



Women's voices soar in music on myths and stories in "Cassandra" concert

Melodia Women's Choir's spring concert features the world premiere of "CASSANDRA" by Hilary Purrington, Works by Meredith Monk & Emma Lou Diemer and more.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES, May 14, 2016 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Melodia Women's Choir, Cynthia Powell Artistic Director, welcomes choral audiences to an evening of richly-told stories in a spectrum of colors and moods - light and playful, warm and romantic, dark and foreboding. We will share music by contemporary composers that look back to ancient tales and traditions, and songs that speak of timeless emotions shared by all.

The centerpiece of the concert is the world premiere of "Cassandra," a dynamic and original new work from emerging composer [Hilary Purrington](#), winner of Melodia's 2015 Women Composer Commissioning Competition.

"Cassandra" is an epic tale with a musical spirit to match. It lends its name to Melodia's spring concert, an evening celebrating myths and stories in song. Scored for women's voices, percussion and piano, "Cassandra" takes its inspiration from the saga of the Trojan princess of Greek mythology. "As a female composer writing for a women's choir, I found it fitting to create a work that tells a story about an extraordinary woman," said Purrington. "Cassandra was one of the most beautiful women in the world, a priestess with the gift of prophecy, but cursed by Apollo for refusing him so that no one believed her wisdom. I like to imagine her as formidably intelligent and outspoken, an extraordinary woman, millennia ahead of her time."

The program also spotlights the powerful rhythms of members of the Néó Percussin Ensemble in "Dreams," a work for Taiko drums written by Kaoru Watanabe, formerly of Kodo. Also featured is "Quarry Weave II" by Meredith Monk, the whimsical "Five Limericks" by Emma Lou Diemer and a selection of soulful pop favorites, including "Georgia on My Mind," "Unforgettable," and "Sunday Kind of Love." Award-winning collaborative pianist Taisiya Pushkar joins Melodia for the concert.

Saturday, May 14, 2016 @ 7:30 PM
West End Collegiate Church
245 West 77th St (@ West End Ave) NYC
\$20 adv (\$25 door) \$15 adv (students & seniors)
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2510870
800-838-3006

More info: melodiawomenschoir.org
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ABOUT MELODIA

With more than a decade of adventurous, fresh and wide-ranging repertoire that offers rarely heard, and stylistically diverse works, Melodia has established a reputation as the premier women's choir of NYC. Called "riveting" by The New York Times and hailed by composers such as Meredith Monk,

Melodia is committed to nurturing emerging women composers through commissions and performances. Founded by Executive Director Jenny Clarke in 2003, Melodia collaborates with and supports women composers, musicians and performers across a wide musical spectrum. The ensemble has been heard frequently on WQXR radio www.melodiawomenschoir.org and has performed in venues that include Merkin Concert Hall, Symphony Space, DiMenna Center for Classical Music, St. Ignatius Loyola, and many others.

ABOUT HILARY PURRINGTON

New England-based composer of contemporary classical music Hilary Purrington has received recognition from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and many others. Purrington holds degrees from The Juilliard School and the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, and is pursuing an MMA at the Yale School of Music. www.hilarypurrington.com.

ABOUT TAISIYA PUSHKAR

Taisiya Pushkar has been collaborative pianist with Melodia since 2009. She has performed extensively in Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium, Israel, Canada and the United States as a recitalist and in collaboration with many leading singers and instrumentalists - notably cellist Amber Docters van Leeuwen with whom Pushkar recorded Flavours (Brilliant Classics). She is the recipient of the 2013 Sorel Fellowship, is on the faculty of the Ethical Culture Fieldstone School, and the Lucy Moses School at Kaufman Center in New York City. www.taisyapushkar.com

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