

Friday Evening, September 20, 2019, at 8:00



# Women Warriors:

THE VOICES  
OF CHANGE

Orchestra Moderne NYC  
Amy Andersson, Founder and Music Director

## *Women Warriors: The Voices of Change*

### **Introductory Remarks**

MASIH ALINEJAD, Author and Activist

### **Prologue\***

LOLITA RITMANIS

### **Chapter One** The Long Road

LOLITA RITMANIS *The Long Road\**

### **Chapter Two** Freedom

MIRIAM CUTLER *Women Unite\**

### **Chapter Three** The 1980s AIDS/HIV Crisis

PENKA KOUNEVA *AIDS Crisis\**

### **Chapter Four** Love is Love

STARR PARODI *Joy of the Waters\**

### **Chapter Five** Women Build Peace

PENKA KOUNEVA *Build Peace\**

NATHALIE BONIN, Violin

### **Chapter Six** Yearning to Breathe Free

SHARON FARBER *HURRIYA Wind in My Hair\**

### **Chapter Seven** Mother Earth Protectors

NATHALIE BONIN *Tender Dismay\**

PENKA KOUNEVA *Standing Rock\**

MIRIAM CUTLER *Earth Activists\**

### *Intermission*

**Chapter Eight** Our Truth is Our Power  
SONITA ALIZADEH/MAHDI *Daughters for Sale*  
MANDY HOFFMAN *Orchestral Arrangement\**  
NATHALIE BONIN *Prayer\**  
PENKA KOUNEVA *Our Truth – Our Power\**

**Chapter Nine** Seeking Justice and Equality  
SHARON FARBER *Say Their Name\**  
ANNE-KATHRIN DERN *He is Not Coming Back\*\**

**Chapter Ten** Parkland  
ISOLDE FAIR/STARR PARODI *Rise\**  
ISOLDE FAIR, Soloist  
Featuring THE VISIONARY SINGERS

**Chapter Eleven** Hell Hath No Fury Like a Woman Scorned  
PENKA KOUNEVA *Me Too\**

**Chapter Twelve** We Will Honor Her  
PENKA KOUNEVA *Honor Her\**

**Finale** Women Hold Up Half the Sky  
AMY ANDERSSON/LOLITA RITMANIS *We Rise\**  
GILLIAN HASSERT, Soloist  
Featuring RIGA CATHEDRAL GIRLS' CHOIRTIARA

\* *World Premiere*

\*\* *U.S. Premiere*

## At a Glance

### *Women Warriors: The Voices of Change*

Orchestra Moderne NYC proudly presents a new world premiere production featuring the works of composers and singer/songwriters Sonita Alizadeh, Amy Andersson, Nathalie Bonin, Miriam Cutler, Anne-Kathrin Dern, Isolde Fair, Sharon Farber, Mandy Hoffman, Penka Kouneva, Starr Parodi, and Lolita Ritmanis. Two years in the making, this ground-breaking creation honors female activists who are fighting climate change, human trafficking, child marriage, campaigning for civil and human rights, gender equality, and for the right of every girl to an education. Please feel free to clap, cheer and express your enthusiasm between pieces!

## Notes on the Program



**Created by Amy  
Andersson  
Music Director/  
Founder/Producer**

Conductor Amy Andersson is known most recently as Founder and Music Director of Orchestra Moderne NYC, a game-changing new ensemble in New York City that recently made their successful debut at Carnegie Hall on October 7, 2017. Appearances on Late Show with Stephen Colbert, CBS Morning News, CBS Evening News, and press coverage in the Wall Street Journal have led music critic Norman Lebrecht to call her “America’s most-watched Symphony Orchestra Conductor.”

Ms. Andersson has toured to over twenty-two countries as a conductor of operatic, symphonic, Broadway musical, and video game repertoire. She has made appearances with the St. Louis Symphony, Houston Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Oregon Symphony, Colorado Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, Honolulu Symphony, among others and has lead opera productions in Germany at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein, National Theater of Mannheim, Stadttheatre Aachen, Weikersheim Opera Festival, Rheinsberg Chamber Opera, and Schlosstheater Schwetzingen. Ms. Andersson is devoted to teaching young conductors, is in demand for master classes and most recently accepted the position of Adjunct Lecturer at Brooklyn College/Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema.



**Masih Alinejad,  
Introductory  
Remarks**

Masih Alinejad founded the My Stealthy Freedom campaign against compulsory hijab in 2014, which is now the largest civil disobedience campaign in the history of Islamic Republic. Ms. Alinejad is also an Iranian political journalist, TV presenter, women’s rights activist and author of the best-selling memoir, *The Wind in My Hair: My Fight for Freedom in Modern Iran*. In 2009, she was forced to leave Iran for the UK where she wrote and produced multiple radio and TV documentaries on human rights abuses. Today, she hosts Tablet, a satirical weekly show on the VOA, and runs My Stealthy Freedom campaign and initiatives such as White Wednesdays and My Camera is My Weapon.

It is a great honor to be included as part of the program to honor women warriors. Across the globe today, it is the women who are the true change makers, challenging discriminatory laws, breaking taboos and upending social norms. There is a long history of such struggles but it is now that such heroic efforts are being recognized.



**Lolita Ritmanis,  
Composer’s Notes**

***Prologue\****

We live in a time of great hope for change, in a time where women’s voices will no longer be silenced or ignored. As we rip off the band-aid that has been covering up many unhealed and unacknowledged wounds from our past, the time is not to learn from that past, and through awareness create a healthier society, where equality becomes

the norm, and where diverse voices are no longer marginalized but rather celebrated. The *Prologue* shares both visually and sonically the power of women and the breathtaking groundswell of our collective experience.

### **Chapter One** *The Long Road\**

As I sat down to begin the process of composing an original symphonic work to support the powerful overview of women throughout history it was a bit of a daunting task. How does one comment musically on such a broad overview of the collective "long road," while paying homage to individual achievements, obstacles, and battles won and battles lost? I let this question ruminate for quite a while. Chapter One could not merely support, in documentary fashion, the visuals we were seeing on the screen. This work needed to make its own statement and present its own purpose within the body of the concert.

One night the germ of the idea came to me: *The Long Road* needed to feature individual voices within a sea of collective voices. I chose to compose a double concerto of sorts, featuring four unique voices: flute, violin, French horn, and cello. Throughout Chapter One, the quartet shines through the orchestra; as soloists, as a quartet, all the while receiving support from the orchestra. Much like the composers represented in this concert, we embrace this experience as individuals, we embrace this experience as a group of composers and artists who deeply respect one another, and, finally, we embrace the opportunity to move the audience, to open hearts and minds, in hopes that through shining a light on the women warriors of the past, we not only celebrate their journeys throughout history, but embrace a deeper concept, that *The Long Road* is not only a thing of the past, but a living, breathing road that we are all paving together.

### **Finale** *We Rise\**

Lyrics by Amy Andersson

Music by Lolita Ritmanis

Amy Andersson and I co-wrote the song "We Rise" for the finale of our concert. During the collaboration process, the finale went through many permutations, many concepts of how to present the song, and what the message would be. There can be great power, even joy and positivity that come out of tackling so many serious topics as are tackled in "Women Warriors: The Voices of Change." Shining a light on the darker chapters of our history, thanking the women who have come before us, seeking solutions together of ways to make meaningful changes empowers. It empowers us, our daughters, sisters, mothers, and grandmothers to rise, to rise and have their voices heard!

Early in the process, we knew that we wanted to add not only one solo voice, but also a choir to the finale. Collaborating in this part of the process with the Riga Dom Cathedral Girls Choir *Tiara* in Latvia, under the direction of Aira Birziņa, brought the missing element we were looking for. The team in Latvia helped us to facilitate and elevate the finale of the concert. Through virtual collaboration with a talented team making it all come together, the finale aims to not only celebrate our women warriors, but leave the audience with a positive charge: "There are hills to climb and hearts to heal, and minds to set free. We Rise!"

### **About the Composer**

Ritmanis is an Emmy award-winning composer. She has been nominated 10 times, and won in 2002 for her work on the Warner Bros. series *Batman Beyond*. One of the founders of the Alliance for Women Film Composers, she served as president from 2016-2018, and is a founding member of Dynamic Music Partners. Selected career highlights include: feature

film *Dvėseju Putenis* (Blizzard of Souls,) set to premiere on November 8th, 2019, the 2017 Carnegie Hall U.S. premiere of her symphonic work "Overture to Light", and her original score for *Wild DaZe* - documentary (featuring Jane Goodall).

Early in her career, Lolita learned from such composing greats as Michael Kamen, Basil Poledouris, Mark Snow and Shirley Walker, among many others. Prior to focusing her career on composition, Lolita was an orchestrator on over 100 films, mini-series and television programs. Lolita is a member of the Television Academy, NARAS, SCL, and WIF. On May 9th, 2018 Lolita was honored with the BMI Champion Award.



### **Miriam Cutler Composer's Notes**

When I was invited to be part of *Women Warriors*, my response was an enthusiastic YES! I'm both an activist and an artist; I need the combination of social consciousness and music that documentaries provide. There is a deep sense of purpose and commitment to telling real stories in a responsible way. Amy's vision for this concert is ambitious and offers the opportunity for us to join together in creating a powerful expression of our desire to heal the planet and work towards environmental and social justice.

### **Chapter Two Women Unite\***

My piece for Chapter 2, "Freedom-Women Unite" accompanies footage of the feminist struggle to achieve true equality. I was lucky enough to be in college when the second wave of feminism exploded into our culture. I have tried to express the outrage, excitement, and hope we all felt as young women participating in that revolutionary vision of a better and more just

future. Today we enjoy so many freedoms that were so hard won, and continue to be challenged.

### **Chapter Seven Earth Activists\***

Chapter 7, "Climate Revolutionaries" is meant to underscore the very real connection women have with the earth, and the understanding that we need to heal ourselves and our planet. And the reality that we now must come together on a global scale to fight for earth justice and life itself.

### **About the Composer**

Emmy nominated Composer Miriam Cutler has an extensive background in scoring for independent film & TV projects, as well as two circuses. Cutler wrote the scores for *RBG* and *Dark Money* which both premiered at Sundance 2017 and *Love, Gilda* which premiered at Tribeca 2018. All three films had theatrical releases with *RBG* garnering box office as one of the highest earning documentaries ever. *RBG* was nominated for an Oscar in 2019. Upcoming releases include: *Flannery (O'Connor)*, *Not Carol*, *Emily on the Edge of Chaos*, and festival favorite, *Gloria's Call*.

She has been Composer in Residence at Columbia College of the Arts, taught a semester at California Institute of the Arts, and overseas at the Hollywood Music Workshop in Vienna. Miriam currently serves on the Branch Executive Committee of the Documentary Branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.



### **Penka Kouneva Composer's Notes**

It's a tremendous honor for me to participate as a composer in *Women Warriors: The Voices of Change*, a first-of-its-kind

event conceived by Maestra Amy Andersson, Creative Director and Conductor. This is the most important concert I have been a part of to date because of its relevance to the current historical times. By tackling social and humanistic issues that are not usually addressed on a classical concert stage, *Women Warriors* also gives orchestral music an urgent social and cultural resonance.

### **Chapter Three** *The AIDS Crisis\**

As an adolescent growing up in the 80s in Sofia, Bulgaria, I was very scared of the AIDS pandemic. I remember thinking about the trauma each infected person had experienced...I tried to imagine how it would feel to live with a death sentence hovering over ones head. Later I got to meet and make friends with people who were HIV-positive. Their incredible resilience, willpower and commitment to heal touched me deeply. My music has urgency and drama, but also compassion and hope expressed in the soaring emotional melodies.

### **Chapter Five** *Build Peace*

This segment shows Israeli and Palestinian women peacefully coming together and searching for common language amidst the most violent, continuous and divisive war of our modern times. My piece expresses love, care and humility at the power of the human spirit to rise above conflict, hatred and profound differences. I strived for the music to have timeless and universal sound.

### **Chapter Seven** *Standing Rock\**

The feelings I had when watching the web and TV coverage of Standing Rock were of utmost rage, anger and disgust. Water is the most precious resource on our planet. Human life would be impossible for more than three days without water. Yet millions of people around the world have no access to clean drinking water and so many preventable deaths around the globe happen because of contaminated water. My music is inspired by the minimalism of Steve Re-

ich. It features pounding chords and drums capturing my rage at the unjust violence against the peaceful protestors at Standing Rock.

### **Chapter Eight** *Our Truth\**

This chapter is about the women around the globe who have overcome profound traumas in their lives and are led by example as role models in their communities. This track has international flavor as it features women like Malala, Laxmi Agarwal and African women-leaders. Yet my impulse as a composer is to always write timeless music that transcends space and time. Therefore my music has overtones of curiosity and humanity.

### **Chapter Eleven** *Me Too\**

This is a painful subject because such an overwhelming majority of women bear scars from some form of sexual violence against them. The track is extremely intense with seething anger and rage throughout, and a big breakthrough towards the end symbolizing that finally this issue has been brought out into the open. Women are the creators and nurturers of life itself; sadly throughout history and still to this day they experience tremendous amount of sexual violence. It is a great honor to compose music that underscores their battle.

### **Chapter Twelve** *We Will Honor Her\**

This chapter highlights the women who have propelled humanity forward with their courage, vision, integrity and selfless care for their fellow humans. It honors mothers, sisters, daughters, grandmothers of all races and cultures, as well as a number of distinguished women. My composition (co-composed with Fred E. Smith) begins with soulful solo cello and then goes into a jubilant orchestral celebration inspired by Beethoven's Ode To Joy. It is one of the most positive, uplifting and joyful compositions I have ever written.

### About the Composer

Game and film composer Penka Kouneva scored *Prince of Persia: Forgotten Sands*, *The Mummy VR* game, and a \$30M multimedia NASA exhibit *Heroes And Legends* at the Kennedy Space Center. Penka was born and raised in Sofia, Bulgaria, and her music is a blend of her Eastern-European upbringing, classical training, and modern film & game music.

Penka's composer awards include Sundance Fellowship, two Ovation Awards, The Copland Award, and the Hollywood Music in Media Award among many others. She also made history as the first woman Lead Orchestrator on blockbusters after Shirley Walker (in the 1980s).



### Starr Parodi Composer's Notes

#### Chapter Four *Joy of the Waters\**

Love is love, love is joy, love is tears, love is what we all seek and what makes us whole. I was so fortunate to grow up being influenced by my mother's best friend, my godmother, who along with her life partner, were a glowing example of a long-term, loving relationship.

Having my music performed as a part of this concert that elevates such brave and influential women, as well as highlighting such important causes as LGBTQ rights and gun control, is an incredible honor and privilege.

### About the Composer

Starr Parodi has scored numerous films, television series, and iconic movie trailers, these credits include *The Starter Wife*, *Conversations With Other Women*, *Transformers: Rescue Bots*, and hundreds of Hollywood's most visible film trailers/promo (*Last Samurai*, *James Bond*, *Mission: Impossible II*, *Harry Potter*, etc.).

As a multi award-winning composer, Starr is the first woman to have her orchestral works performed in the 85-year history of the Laguna Pageant Of The Masters, where she is currently a featured composer. In 2017, as part of The Women in the World Summit, the New York Times invited Starr to Lincoln Center to conduct *To All The Little Girls*, a music video and performance she produced with Oscar winning filmmaker Terry Sanders, which celebrates the potential of young women. Starr is the current President of the Alliance for Women Film Composer.



### Sharon Farber Composer's Notes

Sharon Farber is a member of The Academy of Motion Pictures, and a celebrated multi-award winning film, tv, and concert composer. She is the current co-vice president of the Alliance for Women Film Composers. Sharon has served on the board of the SCL for 10 years, and is a mentor to young composers at the request of Berklee College of Music, where she graduated summa cum laude with a dual degree in film scoring and Concert composition programs.

#### Chapter Six *Hurriya\**

In this piece, I was immersed in the struggle of the women in Iran for freedom. To feel the "wind in my hair," such a simple request and yet for some, this plea is being denied. Here in the U.S. we take this freedom for granted, but that is not the case in many other parts of the world. As a woman and a human being, I support these women's quest to be free and dress as they please with no restrictions.

Musically, this was an opportunity for me to create a fusion of Middle Eastern rhythms, sounds and instrumentation: representing

this struggle with the rich sound of the orchestra representing freedom, as well as one female voice asking for *Hurriyah* – freedom.

### **Chapter Nine** *Say Their Name\**

This piece effectuates the pain and suffering of the women of Black Lives Matter. I cannot imagine the heartache of losing a child – it is the most agonizing experience one can go through. Every life is precious and we should all be treated equally, no matter our color, gender, faith or culture. It is a basic human right.

The cello for me is as close as it gets to the human voice. In *Say Their Name* it represents a single, yet universal, mother's voice. She is me. She is you. She is all of us. The orchestra, on the other hand, portrays the fight and quest for change, so that the names of those who died will not be forgotten. From their sacrifice, a new, strong and determined voice of change would emerge, with a call for human dignity and respect for all life.

#### **About the Composer**

Sharon Farber is a member of The Academy of Motion Pictures, a four-time Emmy Award nominee, Winner of the 2013 Society of Composers and Lyricists Award for Outstanding work in the Art of Film Music," the 2012 Visionary Award in Music by the Women's International Film & TV Showcase, winner of the Telly Award and the co-vice president of the Alliance for Women Film Composers. Sharon is a celebrated Film, TV and concert music composer who served on the board of the SCI for 10 years, and is a mentor to young composers at the request of Berklee College of Music, where she graduated summa cum laude with a dual degree in film scoring and Concert composition programs.



### **Nathalie Bonin** **Composer's Notes**

As composer and soloist, I am truly honored to be part of this event. I believe that the women we are honoring are the true super heroes. They have sacrificed so much, even their lives; so that we can have peace, equal rights, freedom and respect.

### **Chapter Five** *Women Build Peace,* Violin Soloist

This soulful violin solo transcends nations, religions, and ideologies while speaking the language of brotherhood, peace and reconciliation. Soaring in breadth and soulful in character, it binds us together in our common quest for hope, peace and transformation on earth.

### **Chapter Seven** *Tender Dismay\**

This piece is a combination of light melody accompanied by multiple layers of string effects creating a somewhat innocent yet sensitive mood combined with disturbing unearthly and slightly disturbing textures to accompany the eerie footage of mass sprayings in the US of cities and populations with DDT during the 1950's-60's. This chapter also pays homage to Rachel Carson, Biologist and environmentalist, who warned about its deadly effects in her book, *The Silent Spring*.

### **Chapter Eight** *Prayer\**

This chapter promises to be very intense and emotional. Nested between Sonita's powerful performance and Penka's piece, *Prayer* will be a moment of mourning, reflection and hope. It is paired with a Memorial to victims of honor killings. When I composed this piece, I wanted to create a very sacred mood where we feel the loss and the pain, but also the hope shin-

ing through. The strings were arranged to create the effect of the sound of a church organ. Combined with the visuals, it shows the disturbing reality of beautiful women and girls murdered in what should have been the prime of their lives. I hope that *Prayer* will be able to say musically what is beyond words.

#### About the Composer

Nathalie is a multi-faceted artist who lives through music and art and thus has explored many expression forms from live performance, recording, composing, conducting and even aerial acrobatics. An award-winning composer, Nathalie has just recently composed the score for the television movie *ROME IN LOVE* (Crownmedia) which premiered in July on the Hallmark Channel. She splits her time between Los Angeles, New York and Montreal for her numerous ongoing projects.



#### Sonita Alizadeh Composer's Notes

##### Chapter 8 *Daughters for Sale*

I will be performing *Daughters for Sale*, a piece I originally wrote when I was an Afghan child living in Tehran. It speaks to the plight of all girls, around the globe, that are being sold into forced marriage at a rate of twenty-three girls per minute. I escaped this fate twice. I advocate, perform and educate to end this practice for all girls everywhere. My vision is a world where every girl is allowed to reach her full potential, make her own choices, and live the life she chooses for herself.

#### About the Composer

Sonita was born in Afghanistan under the Taliban regime, but grew up as an undocumented refugee in Iran. She twice escaped being sold as a child bride – a tradition

rooted in gender inequity that stretches across cultures worldwide. Though rapping was illegal for her as a girl in Iran, music became her outlet for expression and for hope. One of Sonita's first homemade music videos, "Daughters for Sale" powerfully brought voice to the silent pain of so many of her friends experiencing child marriage. Sonita believes that together we can end forced marriage in one generation and is working to make that a reality.



#### Mandy Hoffman Composer's Notes

##### Chapter 8 *Orchestral Arrangement for Daughters For Sale\**

When Amy told me about *Women Warriors*, I was mesmerized by her passion and her concept. Though she had already booked all of her musical acts for the shoe, Amy had the idea to involve me by having me collaborate with the Afghan singer/rapper, Sonita Alizadeh. I was moved by Sonita's story and jumped at the chance to be part of this historical event. I worked with Sonita and her producer in Iran and I have taken their fully electronic composition and translated it to a 71-piece orchestral arrangement. While music is music, crossing genres is complicated and challenging work, and I looked to masters like Quincy Jones, Kendrick Lamar, and even Henry Mancini for inspiration.

I am so honored to be part of this incredible event, sharing the bill with the fierce talent that is involved. It is truly inspiring to see women taking risks, working hard, and creating opportunities for themselves where there is usually little to none. I hope this concert sheds light on the power women have, and breaks down barriers both in music and human rights.

### About the Composer

Mandy has scored feature films, TV series, commercials and art installations that have appeared in theaters, networks, film festivals, and galleries all over the world. Most recently she scored feature films for A24 (*The Lovers*) and Will Smith and Jada Pinkett-Smith's Overbrook Entertainment (*Hala*). Highlights from her TV scores include Jill Soloway's Amazon Studios series *I Love Dick*, and the HBO/SKY multi-season comedy *Doll & Em*. In 2018, she was recognized and invited to become a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences. Mandy is an active member of the composing and filmmaking communities, and currently resides in Brooklyn, New York.



**Anne-Kathrin Dern  
Composer's Notes**

#### Chapter 9 *He Is Not Coming Back*\*\*

*He Is Not Coming Back* was initially written for a Mongolian open-air stage play back in 2017. Mongolia is known for its magnificent horses and its traditional cavalry. This play was about a warrior who has to leave home to ride into battle. He eventually falls defending his home and this particular track is about his family's realization that he is not coming back. It means a lot to have one of my pieces featured in this magnificent concert. Not only does the content of the piece go brilliantly with the Black Lives Matter In Memoriam section, it also retroactively gives it a deeper cultural meaning. It is an honor to be featured among such esteemed peers of mine, and as someone who frequently fights for gender equality in our particular industry, it is heartwarming to have our music support the stories of women warriors throughout history in other fields. They are the reason why we get to do what we do today.

### About the Composer

Anne-Kathrin Dern is a German film composer and CEO of e-Quality Music Productions LLC. She is known for orchestral scoring animation and children's movies such as *The Jade Pendant* (2017), *Help I Shrunk My Parents* (2018), and more. Anne-Kathrin studied film scoring at musicube, the ArtEZ Conservatory in the Netherlands, and completed the Film Scoring Certificate Program at UCLA. In 2016 she participated in the ASCAP Film Scoring Workshop with Richard Bellis and was an intern at Hans Zimmer's Remote Control Productions. Anne-Kathrin is a board member of the Alliance for Women Film Composers, and currently resides in Los Angeles, California.



**Isolde Fair  
Composer's Notes**

#### Chapter Ten *Rise*\*

This song speaks to the message that you must keep trying and using your voice without giving up so that you are heard. Isolde's lyrics echo the misgivings and fear of so many young people who have to deal with the reality of gun violence in their schools. Isolde also writes anthemically, "We rise until we're standing, we rise until we're strong, our dreams are never ending, so we rise until we're standing," hopeful of a coming change in the world.

Isolde is filled with gratitude for being invited to take part in this important event that celebrates the bravery of individuals who have spoken out to make a change for the better. *Rise* is anthemic and hopeful of a coming change in the world.

### About the Composer

Isolde is 15 years old and attends a performing arts high school in the Los Angeles

area where she will soon be in the tenth grade. She started playing violin when she was in preschool at the age of five. She has been studying classical violin for ten years and currently studies with solo violin artist Fabiola Kim. Isolde has had some wonderful opportunities to perform and record with world class artists such as members of Cirque du Soleil, Louis Price, and BBC recording artist Callaghan in professional concerts and recordings.



**Gillian Hassert,  
Soloist**

We Rise soloist Gillian Hassert is a singer, actor, and storyteller based out of New York City. Most recently, she performed as the Madame in *Hunchback of Notre Dame* at the Fulton Theatre and Hildy in *On the Town* with Resonance Works in Pittsburgh. Some favorite roles include Jan in *Grease* at Maine State Music Theatre, Ursula (*The Little Mermaid*), and Mabel in the national tour of *Fame the Musical*. Other projects include cabarets, workshops, and readings at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, Players Club, 54 Below, and the Laurie Beechman. In addition to her theatrical endeavors, Gillian has been a professional church musician for over 10 years and received her BFA in Vocal Performance from Carnegie Mellon University. When she isn't singing or acting, you can often find her indulging in her other passions: embroidery and beer!

An evening of material created solely by women is a rarity in our industry, and it is more important than ever to highlight female stories and experiences. This program is an urgent reminder of our responsibility to the global sisterhood. I am so grateful and invigorated to be involved in this project.

## The Visionary Singers



**Anne Fraser Thomas  
Vocalist**

Anne Fraser Thomas is currently performing in the world premiere of *Hercules!* She has starred in many regional shows including *Man of La Mancha*, *Les Miserables* and many more. She is an active voice-over and recording artist and sings with Tony award honored, Broadway Inspirational Voices gospel choir.



**Carly Ozard  
Vocalist**

Ozard trained in Musical Theater and Operetta at Stella Adler. Most recently she played Magenta in the *Rocky Horror Show* on Fire Island, was Killer Queen in *54 Below* sings *We Will Rock You* and is a beloved MTA Busker with Music Under New York.



**Jasmin Richardson  
Vocalist**

Jasmin Richardson is currently on Broadway with the book of Mormon. She is a proud graduate of Abilene Christian University. Other notable credits include Broadway: *Gettin the Band Back Together*. First National Tour of *The Bodyguard* as Nicki Marron, *Dreamgirl's* (Deena Jones), and *Memphis* (Felicia Farrell).



**Jordan Welch**  
Vocalist

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA, Jordan was educated as an engineer at Case Western Reserve University. Jordan has always exhibited her gift and passion for music. She is an anointed vocalist, skilled choir director, accomplished musician, and powerful songwriter.



**Nicole Lo**  
Vocalist

Nicole has just returned from singing lots of rock and roll in Syd Norman's Pourhouse on the Norwegian Breakaway. Other favorite roles have included Zombina in "Zombies from the Beyond" and Penelope Square in "Polkadots" at Ivoryton Playhouse. Nicole got her BFA at Montclair State University.



**Sarah Hemenway**  
Vocalist

Sarah's favorite roles include Cathy Hiatt in *The Last Five Years* (Gesa Power House Theatre), Rosalinda in *Die Fledermaus* (CWU), and being a featured singer with Titus Burgess at the 2015 Trevor Live Gala. From Walla Walla, Washington, Sarah graduated from Central Washington University with a BM in Vocal Performance.

### **John Miller, Music Coordinator**

John is honored to again be a part of Maestra Andersson's Orchestra Moderne performance. Broadway (over 130 shows, including): *Ain't Too Proud*; *Oklahoma*;

*Summer: The Donna Summer Musical*; *Gettin' The Band Back Together*; *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*; *Waitress*; *A Bronx Tale*; *Jersey Boys*; *Smokey Joe's Café*; *Once on this Island*; *Hello Dolly*; *Rock of Ages*; *Miss Saigon*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*; *Indecent*; *Natasha, Pierre and The Great Comet of 1812*; *Something Rotten*; *Les Miserables*; *Pippin*; *Once*; *Newsies*; *Elf*; *Jesus Christ Superstar*; *Leap of Faith*; *On A Clear Day*; *Godspell*; *Follies*; *Porgy and Bess*; *Priscilla*; *Sister Act*; *Catch Me If You Can*; *Hairspray*; *Young Frankenstein*; *The Producers*.

Studio Musician (bass): Michael Jackson, Madonna, Peter, Paul and Mary, Eric Clapton, Carly Simon, Pete Seeger, NY Philharmonic, Leonard Cohen, Bette Midler, BB King, Mose Allison, Portishead, Billy Joel, Bob Dylan, Celine Dion [www.johnmillerbass.com](http://www.johnmillerbass.com)

### **Tim Davis** Vocal Contractor

Tim's work as a producer and singer includes six seasons of *Glee*, and work with artists Celine Dion, Barbra Streisand, and Mariah Carey. As a television personality, Tim was featured on ABC's *Boy Band* in 2017. Tim is producing two feature films in 2019 and two television shows for 2020. Tim is on tour in 2019 singing background vocals with Barbra Streisand.

### **Riga Cathedral Girls' Choir** TIARA Principal Conductor, Aira Birzina

Founded in 1997 by conductor Gunta Birzina, TIARA is one of the most prominent choral collectives on the Latvian concert stage. Since 2000, the principal conductor of the choir has been Aira Birzina. Under the energetic and fascinating leadership of Birzina, TIARA participates not only in major events in Latvia, but festivals in Estonia, Sweden, Germany, Great Britain and many others. The repertory of the Girls' Choir is very wide from Latvian folk and origi-

nal songs to sacred and secular classics, romantic and contemporary music.

Production in Latvia:

Sound Engineer: Varis Kurmiņš

Cinematographers: Andrejs Verhoustinskis and Uldis Jancis,

Gaffer: Andris Kudors

### **About Orchestra Moderne NYC**

Orchestra Moderne NYC was founded by internationally-known conductor Amy Andersson in April 2017, and is comprised of New York's finest musicians. This game-changing ensemble performs

film, video game and contemporary music that celebrates humanity, creates dialogue between communities and connects to important social issues of our times. The heart of our mission is performing symphony orchestra concerts that connect young people to the thrill of the live orchestral experience, while expanding their understanding of the world in which we live. Diversity, inclusivity, and community are part of our musical advocacy. Music Resonates Inc. 501(c)3 funds Orchestra Moderne NYC concerts which feature women and minority composers and performers.



## Orchestra Moderne NYC

### 1st Violins

Laura Hamilton, Concert Master  
Robert Zubrycki, Assistant Principal  
Una Tone  
Ashley D. Horne  
Elizabeth Nielsen  
Sean M. Carney  
Emily Bruskin Yarbrough  
Rick Dolan  
Martin Agee  
Cecelia Hobbs Gardner

### 2nd Violins

Joyce Hammann, Principal  
Claire Chan, Assistant Principal  
Ming Yeh Kathy Livolsi-Landau  
Hiroko Taguchi Rieko Kawabata  
Melissa Tong  
Andrew Griffin

### Violas

Richard Brice, Principal  
Sarah Adams, Assistant Principal  
Lih Wen Ting  
Lois Martin  
Edward Anthony Malave  
Alissa Smith

### Cellos

Caroline Sue Stinson, Principal  
Robert Burkhart, Assistant Principal  
Anja Wood  
Laura E. Bontrager  
Lanny Paykin  
Sarah Hewitt-Roth

### Basses

Roger J. Wagner, Principal  
Troy Luther Rinker, Assistant Principal  
Jeffrey Carney  
Chiho Saegusa

### Flutes

Elizabeth Mann, Principal  
Keith Bonner, Assistant Principal  
John Romeri

### Oboes

Julia DeRosa, Principal  
Erin Gustafson, Assistant Principal

### Clarinets

Liam P. Burke, Principal  
Jonathan Levine, Assistant Principal  
Christopher Cullen

### Bassoons

Mark Goldberg, Principal  
Gilbert Dejean, Assistant Principal  
Tom Sefcovic

### Horns

Will DeVos, Principal  
Rheagan Osteen, Assistant Principal  
Eric C. Davis  
Kyle Hoyt  
Lynne A. Cohen

### Trumpets

Ronald John Sheppard, Principal  
Angela Gosse, Assistant Principal  
Wayne J. Dumaine

### Trombones

Richard L. Clark,  
Principal Benjamin Herrington,  
Assistant Principal  
Jeffrey E. Caswell

### Tuba

Andrew Bove, Principal

### Timpani

Benjamin S. Herman

### Percussion

Charles T. Descarfino, Principal  
Kory Grossman Assistant Principal  
Javier Diaz

### Harp

Grace Paradise

### Piano/Celeste

Doug Martin

We would like to thank our personal donors who contributed so generously to Music Resonates, Inc. 501(c)3. We are also grateful for the support and recognition from our corporate supporters.

