

RAINIER YOUTH CHOIRS' STAFF

Leora Schwitters, Founder, Rainier Youth Choirs Artistic Director and Conductor, Colla Voce and Consonare, retired after 25 years of teaching K-12 choral, instrumentals and general music in the public schools. Most of her choral experience occurred at Cedar Heights Junior High in Kent, WA. She holds a Bachelor's of Music, Summa Cum Laude, from Yankton College Conservatory of Music in South Dakota and a Master of Arts for Teachers in Music Education from the University of Washington. She is Vice President and Treasurer of the Washington American Choral Director's Association (ACDA). Active as a clinician and adjudicator, Leora has also served on the board of the Tahoma Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) and has presided over the Green River Music Region organization.

Sue Lundy Green, Conductor, Bella Voce and Rainier Kids, has been a K-12 vocal music specialist for over 20 years. She is now the choral director at Kent School District's Meeker Middle School. Sue previously directed secondary choirs for the Scappoose School District in Oregon, headed the music program at Portland Public Schools' performing arts high school magnet program, and directed choirs in Banks and Roseburg, Oregon. She has a Masters of Music from the University of Arizona and a Bachelors Degree in Music Education from Willamette University. Sue is currently the Western Liaison for Washington ACDA, and was the Membership Chair for Oregon ACDA before moving to the Puget Sound area. She is married to Jonathan and is the stepmother to two boys, Matthew & Joshua.

Berit Ballard, Accompanist and Vocal Coach, Consonare, grew up in Stockholm, Sweden, where she started taking piano lessons at the age of seven. She holds two master's degrees in music; one from the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm (music education/choral pedagogy), and one from Pacific Lutheran University (vocal performance and pedagogy). During her four years of singing and studying under Eric Ericson she also had the opportunity to perform with Riccardo Muti and Sir Georg Solti holding the baton. Besides directing her church choir and preparing music programs of various kinds in the community, Berit continues to enjoy a successful career as private voice and piano teacher in the Kent-Covington area where she has been for the last 20+ years. She and her husband Steve are often seen biking or hiking on local trails.

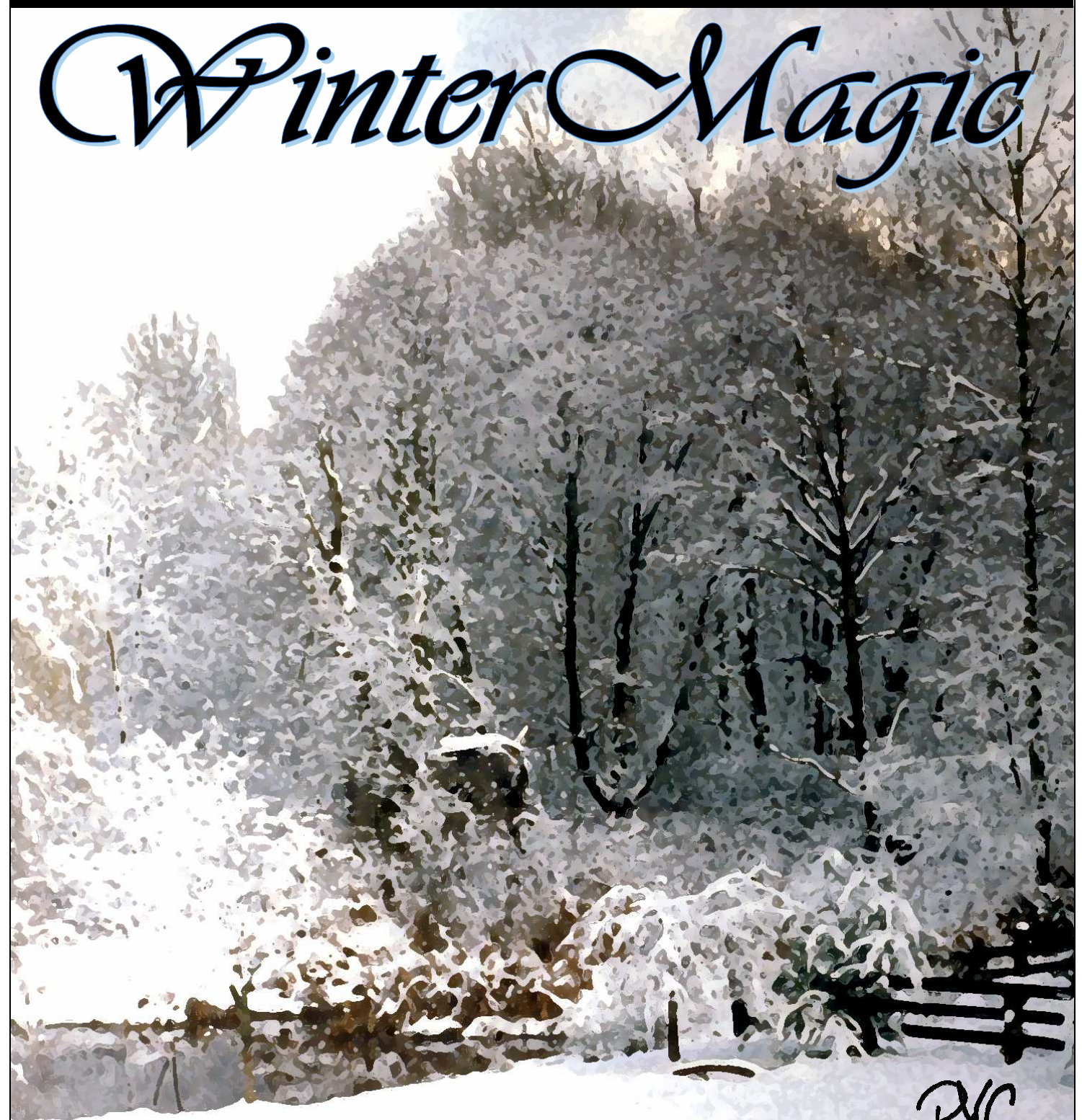
Lori McEwen, Accompanist, Colla Voce, Lori McEwen studied piano and voice at Central Washington University and currently accompanies several local school choirs and their students for large group and solo/ensemble contests and for NATS competitions each year. She and her husband Bill have led music at the contemporary worship service and have sung in the chancel choir at Fairwood Community United Methodist Church in Renton for over 25 years. Lori accompanies both children and youth choirs directed by her husband at the church. Together they provide music for weddings and other special events.

Penny Cramer, Accompanist, Bella Voce and Rainier Kids, has taught music at all levels, K-12 and is the choir and orchestra director at Olympic Middle School in Auburn. She holds a degree in vocal education from the University of Idaho and is a member of The Esoterics, an a cappella choir based in Seattle. Penny has accompanied school choirs as well as college and community choirs in Idaho and Florida. She is currently the accompanist for the choir at Messiah Lutheran Church in Auburn and works with band, choir and orchestra students in solo and ensemble festivals at the local and state levels. She and her husband, Tom, are the proud new parents of Kasey Ann, born in August.



Rainier Youth Choirs Presents

Winter Magic



December 12, 2009

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RAINIER YOUTH CHOIRS



