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TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
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RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

ANGELS IN TRAINING, JUNIOR CHOIR,  
AND SENIOR CHOIR

SUSAN PATRICK,  
ANDREW SKINNER  
& GABRIEL LÖFVALL,  
DIRECTORS

# SPRING CONCERT

**A Tribute Concert in honor of Karen Sovak**

FEATURING ANDREW THOMSON, PERCUSSION  
ELIZABETH ALLYN, KYONG-HAN KIM, & REBECCA WALLACE, COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS

LIVESTREAM ON  
 **YouTube**  
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CHORUS ANGELICUS





KAREN SOVAK was born in the little village of Hoosick Falls, New York into a family with an extensive history of musicians. Her mother was a violinist and choral director, and her dad a renowned band director, gig musician and choral director. Karen's journey into music involved family singing and saxophone lessons at an early age. Why saxophone? She always had a natural and acute sense for visual impressions, and she loved the curvature of the instrument! She imagined the beautiful sound it could make. When she was a teenager and in her 20's, she had the opportunity to study with the world's leading classical saxophonist, the late Sigurd Rascher, who played with major symphonies all over the world and had many compositions dedicated to him. Sigurd Rascher was also an Anthroposophist, embracing Rudolf Steiner philosophy, including Waldorf Education, the study of and application of Biodynamic Gardening, Herbal Medicine and Spiritual Lifestyle. Karen felt totally in tune with these influences and, to this day, is guided by such.

Karen followed family footsteps and enrolled in the Crane School of Music at Potsdam State University, majoring in Music Education. Concurrently, she took several art history courses. She lived in the Washington, D.C. area in the early 1970's, and enjoyed taking additional art courses at the Corcoran Art School. She also started working at the Rudolf Steiner School, Falls Church, VA., educating young children in music and art in a lovely environment. Later, her own education was enhanced by continued coursework, workshops, seminars, and conferences at the Hartt School of Music, Union College in Schenectady, NY, and Eastman School of Music.

After moving to Connecticut, she was appointed Director and Head Teacher of Children's Discovery Center in Winsted. She increased the enrollment five-fold by restructuring the entire curriculum with experiential focus on language and arts, and gained state recognition for this achievement. The Discovery Center was also recognized for becoming one of the first centers in the area to gain status in the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

In 1990 Paul Halley founded Chorus Angelicus. The announcement in the papers encouraged parents to bring their young children to audition. Naturally, Karen jumped on this bandwagon! Sadly, her own three girls were high school age and already too old for the choir! When Paul started the adult choir, Gaudeamus, Karen became a member. About 10 years later Karen was asked to assume the responsibilities of directing the Training Choir, which she continued for 20 years. She also donned the hat of Executive Director of Joyful Noise, Inc. for three amazing (but grueling) years. When not actively participating in Chorus Angelicus, Karen taught private instrumental lessons, played in recorder groups, sang with a Renaissance group, and performed with Gaudeamus. In addition to directing the Angels in Training (formerly known as the Training Choir), Karen directed the Junior Choir of the Berkshire Children's Choir with Artistic Director, Julie Bickford, for 4 years.

In 1998, Paul Halley and Meg Race asked Karen join them in their new venture of Pelagos, their Music Recording, Publishing and Arts Management Company, which she enjoyed immensely. She corresponded with musicians, radio program hosts all over North America, contributed visual ideas to music scores, shipped published sheet music and recordings, and coordinated details for concerts and events.

Now officially retired, Karen shares her time and love with her three girls, five grandchildren, family and friends. She continues to read (mostly historical novels), mow the lawn, tend the garden, enjoy working with fiber arts, doing wood working, creating culinary delights and watching over her flock of 19 exotic hens, one cat and one dog. How lucky she is to have been blessed with a life consumed with children, education and music!

Karen was an incredible conductor and an even more patient and caring person. I couldn't imagine my early years at choir without her. — James Hunter

After making the decision to leave CA as a freshman in high school to pursue operatic studies, Karen hired me as the assistant training choir director for 3 years. I learned so much from watching her with the kids. She really knows how to instill passion in the youngsters while ascertaining discipline at such a young age. Twenty years later, I'm still learning so much from her. She's been such a support system in my personal life and career. I have always been able to count on her for help and guidance in my musical endeavors. Karen has such a gift, and the kids, and I, are so fortunate to have learned from the best. Love you, Karen. - Katie Weiser

Karen is someone who shares her knowledge with a deep sincerity. Just a few years ago I asked for suggestions resources on sight reading. She invited me to come and look through her collection of workbooks at her home. When I arrived, I was greeted by a choir of chickens who were led by their head chorister, the rooster named Gabriel. I will remember always the pleasure of being in her presence and her willingness to delve into musical endeavors for her students at any time. I am so glad that I thought to connect with Karen and I will be sure to keep in touch! -Kaitlin Rogers

Karen, I've known you almost since I can remember. You have inspired my love of music, and are an epic teacher. I still remember so much of my time in the training choir with you. You helped me sing my first solo (okay it was a duet but it was scary still). You inspired me to get into music (I figured it couldn't be far to stardom seeing as I was already in a choir. I mean, I was basically already Freddy Mercury or Sarah Brightman.) Recently, I've been taking music theory classes at college and keep realizing how much you taught us at such a young age. I cannot thank you enough, but here's my best shot at it. Thank you. — Nur Refai

Hi Karen! You've inspired me and many others I know to learn more and improve as we go. You're a phenomenal teacher and mentor, and I'm super grateful for you showing me how to notice mistakes, work on them, and appreciate music among many other things. Thank you! -Samina Refai

Karen has always been incredibly dedicated to her work. She is kind and caring to the children, while giving them the push they need to improve their skills. I loved her while I was a chorister and I love her now, as an adult. She has truly impacted my life and my experience with music. She is a phenomenal woman. -Sky Norton

Many of us not only learned how to use our voices but also how to be choral singers. Our first music theory lessons were learned in her choir as well as our initial introduction to good choral music. Thank you, Karen, for launching so many of us on our life-long love of choral singing! -Jillian Cowles

I sang for Karen for four years and in that time, she taught me how to reach for the stars. I have so many fantastic memories over the years with her - whether we're laughing while watching skits at choir camp or rehearsing upstairs at Trinity. To quote a classic: "Here's to friends and song no wealth can buy." -Eden Cowles

Dear Karen, You have made a tremendous impact on my life. I credit much of who I am today to those days in training choir singing "As I Look Into Your Eyes." I found my passion for music there, and also, truly, my voice. I look up to not only your musical talent but also your unwavering kindness. Your nurturing and intelligent leadership has created so many talented musicians, but also so many genuinely good people. I feel so lucky to have started off my musical career under your wise instruction and wish you nothing but the best in this new stage of your life. Love, Jill Keegan

Tributes to Karen from Her Choristers

I am so glad that Karen Sovak was my teacher. She taught me many valuable lessons about singing and music in general. Karen also gave me private music lessons and I enjoyed going to her house and saying hi to her many chickens and her dog, Lady. We love you Karen! -River Lee

We all miss you! I loved helping out with you. -Ivy Wallace

Karen made learning in choir so much fun. Karen helped me start, continue, and enjoy learning music. -Gabbi Carpentier

Karen was an excellent teacher, who helped me become a marginally competent singer. I wish her all the best now that she is retiring. She has certainly left her mark on me, and the choir at large. Thank you so much. -Alex Larson

Karen was a great teacher. I'm glad I had a chance to meet her. -Madison Matava

Dear Karen, Thank you for your endless dedication to Chorus Angelicus. Your ability to nurture and teach young children to love music is admirable. Your impact on the children will always be something they remember and cherish. Thank you so much! Love, Rachel, Alivia, and Samantha =)

I have many happy memories from my years spent in the training choir, most notably of Karen Sovak, who used her amazing teaching skills to form us into fine, semiprofessional choristers. Many thanks. -Philip Larson

Karen, I always appreciate how kind and loving you are, not only during choir but also when we visit you at your house. Thank you for teaching me patience and music. You have been such an influence to me. Thank you for everything! -Love, Hunter Patrick

Karen, you were my first music teacher and I appreciate how you taught me to read music, sing beautifully, and always believed in me. You're the best! -Love, Ruth Patrick

Not only did Karen Sovak instill a love in music in me from a young age, but because of her love for music, children, and her amazing teaching skills, hundreds of children now love music. As those children grew up they shared their love with their friends, family, and the next generation. An uncountable number of people now love music thanks to Karen Sovak, what an amazing gift. — Piper Gibson

Karen is the one who taught me to sing. She pushed me to be a leader even at such a young age. I owe a great deal of my success to her. I know many of us will miss her dearly and we will miss her ever patient and kind heart. -Molly Cowles

I joined Angels in Training when I was 5 years old. Ms. Karen was my teacher. She helped me with singing and learning theory. She helped kick start my musical journey. Thank you, Ms. Karen, for your compassion and encouragement while we were singing together. -Enzo Virello



PRESENTS

A SPRING CONCERT

A TRIBUTE CONCERT IN HONOR OF KAREN SOVAK

PROGRAM

*Prelude*

Angels In Training

*Come, Follow*

John Hilton, English Nursery Rhyme, a cappella round

*Stay, Little Blackbird*

**Music,** Havelock Nelson

**Words,** Lucia Turnbull

*My Caterpillar*

M. E. Broughton

*All The Pretty Little Horses*

traditional lullaby arr. by Brian Finley

*The Sound of Silence*

**Music & Words,** Paul Simon

arr. by Roger Emerson

*Pass It Along*

Linda Steen Spevacek

# The Junior Choir

## *Seasons*

**Music,** Ola Gjeilo

**Words,** Charles Anthony Silvestri

## *The Seal Lullaby*

**Music,** Eric Whitacre

**Words,** Rudyard Kipling

## *This Little Light of Mine*

Traditional Spiritual arranged by Robert T. Gibson

# The Junior and Senior Choir

## *The Lake Isle of Innisfree*

**Music,** Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)

**Words,** William Butler Yeats (1865–1939)

# The Senior Choir

## *Ave Verum Corpus*

**Music:** Paul M. French (b. 1959)

**Words,** 14<sup>th</sup> century Eucharistic Hymn

## *Shoshone Love Song*

**Music:** Roger Emerson (b. 1950)

**Words,** traditional Shoshone Native American poem

# Chorus Angelicus

(combined choirs)

## *Chili Caliente*

**Music,** David Giardiniere

**Words,** David Giardiniere (b. 1955) & Joseph Martin (b. 1959)  
with a nod to Giacomo Rossini’s *The Barber of Seville*

# Postlude

## Angels in Training

Susan Patrick, Interim Angels in Training Program Director

Rebecca Wallace, Piano

Willamina Rabideau, Maya Ayala, Arianna Seavey, Zoe Fortier, Logan Fortier, Natasha Potter,  
Maya Luna Warner, Teagan Gagnon, Tori Gagnon, Charlie Murdica, Chloe Hart, Lorenzo Virello,  
Ruth Patrick, Hunter Patrick, Nora Youell

## The Junior Choir

Andrew Skinner, Junior Choir Director

Kyong-Han Kim, Piano

River Lee, Head Chorister

Gabrielle Carpentier, Naomi King, Maria Mauro, Norah McCarthy, Riley McIntyre, Abbey Young

## The Senior Choir

Gabriel Löfvall, Artistic Director

Elizabeth Allyn, Piano

Samantha Norton & Rachel Glander, Head Choristers

Alivia Geraghty, James Hunter, Alex Larson, Philip Larson, Madison Matava, Ivy Wallace,  
Senior Assistants, Mika Coderre, Grace Mittleman, Sarah Davis

## Percussion

Elliot Wallace

## Office

Bethany J. Lee, Program Administrator & Office Manager

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