



## Sing for the Cure

### “There is no medium more powerful than music to move the hearts of people”

“Sing for the Cure” - An uplifting and positive musical experience with narrator, tells the stories of breast cancer survivors through songs of different styles from a range of composers. This emotionally charged and powerful work was initiated by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation in the USA.

From its first performance with the US poet laureate Maya Angelou, and subsequently at hundreds of performances across the USA, “Sing for the Cure” has moved and delighted many thousands of people.

This inspirational work will have its European premiere at the Southbank Centre, London on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2009. “Sing for the Cure” is a centrepiece of Various Voices London, a festival of singing.

Various Voices London is producing the four day festival in partnership with the Southbank Centre. The festival will attract thousands of delegates from UK and international LGBT choirs and amongst the general public, both as festival participants and as audience members.

The premiere will be conducted by Tim Seelig, who gave its world premiere, and will be performed by a special choir drawn from LGBT choirs, accompanied by the London Gay Symphony Orchestra, with celebrity narrator.

With support from the Komen Foundation, we are seeking to work with a major UK breast cancer charity and its supporters to fundraise, build awareness and spread hope and caring through song.

#### Benefits of being involved:

- Awareness
- Fundraising
- Legacy
- Communities
- Remembering
- Sharing
- Caring
- Support
- Hope

#### Various Voices Londons' Vision

**Celebrate** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) identity through song and to showcase on an international stage the achievements and diversity of LGBT choirs of Europe and around the world.

**Interaction** between choirs and singers, both in singing activities and socially, to develop new synergy between delegate singers and ensembles in London; with interaction between choirs of all kinds and at all levels.

To **facilitate growth** of all those ensembles and individual singers involved, through motivating their leaders, inspiring singers and through the development of new skills and ideas.

Growth  
celebration  
and interaction

*"The truth is that our finest moments are most likely to occur when we are feeling deeply uncomfortable, unhappy, or unfulfilled. For it is only in such moments, propelled by our discomfort, that we are likely to step out of our ruts and start searching for different ways or truer answers."*

## The visionary idea

In 2000, the founder of the Komen Foundation, Nancy Brinker, decided that one of the most powerful ways the messages surrounding breast cancer could be delivered was through music. As she said, the foundation had talked and talked. And millions had indeed listened. But it was thought that perhaps

even more would listen if the message was sung. Thus began the journey.

In the incredibly gifted hands of poet/librettist Pamela Martin and 10 different composers, the stories literally sprang to life.

The mother, diagnosed, whose questioning words are, "Who will curl my daughter's

hair?" The daughter's plaintive lullaby, "Come to me, mother, again in my dreams." The spouse, vowing "I made a promise. That promise lives on." The rousing "Stepping out in faith over groundless ground," and finally, "We are one voice. We will keep on singing 'til the ribbons that we wear wave like banners of life!"

## Why "Sing for the cure"?

Each of the 10 pieces carries a powerful message in the journey that is breast cancer. Accompanied by full orchestra, the pieces are set apart by poignant narration telling the stories.

In literally hundreds of performances, "Sing for the Cure" has moved audiences across North America. In every

setting, large or small, it has brought the messages of comfort, faith and the hope of victory. The work literally takes the listener on a journey through the myriad emotions and experiences. No one is left untouched as the rousing finale brings the audience to its feet with renewed energy for the

fight.

Why "Sing for the Cure"? Because there is no medium more powerful than music to move the hearts of people. Wed to the powerful messages in the exhilarating music, there is no effort more worthwhile than bringing this music to the U.K. and ultimately the world.

## The European Debut

The Southbank Centre, Europe's largest arts centre is located in the centre of London overlooking the River Thames, under the artistic direction of Jude Kelly. It attracts more than three million visitors annually.

With over a thousand paid performances and over 300 free foyer events the Southbank Centre is the perfect venue for this important event, at the largest choral festival ever staged in Europe with 65 choirs and over 3000 singers.

Musicians and singers are signing up from all over the world to be a part of this event. With 5,000 daily visitors ticket demand will be high and we expect with our charity partner to attract a global celebrity narrator. This is a unique PR and marketing opportunity.

## Raise funds, build awareness, deliver hope

'Sing for the Cure' is an opportunity to build awareness of the challenges of Breast Cancer, where funders, companies and individuals can become partners to raise funds to support and seed innovation and research for the care and cure of breast cancer. By sharing the musical experience of 'Sing for

the Cure' we want to continue to initiate and motivate new and developing responses that will further enhance the effect that 'Sing for the Cure' has already made across North America and now across Europe. The Various Voices festival offers a unique opportunity to fulfil this ambition and offers hope to those living with

Breast Cancer, their loved ones and validate the lives of those who have already fought. For our partners supporting this inaugural event would undoubtedly lead to new and creative ways to care, raise funds build awareness and will offer future opportunities to support and deliver hope.

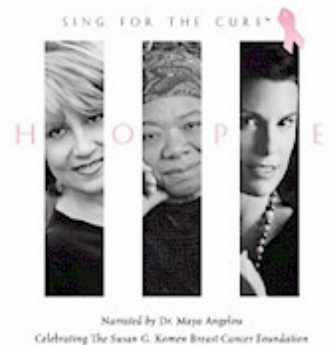


## CD notes by Nancy Brinker

"On Behalf of all the survivors of breast cancer and every family touched by the disease, I want to sincerely thank the Turtle Creek Chorale and The Women's Chorus of Dallas for furthering the important message of the The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation through Sing for the Cure.

Your efforts will lead the way for others while raising awareness and funds for the fight against breast cancer, Sing for the Cure incorporates the pain, the struggle, the hope and even the humor of dealing with this disease in a way that will profoundly impact audiences on both an emotional and spiritual level.

Together, we can spread the life-saving message of early detection and eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease by advancing research, education, screening and treatment. Thank you for joining us in this proclamation of hope". Founding Chair, The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation



## The composers

**Prelude For The Uncommon Woman**  
Joseph Martin

The Partner's Voice  
**The Promise Lives On**  
Rosephanye Powell

Finding Humor in Treatment  
**Valse Caprice**  
Patti Drennan

Pursuing a Cure  
**Groundless Ground**  
W.T. Greer

The Community's Voice  
**Who Will Speak?**  
Michael Cox

Taking Control  
**Livin' Out Loud Blues**  
Robert Seely

The Sister's Voice  
**Girl In The Mirror**  
Stefania de Kennessey

Proclaiming Hope  
**One Voice: I will Not be Silent** Joseph Martin

Facing Diagnosis  
**Borrowed Time**  
Alice Gomez

The Child's Voice  
**Come To Me, Mother**  
Jill Gallina

The Mother's Voice  
**Who Will Curl My Daughter's Hair** David Friedman

## Dr. Timothy Seelig - Conductor



As Artistic Director of Turtle Creek Chorale 1987 and The Women's Chorus of Dallas in 1994, Dr. Tim has led the choruses in a number of significant achievements. Tim is both performer and educator. He holds the Master of Music and the Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of North

Texas as well as the Diploma in Lieder and Oratorio from the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. Tim is also a member of the music faculty of Southern Methodist University, and received the 1995 President's Citation 'Distinguished Alumnus' from The University of North Texas. Upon stepping down from the

Director of Art for Peace & Justice, a program of the national non-profit 'Hope for Peace & Justice' working to use the arts to raise awareness and further social issues and causes. He is the Artistic Director in Residence for GALA Choruses, Inc. Tim also continues his teaching

*"I just wanted to be a part of this to sing for those I love and for those we ought to love."*

## Pamela Martin - Librettist

Pamela Martin is a widely published lyricist who has collaborated with

many composers and currently has more than 70 pieces with several major publishers

Her work is widely diverse and crosses the educational and sacred boundaries.

## About us

Various Voices London is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales no: 06241703 and a registered charity no: 1124175.

VVL Office: LGMC, Hampstead Town Hall Centre, 213 Haverstock Hill, London. NW3 4AP.

**96 hours of enjoyment,  
4 days of fun,  
4,000 like minded people.**

Various Voices London 2009 is a festival of song and singing that will enable participants and audiences to grow through celebration and interaction.

Performance, workshops, meetings, social activities and parties support a holistic approach to well-being; helping to overcome prejudices and preconceptions by bringing communities together in a welcoming atmosphere of fun and friendliness.

<http://www.variousvoiceslondon.org.uk>

[info@variousvoiceslondon.org.uk](mailto:info@variousvoiceslondon.org.uk)

To find out how you can be involved to support Sing for the Cure we invite you to contact us and continue to spread the vision

We are most grateful for the invaluable financial support of: Southbank Centre, our artistic partner, the three lead choirs: Diversity, London Gay Men's Chorus, Pink Singers and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation

**Various Voices London 2009**

**Growth through singing, celebration and interaction**

**Southbank Centre 1st May - 4th May 2009**

We also acknowledge the support and endorsement of: Design for Diversity, GALA Choruses, Hotelopia, Legato, Markson Pianos, Mayor of London, Visit London.