



PORTLAND LESBIAN CHOIR

# Hold Fast To Dreams

**June 11, 2022 | 7 p.m.**

**Parkrose High School  
12003 NE Shaver St,  
Portland, OR 97220**

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## WELCOME!

Welcome to *Hold Fast To Dreams!* We are thrilled you are with us for our first in-person concert since February 2020. Since we last saw you in-person, we have produced three virtual concerts, held 15 months of rehearsals over Zoom and in park shelters, and found a new rehearsal home with good ventilation and space for us to spread out.

Throughout that time, we dreamt of performing for you again! Continuing to dream and hope strengthened our resilience as we navigated the impact of a global pandemic on our ability to sing together.

Tonight, you will hear the world-premiere performance of “Reverie,” a new piece by composer Alysia Lee commissioned for this concert. In February 2021, we included the west-coast premiere of her “Say Her Name” in our virtual concert *The Power of Music*. Ms. Lee consulted with us on the creation of the video and also recorded an introduction for it. We are excited to continue our connection to her. With text by the composer, “Reverie” is a call to action: we must take time to dream, and to create a revolution to make our dreams real.

In January 2022, we were forced to cancel our concert *Be a Light* due to the rise in the Omicron variant, just a few weeks before the scheduled date. All of our preparations were not in vain; we are happy to announce that we will present *Be a Light* in November 2022. Keep watch for details!

Thank you for supporting the Portland Lesbian Choir.

Mary McCarty, Artistic Director  
Melissa Casburn, Board President

## CONCERT CREDITS

### Concert Coordination:

Sparky Lindsay

**House Manager:** Rick Jung

**Stage Manager:** Michael Sanchez

**Sound:** CJ Awalt

**Lighting:** Sara Szymanski

**Volunteer Coordinator:**

Sawyer Castleberry-Backman

**Videographer:** Mark Biedermann

**Wardrobe:** Lottie Zorn

**Program Design and Ads:**

Nori La Rue

Ferran Nicolls

Max Williker

**Business Expo:** Susan Hunter

**PLC Riser Lead:** Nancy King



## BIOS

### DIRECTOR **MARY MCCARTY**



Mary has cultivated a lifelong passion for music via the choral and instrumental arts, performing on both sides of the baton as a singer, flutist and conductor within a wide range of ensembles taking her from her roots in upstate New York to her adopted home in Oregon. In addition to her work with PLC, Mary also serves as the Interim Artistic Director for the Portland Gay Men's Chorus. Mary holds a music degree from the State University of New York at Potsdam.

### ACCOMPANIST **COLIN ALEXSEI SHEPARD**



PLC is thrilled to have Colin as our principal accompanist. Colin is not only the music director and conductor at Cedar Hills United Church of Christ, he is also an active collaborative pianist and music coach in the region. Having received his Masters in Piano Performance at Portland State University, he was the Graduate Teacher's Assistant for collaborative piano accompanying the PSU Chamber Choir and opera studies program. Colin has accompanied and performed in over 600 recitals and played for masterclasses with opera legends Lawrence Brownlee, Frederica von Stade, Angela Meade, and Vinson Cole.

### CHOREOGRAPHER **BECA RASCH**



Beca Rasch is thrilled to be bringing movement to PLC again this term. She has always been enamored with the joy found in dance, and how it can expand the way an audience perceives a piece of music. Beca received her BFA in Musical Theatre from Missouri State University, has performed in regional and professional theatres, and is now the owner and instructor at Firefly Dance. She strives to see beauty in all things, and is honored to be able to share that perspective with you all.

### COMMISSIONING COMPOSER **ALYSIA LEE**



Alysia Lee receives national recognition for advancing access, equity, and decolonization with leaders, organizations, and communities. Her methods center on youth, anti-racism, creativity, and justice. Lee is the Founder and Artistic Director of **Sister Cities Girlchoir** (SCG), the El Sistema-inspired, girl empowerment choral academy in Philadelphia, Camden, and Baltimore in its tenth season. Lee has an emerging voice as a choral composer. She has recent composition commissions from Baltimore Choral Arts, Portland Lesbian Choir, and GALA Choruses. Lee is also a Board member of Chorus America and a National Advisor to ArtsEdSEL.

**Bass:** Amy Roesler  
**Drums:** Ward Griffiths  
**Guitar:** Liz Chibucos

**ASL Interpreters:** Jessy Severe  
JMe Antonick  
**Dance Captain:** Amanda Matteo

## PLC Grants

PLC would like to thank the following grantors for funds received .

### **Grants received for 2020-2021 season:**

Oregon Arts Commission  
Regional Arts & Culture Commission (RACC)  
Oregon Community Foundation  
Oregon Cultural Trust  
Multnomah County Cultural Community (MCCC)  
James F & Marion L Miller Foundation  
Oregon Arts Commission

### **Grants received for 2021-2022 season:**

Oregon Community Foundation  
Funds supporting project: Roy & Diane Marvin  
Fund of OCF William Luce  
Fund of OCF  
Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation  
Regional Arts & Culture Commission (RACC)



## PLC MEMBERS (YEAR JOINED)

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Tauni Arntsen (2016)  
CJ Awalt (2021)  
Emily Barnes (2022)  
Rhea Becke (2012)  
Olivia Benavidez (2022)  
Dana Berglund (2011)  
Cassandra Bird (2022)  
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Lexi Carlson (2022)  
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Lisa Casey (2020)  
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Sarah Clark (2013)  
Katie Drake (2012)  
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Katie Eichner (2018)  
Sebastien Eichvalds (2015)  
Lydia Evans (2022)  
Julie Foster (2018)  
Libby Garcia-McKinstry (2011)  
Kathy Garrett (2000)  
Deborah Gitlitz (1992)  
Coryn Goode (2022)  
Em Goodenough (2022)  
Jimmi Gray (2019)  
Althea Gregory (2015)  
Juliette Hallberg (2022)  
Kat Hamilton (2018)  
Aspen Hansen (2021)  
Diana Hayle (2013)  
Alystra Hill (2017)  
\*Myra Howard (2019)  
Alanna Hoyman-Browe (2018)  
\*Dani Huck (2021)  
\*Susan Hunter (2018)  
Toni Jaffe (2018)  
Sahar Jones (2021)  
Kai Jordan (1992)  
Nancy King (2018)  
Lu Krahe (2017)  
Shanna Kramer (2019)  
Sara Kurtz (2021)  
+Nori La Rue (2017)  
\*\*Sparky Lindsay (1986)

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Marit Luke (2022)  
\*Amanda Matteo (2018)  
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+ *Music Committee*  
\* *Steering Committee*

## HOLD FAST TO DREAMS

### One Dream

featuring Drew Robinson-Woods,  
Althea Gregory and Sebastien  
Eichvalds

Susan LaBarr;  
Text by Langston Hughes

### Hold Fast to Dreams

Ian Axel and Chad Vaccarino;  
Arr. by Roger Emerson

### Rockstar

Rollo A. Dillworth;  
Text by Langston Hughes

### I Dream a World

Brandi Carlile, Tim Hanseroth  
and Phil Hanseroth; Arr. by Ash

### Dreams

featuring Rachel Carina

Alysia Lee; Commissioned by  
Portland Lesbian Choir

### Reverie

World premiere performance!

Justin Timberlake, Anthony Clemons  
Jr., Uforo Ebong, Jacob Kasher  
Hindlin,  
Larrance Dopson, Khirye Tyler,  
Kenyon Dixon, Tarron Crayton, Dylan  
Del Olmo, and Christopher Payton;  
Arr. By Mac Huff

### Better Days

Rosephanye Powell;  
Text by Langston Hughes

### To Sit and Dream

Ruth Morris Gray;  
Text by Sara Teasdale

### Stars I Shall Find

Fabian Andre and Wilbur Schwandt;  
Lyrics by Gus Kahn; Arr. By Jay  
Althouse

### Dream a Little Dream of Me

featuring Shelly Wozniak

Ivy Hunter and William Stevenson;  
Lyrics by Marvin Gaye; Arr. Mac Huff

### Dancing in the Streets

Sarah McLachlan and Pierre  
Marchand; Arr. Mac Huff

**SPECIAL THANKS** to the Portland Gay Men's Chorus for Land Acknowledgement language, risers, and all the riser crew volunteers, especially Joel Bradshaw, as well as Karl Metz, Parkrose High School; Jonathan Dyer, Westminster Presbyterian Church; Ainsworth UCC; and Dot Hearn



## PLC Donors Honor Roll

*This list covers all donors from January 1, 2021 to December 2021.*

*\* 1,000 Friends Members.*

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Melissa Casburn  
\*Myra Howard  
\*Nori La Rue  
Tauni Arntsen  
\*Toni Jaffe

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Katherine Hammer  
Kathleen Clayberger  
Katie and Max  
Kelly Skellenger  
Kent Johnson  
Kim Sullivan

## Become a Member of 1000 Friends of PLC

We at Portland Lesbian Choir are **holding fast to our dreams** and you are invited in too. We look back and appreciate the journey of the trailblazers who fought to create and maintain this choir over 36 years ago to sing out the message that gay rights are human rights. We know that the LGBTQIA+ community enjoys the rights we have today because of those who came before us. We **DREAM** to do the same for those who will come after us in the next 36 years to come. Our choir, which began as a small gathering of women in 1986, has grown to be a choir of 100 singing each term.

A few short years back, we created **1000 Friends of PLC** which is a sustaining membership support drive. By partnering with hundreds of individuals and businesses to support PLC monthly, we have created a sustainable base which will insure the choir's long-term survival and allow PLC to continue Singing Out for the years to come.

We invite you to be a part of this **DREAM** by becoming a sustaining member of 1,000 Friends of PLC at [plchoir.ejoinme.org/donate](https://plchoir.ejoinme.org/donate). You are invited to email me if you would like to be invited to a garden party of 1,000 Friends of PLC this summer with our Artistic Director and leadership team to celebrate this exciting effort. Thank you!

Susan Hunter [fundraising@plchoir.org](mailto:fundraising@plchoir.org)

Kimberly Casey  
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## PROGRAM NOTES AND LYRICS

### One Dream

We can feel a change is coming  
Like a kiss upon a tide  
Breathing life into every heart  
The hope for kinder times  
'Cause we all walk this road together  
Though at times we felt alone  
In the struggle to lift us up we find a  
Strength un-yet defined

You carry your courage  
Carry the history  
Of who've gone before you  
Wherever you come from  
You're born of the one dream  
That finds you standing here

And you know that you can make it  
You've got the whole world  
In your hands  
And you've spent a lifetime  
Working for this moment  
And you are shining  
You're all that you wanted to be

When you're airborne and free  
At peace with gravity  
High above everyone can see  
The spirit of human ecology  
How your flame keeps burning  
When you leave all doubt behind  
It's a giant leap for humankind  
In peace we all shine

### Hold Fast to Dreams

The text of our title piece, "Hold Fast To Dreams" is from a poem by Langston Hughes, "Dreams," set to stunning music by composer Susan LaBarr:

Hold fast to dreams  
For if dreams die  
Life is a broken-winged bird  
That cannot fly.  
Hold fast to dreams  
For when dreams go  
Life is a barren field  
Frozen with snow.

**Langston Hughes** (1901-1967) is particularly known for his insightful portrayals of black life in America from the 1920s to the 1960s. It has been noted that unlike other black poets of the time, Hughes addressed his poetry to the people, specifically black people. His words about dreams still resonate with us today in our personal lives and our dreams for an equitable and just society.

### Rockstar

There's a girl in the backyard  
Bangin' on her drum  
Sittin' in a junkpile  
Laughin' at the sun  
Singing Ah ha ha  
I just wanna be a rockstar

There's a boy in the backseat  
Singing to the song  
Playing on the radio  
Knowing he's the one  
Singing Ah ha ha  
I just wanna be a rockstar  
Singing Ah ha ha  
I was born to be a rockstar

There's a girl in the treetop  
looking at the stars  
Waiting for a touchdown  
Coming in from Mars  
Thinking, is there anybody out there

There's a boy thinking of her  
Playing his guitar  
Searching for the answer  
Buried in his heart

"I Dream a World" by composer **Rollo Dilworth** has lyrics based on a poem of the same name by Langston Hughes. Rollo Dilworth's setting has a gospel feel, amplifying the message "I dream a world where all will know sweet freedom's way..."

Thinking Ah ha ha  
is there anybody out there?  
Singing Ah ha ha  
is there anybody out there?

If there's a meaning  
Can you show me a sign  
The more I look  
It just gets harder to find  
The world is spinning and  
I wanna know why

And we're all getting older  
Recalling we were young  
Hanging on the memory  
Of what we would be become  
Singing Ah ha ha  
I was born to be a rockstar  
Singing Ah ha ha  
I just wanna be a rockstar

And maybe we will never figure it out  
I got a feeling  
That's what life's all about  
I'm learning anything is possible now

Take a ticket and get off the line  
So take a ticket and get off the line

### I Dream a World

I dream a world where man  
No other man will scorn,  
Where love will bless the earth  
And peace its paths adorn

I dream a world where all  
Will know sweet freedom's way,  
Where greed no longer saps the soul  
Nor avarice blights our day.

A world I dream where  
Black or white,  
Whatever race you be,  
Will share the bounties of the earth  
And every man is free,  
Where wretchedness will hang its  
head and joy, like a pearl,  
Attends the needs of all mankind  
Of such I dream, my world!

## GALA

PLC is a proud member of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA). GALA leads the North American LGBT choral movement and cultivates the artistic development of 10,000 singers from more than 190 choruses in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. The next GALA Festival is scheduled in Minneapolis, MN in July of 2024.

## Dreams

Dreams, I have dreams  
When I'm awake when I'm asleep  
And you, you are in my dreams  
You're underneath my skin,  
How am I so weak

And now in my dreams,  
I can feel the way,  
I can just come clean  
I keep it to myself  
I know what it means  
I can't have you, but I have dreams

How long can you hold your breath?  
Can you count to ten,  
Can you let it pass?  
Keep, can you keep it in?  
Keep it behind latches,  
Can you make it last?

Oh, and I have dreams,  
I have dreams

Mind, can you read my mind?  
Has it come undone  
am I showing signs?

I have dreams, I have, I have,  
I have dreams

We are thrilled to continue our collaboration with composer, conductor and educator **Alysla Lee**. When Artistic Director Mary McCarty approached her about the idea of a commission on the topic of "Dreams," she immediately said yes, and talked about building a piece based on a quote from Lucille Clifton: "We cannot create what we can't imagine." What resulted is a stunning new work with lyrics and music written by Ms. Lee. "Reverie" juxtaposes taking the space to dream with a call to revolution, and says that we need both: the first to dream of a world, and the second to fight for what we dream of.

"Dreams" by **Brandi Carlile** has a new setting for choir by local composer/arranger **Ash**. Ash did a fabulous job of showing off Carlile's dream, which is a sincere longing for connection couched in a humorous setting.

**Featured Dancers:**  
**Elle Simon Goldman**  
**Shanna Kramer**  
**Amanda Matteo**  
**Beca Rasch**  
**Leticia West**  
**Andrea Whittaker**

## Reverie

Radical imagination,  
Blueprints, liberation  
Revolution, revolution!

What dreams may come  
From an echoey room  
A barren page  
An unplugged afternoon?

Take time for reverie  
Slow down  
Make room for fantasy  
Share your delusions out loud  
Revolution, revolution!

What dreams may come  
In the liminal rest  
The lean on the in-between?

Take time for reverie  
Lock tight the door  
Make room for fantasy  
Sink and soar

Revo...lution!  
Revolution, revolution!

Take time for reverie  
Slow down  
Make room for fantasy  
Share your delusions out loud  
What dreams may come  
From an echoey room

"Better Days" by **Ant Clemons** was performed at the 2021 inauguration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. We are excited to sing about the better days that emerge knowing that there continue to be dark times on the road to seeing dreams come to fruition.

## Better Days

There's a light at the end of the tunnel  
Keep your eyes on the road ahead  
But if you're feeling lost in the night  
It's okay to cry, just as long as you hold your head

'Cause we're on our way to better,  
Better's ahead, better's ahead  
It gets worse 'fore it gets better  
But better's ahead, better's ahead

Better days are coming, better days  
are coming  
Better days, better days

I know you've been kicked down, slept  
on, let down, faith gone  
Waited for too long for something to  
lean on  
You feel weak, just be strong, deep  
breaths, stay calm  
If you just press on, press on, press on,  
you gon' see

I know you feel left out and stepped  
on, keep goin', keep goin',  
Shine bright don't dim yours for no one  
Keep going higher, higher, higher,  
higher

Because better days are coming,  
better days are on their way  
I know, better days are coming

"To Sit and Dream" by **Rosephanye Powell** is a hauntingly gorgeous setting of the Langston Hughes' poem "To You":

## To Sit and Dream

To sit down and dream, to sit and read,  
To sit and learn about the world  
Outside our world of here and now  
Our problem world  
To dream of vast horizons of the soul  
Through dreams made whole.  
Unfettered free - help me!  
All you who are dreamers, too.  
Help me make our world anew.  
I reach out my dreams to you.

## Stars I Shall Find

There will be rest and sure stars  
shining  
Over the rooftops crowned with snow  
A reign of rest, serene forgetting  
Music of stillness, holy and low

Stars I shall find, I will make this world  
of my devising  
Stars I shall find, out of a dream in my  
lonely mind  
Stars I shall find, I shall find the crystal  
of peace above me  
Stars I shall find

There will be rest and sure stars  
shining  
Over the rooftops crowned with snow  
A reign of rest, serene forgetting  
Music of stillness, holy and low

Stars I shall find, I will make this world  
of my devising  
Stars I shall find, out of a dream in my  
lonely mind  
Stars I shall find, I shall find the crystal  
of peace above me  
Stars I shall find

There will be rest, there will be rest  
Rest be rest



**The Portland Lesbian Choir dreams of a just and equitable society.  
We dream of ways to increase our influence in realizing this dream.**

**Dream a Little Dream of Me**

Stars shining bright above you  
Night breezes seem to whisper,  
I love you  
Birds singing in the sycamore tree,  
Dream a little dream of me

Say nightie night and kiss me  
Just hold me tight  
and tell me you'll miss me  
While I'm alone and blue as can be  
Dream a little dream of me

Stars fading, but I linger on dear  
Still craving your kiss, your kiss  
I'm longing to linger till dawn dear  
Just saying this

Sweet dreams till sunbeams find you  
Sweet dreams that leave  
All worries behind you  
But in your dreams whatever they be  
Dream a little dream of me

**Featured Dancers:**

**Elena Dupen & Max Williker**

Aubrey Stitt & Leanne Todd  
Susan Hunter & Sparky Lindsey

Dance Coach: Drew Robinson-Woods

**Dancing in the Street**

Calling out around the world  
Are you ready for a brand new beat?  
Summer's here and the time is right  
For dancing in the street

They're dancing in Chicago,  
Way down in New Orleans  
Up in New York City

All we need is music sweet music  
There'll be music everywhere  
There'll be swinging and swaying  
And records playing  
And dancing in the street

Oh, it doesn't matter what you wear  
Just as long as you are there  
So come on everyone take a whirl  
Everywhere around the world  
They'll be dancing,  
They're dancing in the street

This is an invitation across the nation  
A chance for folks to meet  
They'll be laughter, singing  
And music swinging  
And dancing in the street

Philadelphia, PA,  
Baltimore and D.C. now  
Can't forget the Motor City

Dancing in the street  
We're gonna dance, we're gonna dance  
Dance, dance, dance  
Dancing in the street

## ABOUT PLC

Formed in 1986, PLC welcomes all who want to sing with us. Not all of PLC members are from Portland, nor do all identify as lesbian, and when we sing together, we are a choir. PLC strives for musical excellence in a supportive setting. We offer opportunities to gain confidence in singing while improving musical skills. PLC rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6:45-9:00pm In NE Portland. If you are interested in joining or have questions, contact our membership coordinator at

**Membership@plchoir.org** or visit our website at **plchoir.org**

PORTLAND LESBIAN CHOIR

WE'RE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE  
THE PORTLAND  
LESBIAN CHOIR  
CAN'T WAIT FOR PRIDE

June  
18th-19th  
2022

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