

Bellissima Opera
Black Voices in Cabaret
Chicago Cabaret Week
Chicago Paris Cabaret Connexion
In the Classroom
SongShop Live
workinginconcert.org

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March 5 CONCERT CELEBRATES WOMEN IN THE ARTS

International Women's Day Concert
Sunday, March 5, 2023, 2:30pm
Oak Park, IL



Painting: Cher Wolf

"Will They Remember Life Was Beautiful?"

A vocal quartet on young lives lost to gun violence premieres at International Women's Day Concert.

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Working in Concert is proud to announce its Second Annual International Women's Day Concert, "Will They Remember Life Was Beautiful - A Tribute to Women in the Arts." The concert will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 5, in the acoustically magnificent Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Oak Park.

The concert's centerpiece, "Will They Remember Life Was Beautiful?," is the world premiere of the female vocal quartet commissioned with a supporting grant from Musicians Club of Women. Composed by **Elizabeth Doyle** with lyrics by **Mary Grace Bertulfo**, the work contemplates young lives lost to gun violence. It gives voice to, and reflects upon, women affected by gun violence as mother, teacher, first responder.

Performing this original work are award-winning vocalists **Susan Nelson, Sarah Kropski, Christine Steyer** and **Anna Tonna**. They will be accompanied by collaborative pianists **Jennifer McCabe** and **Shannon McGinnis**.

In addition to the premiere, the concert will feature classic operatic gems and a repertoire celebrating women's musical contributions from around the globe. These include Pauline Viardot Garcia, Amy Scurria, Germaine Shames, Thea Musgrave, Christine Steyer, Christina Rossetti, May Erlewine, Elaine Romanelli and Edith Piaf.

Guest ensemble **C21** performs "Sisters, You Keep Me Fighting" under the direction of **Martha Swisher**. **Jeanne Franks**, host at WDCB-90.9 FM jazz radio, is the afternoon's

emcee. The stage will be dressed by powerful backdrops from artist **Cheri Wolf**.

"Will They Remember Life Was Beautiful - A Tribute to Women in the Arts" is co-presented by **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church** and **Bellissima Opera**, one of several initiatives of the nonprofit performing arts alliance Working In Concert. The 90-minute concert with a short intermission will be followed by an artists' reception open to all.

Doors open at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$22.50 in advance or \$27.50 at the door, \$45 for VIP seating, and \$10 for students. Tickets cannot be refunded. Tickets: [Bellissimaopera.com/IWD23/](https://bellissimaopera.com/IWD23/).

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is located at **611 Randolph Street** in Oak Park, IL. The building is accessible and ample free street parking is available. We request that the artists and audience be vaccinated for Covid-19 and to wear a mask except while performing.

Donors supporting this concert include **Jethra Kapp**, **Musicians Club of Women**, **Illinois Arts Council**, and the **Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events**

Bellissima Opera and its umbrella organization Working In Concert have received numerous **national prizes** (The American Prize and the National Opera Association Award) for their innovative and timely performances.

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Editor's Note - Participating artists and their home towns include:

- Jeanne Franks, Elizabeth Doyle, Claudia Hommel, Jennifer McCabe, Susan Nelson (Chicago from Woodlawn to Edgewater, Albany Park and Lincoln Square)
- Christine Steyer, Martha Swisher, Mary Grace Bertulfo (Oak Park)
- Sarah Kropski (Lake Zurich)
- Cheri Wolf (Schaumburg)
- Anna Tonna (Brooklyn, New York)

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PRESS may attend the March 2 evening dress rehearsal and receive press comps for the March 5 concert. Please contact claudia@workinginconcert.org or call 773-509-9360.

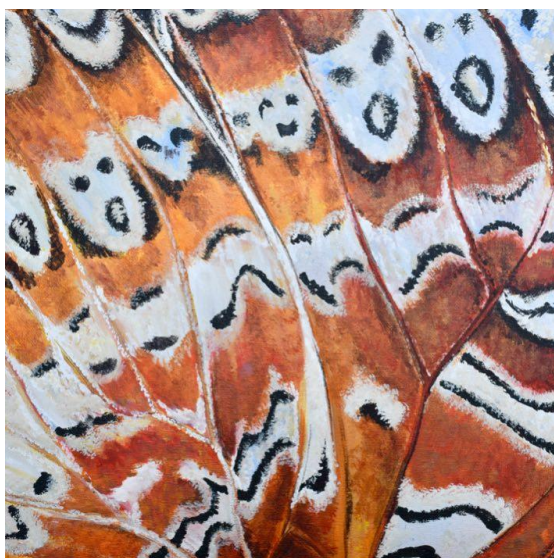
PRESS KIT:

Learn about the first annual International Women's Day 2022 at bellissimaopera.com/IWD22. Details of our 2023 cast will be posted at bellissimaopera.com/iwd23.

#meetopera #bellissimaopera #iwd2023



Top: Susan Nelson, Sarah Kropski, Christine Steyer, Anna Tonna
 Middle: Mary Grace Bertulfo, Elizabeth Doyle, Shannon McGinnis, Jennifer McCabe
 Bottom: Jeanne Franks, Cheri Wolf



Artwork by Cheri Wolf

International Women's Day Concert
 Sunday, March 5, 2023, 2:30pm

Featuring the premiere "Will They Remember Life Was Beautiful?"
 —holding space for young lives lost to gun violence.
 Lyricist Mary Grace Bertulfo. Composer Elizabeth Doyle.

				SINGERS Sarah Kropski Susan Nelson Christine Steyer Anna Tonna
				PIANISTS Jennifer McCabe Shannon McGinnis
				EMCEE Jeanne Franks
				GUEST ENSEMBLE C21
				GUEST ARTIST Cheri Wolf

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 611 Randolph St., Oak Park, IL

Tickets & Info
Bellissimaopera.com/iwd23/



Place, date, ticket info and QR code.

Bellissima Opera is an initiative of Working in Concert, a not-for-profit performing arts alliance for cabaret, opera and classical vocal arts. Working In Concert educates, advocates for, and mobilizes a global network of singers who use the art of song to empower lives and build community. We strive to create space for and bring visibility to people and ideas that are all too often excluded by the mainstream.

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