

Sonos

Handbell Ensemble Sonos
2000—2001 Season

Hell's Belles

Sonos celebrates contemporary women composers and artists

Two of the Summer Home Season concerts of "Runaway Child" will feature an unprecedented collaboration between Sonos, America's most beloved mezzo-soprano, Frederica von Stade, and the brilliant American composer Libby Larsen, in a world premiere work, "Hell's Belles," on texts by historic and contemporary American women who dared. Miss von Stade's career has taken her to the stages of the world's great opera houses and concert halls. She is invited regularly by the world's top conductors to appear in concert with the leading orchestras both



Mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade

nationally and abroad. Unparalleled in her artistry as a recitalist, Miss von Stade combines her expressive vocalism and exceptional musicianship with a rare gift

for communication enriching audiences throughout the world. In the last twenty years, Libby Larsen has become one of the most important and successful composers in the USA and a vigorous, articulate advocate for the music and musicians of our time. In addition to operas, Larsen's diverse catalogue lists works of intriguing titles for music that increas-

(Continued on page 2)

Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future Sonos plans concerts in Bay Area, other states

Handbell Ensemble Sonos kicks off its 2000-01 home season with a Christmas concert in Berkeley on Nov. 26, followed by 16 performances through next June at various Bay Area venues (check out the home season schedule on page three). Sonos will also take several tours in the months ahead, performing in Nebraska, Florida, Texas, Louisiana, Michigan, and Ohio. "We've planned an exciting, musically diverse repertoire," said James Meredith, artistic director. "Over the past 10 years, Sonos has collected many tried and true concert favorites. For our winter season, we've put them all together into one program—"Bach to Berlin"—that will include Bach's 'Toccatina in D Minor,' Mozart's 'Turkish Rondo,' Debussy's meltingly beautiful 'Arabesque,' Copland's

'Hoe-Down' and Irving Berlin's 'Alexander's Ragtime Band.' " The Christmas home season will feature a classical and popular program of new arrangements for handbells and flute from Handel's "Messiah" along with perennial favorites from the "Nutcracker Suite" to Leroy Anderson's famous "Sleigh Ride." There will also be a carol sing-along in which children in the audience will be invited to ring bells and chimes. Sonos happily invites you to come to a concert near you and share this Holiday season with them.

Tickets are on sale now at City Box Office, 180 Redwood, Ste. 100, San Francisco, CA 94102 415.392.4400.

Fall 2000



Inside this issue:

Sonos, taiko, gamelan join in premiere work 2

Sonos profiled on PBS 2

Sonos introduces three new ringers for 2000-01 season 2

Sonos celebrates tenth year with concert, reception 3

Bose Corp. selects Sonos for special musical video project 3

Sonos home season for 2000-01 announced 3

A word from our Board President 4



Highlights:

- *Performance schedule announced for 2000-01*
- *Continental Harmony concerts draw audience raves*

"One of America's finest artists and singers, Frederica von Stade enters the third decade of an extraordinary career and continues to reign as one of the music world's most beloved figures..."
— New York Times



Navigator Tree composer Jaron Lanier

PBS taped one of the "Sounds of a New World" concerts for an upcoming documentary on the Continental Harmony project, scheduled to air in the Spring. Visit their website at:
<http://www.pbs.org/harmony>



Hell's Belles

(Continued from page 1)

ingly speaks the American vernacular. They encompass orchestra, dance, choral, theatre, chamber and solo repertoire. Her commissions, honors and awards are numerous, including a 1994 Grammy as producer for the CD *The Art of Arleen Auger*, an acclaimed recording that features Larsen's "Sonnets from the Portuguese." Her opera, "Frankenstein, The Modern Prometheus" was selected as one of the eight best classical musical events of 1990 by USA Today.

"We are tremendously excited about this collaborative effort," said Sonos artistic director Jim Meredith. Libby Larsen added "I am deeply honored, not to mention entirely exhilarated. Miss von Stade is an artist whose musicality and personality inspire deep creativity in those composers fortunate enough to work with her." Join us for these extraordinary performances of "Runaway Child" with von Stade performing Larsen's "Hell's Belles" and other works by Ginastera and De Falla.

"Sounds of A New World"

Sonos, taiko, gamelan join in premiere work

With enthusiastic responses from audiences and critical praise, Handbell Ensemble Sonos successfully premiered "Navigator Tree," a composition by world-renowned virtual reality pioneer and computer scientist Jaron Lanier at four concerts in late May 2000. In what one reviewer noted was "an ambitious and collaborative program," Sonos was joined by Gamelan Pusaka Sunda of San Jose and San Jose Taiko. Lanier also improvised on his Chinese harp in the performances. "With Sonos' well-tempered bells playing with or against the Indonesian gamelan's five-note scale, the Chinese harp and the taiko drums, you would think that listeners would be hard pressed to respond emotionally to such a complex and unexpected tuning scheme," the critic wrote. "Nevertheless, 'The Navigator Tree' proved to be surprisingly accessible." As for Sonos,

the critic noted that "bells can introduce a refreshing palette of sounds to music, offering intriguing expressive possibilities." For the encore, the taiko and gamelan groups each played a piece from their own artistic tradition. The Sonosians made friends with the taiko and gamelan artists during rehearsals, learning about each other's instruments and musical styles. Several Sonosians even participated in a drumming workshop by San Jose Taiko.

The National Endowment for the Arts and the American Composers Forum commissioned "Navigator Tree" as part of "Continental Harmony," which celebrates the new millennium with the first nationwide music commissioning project in American history. Sonos was chosen for the project along with 57 other groups from among 850 applicants.

Musicians Attracted From Far and Wide

Sonos introduces three new ringers for the 2000-01 season

Erin Downey, Carolyn Gilbert and Jukka-Pekka Vainio are the newest members of Handbell Ensemble Sonos, each a result of Sonos' growing renown and national recruiting efforts. Downey began ringing bells at the age of six, and has both performed and been a faculty member at many state, area and national handbell events, including the 1996 International Handbell Symposium. She worked as a professional musician and piano teacher in Tempe, AZ before joining Sonos. Gilbert has been ringing handbells for eight years, starting in college and con-

tinuing with the Spirit Ringers at Trinity Lutheran Church in McPherson, KS. She also plays piano, violin, and viola. She first heard Sonos on tour last January, auditioned, and moved from Kansas in August. Vainio, a native of Finland, won his first job as a cellist in a professional orchestra when he was 16. After two years at Helsinki Conservatory, he shifted his focus to math and computer science, but continues to perform as a freelance cellist and trombonist. He moved from Cape Cod, MA in 1998 with his wife Melissa so she could join Sonos.

Ten Years of Excellence Bose Knows Sonos

Sonos celebrates anniversary with concert, reception

With a program featuring "The Best of Sonos," Handbell Ensemble Sonos celebrated its tenth anniversary in a concert that won a standing ovation from the audience on June 25 in the San Jose Civic Auditorium. Sonos played a delightful concert of favorites from the repertoire over their impressive history. Between pieces, Sonos board member Wendell Brooks narrated the history of Sonos as portrayed through a slide show of photos, programs, and memorabilia. Sonos ringers interjected verses from "The Twelve Days of Tour," a song based on their December 1998 tour of the Midwest. During the program Sonos recognized departing members Mark Decker, Kathie Fink, PL Grove, and Ruben Mendoza for their many years of dedication and service to the organization. At the conclusion, Handbell Ensemble Sonos honored founding members Grove and Fink by dedicating to them a newly-commissioned work, as well as two of Sonos' handbells. Many former Sonosians were among the guests, who also attended a gala post-concert reception.



Sounds of Sonos envelop Bose patrons

When high-end audiophile equipment maker Bose Corporation wanted to demonstrate their new surround-sound technology, they came to Sonos. Every Bose store currently has a "Music Theater" outfitted with digital video and 5.1-channel Dolby Digital Surround Sound; to showcase their equipment, Bose released a new multimedia presentation. The company represented a wide cross-section of quality music by featuring artists such as the Cincinnati Pops, Bobby McFerrin, Nat King Cole, James Horner, and Handbell Ensemble Sonos. In the Bose Music Theater, you can hear individual notes playing in specific locations all around the room, and it feels as if they have the bell table arranged in a circle with you listening in the center. Sonos recorded for Bose on the Jedi Scoring Stage at George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch in late October 1999. Of these Sonos recordings, Bose chose *Trépak* from "The Nutcracker" for their multimedia presentation. Recently the Sonos ringers took a field trip to see the presentation at a local Bose Store in Gilroy, CA. They were thrilled with the final result and very enthusiastic about this new frontier of audio technology. Sonos hopes you can visit a local Bose Store to hear them surround you with the crystalline sound of bells as you've never heard them before.



Grapes ripen outside while bells ring inside the Jedi Scoring Stage at George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch.

"'The space around you' is what we asked you to hear and 'see' when listening to this unique performance of a delightful piece... What's a 'Handbell Ensemble,' you ask? Get on the web and visit www.sonos.org to find out."

—From The Bose Experience Soundtrack

The Sonos Home Season for 2000-01

2000

2001

Sunday, Nov. 26

4 p.m.- First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Wednesday, Nov. 29

7:30 p.m.- Villa Montalvo, 15400 Montalvo Rd., Saratoga

Saturday, Dec. 2

7:30 p.m.- First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St., San Francisco

Sunday, Dec. 3

4 p.m.- Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette

Saturday, Feb. 24

7:30 p.m.- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 13601 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga

Sunday, Feb. 25

4 p.m.- Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette

Sunday, March 4

4 p.m.- First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Saturday, June 23

7:30 p.m.- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 13601 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga-

Sunday, June 24

4 p.m.- Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette

Friday, June 29

7:30 p.m.- Kofman Auditorium, 2200 Central Ave., Alameda

Sunday, July 1

4 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St., San Francisco.

TICKETS: City Box Office, 180 Redwood, Ste. 100, San Francisco, CA 94102 415.392.4400



Mark Decker, Debbie Bauman, and Ruben Mendoza prepare for another take during the Bose recording session.

Sonotes

"Their music stunned us all. The four thousand audience members went wild, just as we knew they would."

—A Prairie Home Companion

Handbell Ensemble Sonos
2000—2001 Season

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VISIT OUR NEWLY REDESIGNED
WEBSITE!

WWW.SONOS.ORG



Look for this poster in the lobby during
intermission at Sonos' home season
concerts.

Sonos Needs Your Support

It takes a lot of resources—talent, volunteers, and financial support—to allow Handbell Ensemble Sonos to continue to bring handbells into the musical mainstream. And to maintain the high quality of performances and innovative program. You can help--first by sending a donation (to the address on this newsletter). Contributions are used to purchase bells and music, to rent performance facilities, and to pay the day-to-day operational expenses of the organization. Your gift entitles you to membership in Friends of Sonos, which entitles you to our new newsletter, receptions, and other events. We also welcome your time and talents as a volunteer to support us in the areas of marketing, fundraising, office work, and concert arrangements.

Give us a call today. We've got a place for you.

—Terri Mui
*President, Board of Directors
Handbell Ensemble Sonos*