

Rhythms of Peace

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“Families Sing Together!” Community Sing-along to Benefit Gulf Coast Families in Need

Windmill Lane Entertainment, in partnership with Payson Park Church, presents “Families Sing Together!” to celebrate the simple joys of families singing together in this audience- participation program of well -known songs for all ages. The event takes place Saturday March 15th at 6:00 PM in the Payson Park Church Hall, at 365 Belmont St, Belmont MA, 02478. Family members of all ages and abilities are invited to join the fun of singing nursery rhymes, counting songs, camp songs and spirituals that have brought joy to families for generations. Members of Payson Park Church’s music staff will join other local musicians for the first in this year’s series of PPC family music programs. Musical interludes will include brief scenes from “Hansel and Gretel” and “Jonah and the Whale”, performed by adult and children’s choir members. Donations may be made in advance or at the door (suggested at \$15 per family) to benefit the Back Bay Mission of Biloxi Mississippi. Light snacks and refreshments will be available during and after the program. There will be no intermission.

Several professional-musician members of the Payson Park Church will provide musical accompaniment for the audience sing -along. Master of Ceremonies for the evening, Dennis Sullivan, has a Masters degree from the New England Conservatory of Music, and is a former Berklee College of Music faculty member. Dennis has written and performed extensively for children’s musical theater and school programs, including Young Audiences and music therapy at the Home for Little Wanderers. He recently published “Percussion Discussion”, a storytelling -music curriculum used by the Citizen Schools in Massachusetts and California. Dennis, founder of the humanitarian group Rhythms of Peace, leads his own world music groups, and has appeared on stage, TV and recordings as an associate member of the Boston Symphony, Boston Pops, and the Metropolitan Opera orchestras, and for musicals at the Shubert and Colonial Theaters. The featured artists for the March 15th family program are Cathy Meyer, Terry Halco, Sara Wyse-Wenger, Kaori Emery and the Ronna family.

Cathy Meyer, Music Director at Payson Park Church, has been on the staff at Phillips Congregational Church & Payson Park for the past 8 years, where she launched a

children's program that includes 5 choirs and over 50 children - some of whom will perform a scene on March 15th from their upcoming production of "Jonah and the Whale." Cathy has her Master's in Sacred Music from Boston University, and a Bachelor's in organ performance from the University of North Texas. Terry Halco, Minister of Music at Payson Park Church, has directed the adult choir and accompanied liturgical services at PPC for the past 13 years. He is a highly-regarded choir director, organist, accompanist, teacher and composer in the Boston area, and appears regularly as accompanist and choir member of Musica Sacra. Terry will accompany the scene from the children's opera Hansel and Gretel on the March 15th program.

Sara Wyse-Wenger, mezzo-soprano and alto section leader at Payson Park Church, will perform a lead role in Hansel and Gretel. She has her MM in Vocal Performance from the New England Conservatory and is a member of Cantata Singers, for whom she is also Education Program Manager. Sara has performed many recitals and professional opera roles, including Nicholas in *Tales of Hoffman* and Orpheus in Gluck's *Orpheus and Euridice*. Sara directs a 3rd grade chorus at Joyce Kilmer School in West Roxbury, and also teaches Kindermusik through the School of Creative Arts, with a particular interest in assisted living centers, connecting families with older folks in musical enjoyment.

Kaori Emery, a soprano soloist at Payson Park Church, will also perform a lead role in the Hansel and Gretel. Kaori, who debuts this winter with the Sudbury Savoyards as Elsie in *Yeoman of the Guard*, recently appeared with Mass Theatrics as Miss Silverpeal in *The Impresario* and has performed as soloist in the Bach *Magnificat* and *St. John Passion*. She regularly appears as a featured soloist with both the New England Light Opera and the Longwood Opera. Ms. Emery holds a Masters in Music from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College, where she was a recipient of a Garrigues Scholarship in vocal studies.

Also featured on this program is the Ronna Family, including John, Margy and Emily whose talented ensemble will accompany the sing-along. Margy Ronna, mezzo-soprano, is a soloist with the adult choir at Payson Park Church, where she has also been director of children's choirs. Emily is a member of the children's choir, and John is director of audio-visual technology for the church.

Rhythms of Peace is a group of world musicians working for humanity. Since 2003 they have presented a wide range of creative music programs in the Boston area including African drumming, Chinese dance, Japanese Koto, Arabic dance, Brazilian samba, Celtic songs, Scottish Bagpipes and American song. Production services for the Rhythms of Peace programs are donated by Windmill Lane Entertainment.

Funds raised from previous programs have benefited victims of violence in the Sudan, tsunami victims in the Bay of Bengal, the City Mission Society of Boston, and PPC's music ministry.

See www.RPeace.org for more information on these artists and their programs.