied by the brilliant Irene Jacobson at the piano, Paul Eastburn on bass and Rob Hart on drums. Special visuals and lighting effects create a magical holiday show. **Cheers!**

[Get your TICKETS today!](#)

A Musical Fix

eScrip Recycling

We earn money when we recycle empty inkjet and laser printer cartridges, used cell phones, digital cameras, laptops, GPS devices, and MP3 players. **Items can be dropped off at our office: 1038 Redwood Hwy, Suite 100D, Mill Valley.** It's completely free, supports the environment, and helps us earn much-needed funding.

Mill Valley Market

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

CafePress Merchandise

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

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

www.singersmarin.org



The article below was written by our lovely
Youth Program Administrator & Conductor, Joanna Dudley.

I know we are all bombarded on a daily basis with reports and quizzes about the **best way to educate our children**, but an article recently landed in my lap that rang so true with my own thoughts, having taught in schools for the last 13 years that I actually had to check to see I hadn't written it subconsciously! The article entitled, '**A Musical Fix for American Schools**', was written by Joanne Lipman and was published earlier this month in The Wall Street Journal and I thought I would share some of her findings with you.

She begins by discussing the perpetual crisis facing American education; how our students are falling behind their peers in the rest of the world, the epidemic proportions of children with learning disabilities and general illiteracy which costs American businesses \$80 billion a year. **And the solution is...** (Drum roll please)... **Music**. She is not claiming that Music will turn your child into the next Nobel Prize winner but she presents a range of compelling evidence that 'Music can boost children's academic performance and help fix some of our schools' most intractable problems.'

She continues by breaking down the evidence behind this claim. Firstly the idea that '**Music raises your IQ.**' A Canadian study, of 48 preschoolers, found that verbal IQ increased after only 20 days of musical training. The increase was five times that of a control group of children who were given visual art lessons. The lead researcher, Sylvain Moreno, a professor from the University of Toronto found that 'music training enhanced their brains' ability to plan, organize, strategize and solve problems.' To help us understand why this is, a neurobiologist, Nina Kraus, spent two years tracking a group of 6 to 9 year olds who had been given free instrument lessons as part of the Harmony Project in Los Angeles. She found a '**significant increase in the music students' ability to process sounds, which is key to language, reading and focus in the classroom.**' Prof. Kraus found similar results in a 2013 study published in Frontiers in Educational Psychology, where students who were randomly assigned to choir lessons showed significant increases in their ability to process sounds. As Prof. Kraus says, 'a musician has to make sense of a complicated soundscape which translates into an ability to understand language and to focus on what the teacher is saying in a noisy classroom'.

The second claim is that **'Music training does more than sports, theater or dance to improve key academic skills.'** I know this can be a particularly sensitive topic especially when your child reaches High School and they want to do it all. So last year, the German Institute for Economic Research compared music training with sports, theater and dance in a study of 3,000 seventeen year olds. The research found that 'those who had taken music lessons outside school scored significantly higher in terms of cognitive skills, had better grades and were more conscientious and ambitious than their peers. **The impact of music was more than twice that of the other activities and held true regardless of the students' socioeconomic background.'**

And finally, she looks at the evidence that **'Music literally expands your brain.'** In a 2009 study in the Journal of Neuroscience, researchers used an MRI to study the brains of 31 six year old children before and after they took lessons on musical instruments for 15 months. They found that, 'the music students' brains grew larger in the areas that control fine motor skills and hearing and that the corpus callosum, which connects the left and right sides of the brain grew as well.

Despite all this evidence, sadly music programs in schools continue to be viewed as expendable and, as the 2011 analysis in the Journal of Economic Finance calculates, a K-12 music program in a large suburban district costs just \$187 per student a year, which is only 1.6% of the total education budget. So one could argue that until things change for children in our schools, programs such as ours at Singers Marin are not just enrichment opportunities for our children, **they are essential.**

Not too late to accompany us on our trip to Rome and the Vatican!



If you would like to participate or just come along as our adoring audience for this exciting opportunity, please contact our office at 415-383-3712 or at singers@singersmarin.org or [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Wings of Song will be traveling to **Rome** on March 10, 2015 to participate in the ***Festival of Peace and Brotherhood***. Not only will they present concerts in Rome and nearby cities, but they will have the opportunity to be part of a Mass at the Vatican, singing in the majestic St. Peter's Basilica, one of the most venerated Renaissance edifices in the world.

We are currently **fundraising for scholarships** to help some of our singers participate in this amazing opportunity, as well as cover expenses for our **accompanist!** [Make a donation today!](#)



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Email: singers@singersmarin.org

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