



**WOMEN'S VOCAL ENSEMBLE** JUDE NAVARI, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
4024 EVERETT AVE, OAKLAND, CA 94602 • 510-531-8714 • [www.vocisings.com](http://www.vocisings.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Attn: Music Calendar Editor**

Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble, conducted by Jude Navari, presents, *"The River Has Many Voices: Voci's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Retrospective,"* featuring contemporary musical gems from Voci's 20-year repertoire, many written especially for Voci, plus the world premiere of a new choral song cycle by Voci Conductor Navari. Also featuring works by Callaway, Clark, Frank, Knell, Larsen, Meckler, and Paulus.

**WHEN and WHERE:**

**Saturday, March 24, 8 pm**  
Lake Merritt United Methodist Church  
1330 Lakeshore Ave.  
Oakland

**Sunday, March 25, 4 pm**  
All Souls Episcopal Parish  
2220 Cedar St.  
Berkeley



**TICKETS (including gala reception):**

\$25 General  
\$22 Advance; \$20 for Groups of at least 8  
FREE for Children under 12  
Available at the door or online at [www.vocisings.com](http://www.vocisings.com)  
Information: (510) 531-8714

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The 2011-2012 season marks **Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**. Founded in 1991, Voci is recognized as one of the finest choral groups in the Bay Area. Led by artistic director Jude Navari, who is active throughout the Bay Area as a conductor and composer, the Ensemble has been described as having a particularly lush and ethereal quality. Voci champions music by women and for women and commissions new works by contemporary composers, especially from the San Francisco Bay Area. The group's size of 24 voices conveys a poignant intimacy and allows for a deep, personal connection among chorus members and between chorus and audience. Voci's commitment to musical excellence, unique mastery of style and technique, and adventurous and innovative programming have earned high praise from critics and choral musicians alike. The singers are women of all ages and walks of life who share a passionate love of music, fierce dedication to the ensemble, and deep commitment to the community.

In 2011-12 Voci is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a series of intimate concerts, and gala performances in March 2012, featuring favorite contemporary works from its 20 year history, as well as a stunning new vocal song cycle by Conductor Jude Navari. Navari's new work, "Siddhartha Fragments," evocatively weaves together passages about the river from Herman Hesse's novel, *Siddhartha*. Navari set these passages as a birthday gift to Voci for its twentieth anniversary concert.

Voci's Twentieth Anniversary season will culminate in performances at the prestigious **International Tapestry Festival** in Vancouver, BC in May 2012. Voci is one of three women's choruses in North America selected to perform at the festival, hosted by the renowned Elektra Women's Chorus.

This is **Jude Navari's** twelfth year as Artistic Director of Voci. He has prepared choruses and conducted performances for Berkeley Opera, arranged folk music and coached rehearsals for Westwind International Folk Ensemble's chorus Westwind Voices, conducted premieres of new works by UC Berkeley graduate student composers for the Berkeley New Music Project, and served as Artistic Director of the Sacramento Men's Chorus. In August 2001, Jude prepared the vocal ensemble for the West Coast Premiere of Philip Glass's *The Photographer* at the Cabrillo Music Festival. Currently, Jude serves as Professor of Music and Director of Vocal Ensembles at Skyline College in San Bruno. Jude Navari received his Ph.D. in Music Composition from the University of California, Berkeley, where he also studied conducting with Marika Kuzma and Jung Ho Pak.

Assistant Conductor **Edna Huelsenbeck** is the founder and former director of the Pacific Women's Chorus in San Diego, and Concentus Women's Chorus in Rochester, NY. She previously served as Interim Director for the University Section Club Chorus at U.C. Berkeley and the Interim Assistant Director of the San Diego Master Chorale. She received her Master of Music degree from The University of Texas at Austin, where she studied conducting with Morris Beachy and Craig Hella Johnson.

Accompanist **Sharon Lee Kim** actively performs as accompanist, collaborative pianist, vocal coach, music director, and piano instructor. She has worked throughout the nation, especially in the New England area, with various colleges, companies, and organizations including the Handel and Haydn Society, Boston Children's Chorus, MassTheatrica, Bay Area Summer Opera Theater Institute, New England Conservatory, Wellesley College, and Boston College. Ms. Lee holds a Bachelor's degree in music from UC Berkeley. She furthered her studies with Irma Vallecillo, Kayo Iwama, and John Greer at the New England Conservatory of Music, where she received her Master's degree and Graduate Diploma in Collaborative Piano.

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