

Svitanya

Eastern European Women's Vocal Ensemble



SVITANYA, which means “the light at sunrise” in multiple Slavic languages, is a women’s a cappella ensemble that specializes in music from Eastern Europe.

The songs we perform exude the spirit of traditional folk music. Some songs are modern arrangements, some songs were learned from village source recordings, some were collected directly by our singers, and all songs are sung in their original languages. Our repertoire is quite diverse—ranging from strong and strident field-working songs to traditional dance tunes to lush and emotive arrangements—and all celebrate the timbres, rhythms, and harmonies indigenous to the region.

Most every song tells a story; some celebrate the mundane events of daily life, like cutting wheat in the fields or strolling in the street with musicians, while others depict life’s more poignant moments, such as losing a loved one to war or being married off while very young.

Bookings and Information:
215-848-2068 (Anne Ehrhart)
info@svitanya.org www.svitanya.org

Svitanya is a roster member of Pennsylvania Performing Artists on Tour.

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INSERT
SPECIFIC
CONCERT
DETAILS
HERE



Meet Svitanya



Ashley Alter graduated from Vassar College in Music. She performed in venues like Carnegie Hall & Jazz at Lincoln Center. She studied with Tallis Scholars, Westminster Choir College, Berkshire Choral Festival, Juilliard School, and Songfest. More recently she worked at the Wilma Theater as arts educator, and continues that as a teaching artist in Philadelphia schools. She studies classical voice with Marianne Casello, and with Bel Canto Lyric Opera in Philadelphia.



Susan Anderson has been a “Balkanophile” for many years—singing, dancing, and playing instruments such as the gaida (goat-skin bagpipe), balalaika, tambura, and violin. Susan leads the International Folk Sounds orchestra and the Izvornotes, runs the Beaver Folk Dance group, performs Appalachian clogging with FiddleKicks, skis the world with her husband, and is a docent at the Elmwood Park Zoo.



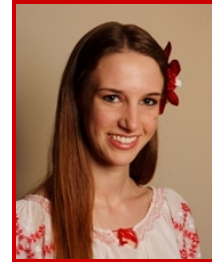
Kayla Ankeny came to Svitanya from Sarah Lawrence College where she studied performing arts including dance, theater, and puppetry, as well as politics and French. In addition to Svitanya, she sang with Spiral Song, a feminist spirituality vocal group. Kayla is currently a student of dance at Temple University, manages to work occasionally as a Certified Massage Therapist, and studies Capoeira, a Brazilian martial art.



Anne Ehrhart is Svitanya's president and primary administrator. She has been singing and folk dancing for most of her life. She has sung in a variety of vocal groups, large and small. She and her daughter Leela began singing Slavic music 1998 with Slaveja Slavic Folk Chorus, until Svitanya was formed in 2000. After more than 20 years as a software engineer with Mellon Bank, she was the Managing Director of Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble for five years. Currently she works at BMC Benefit Services.



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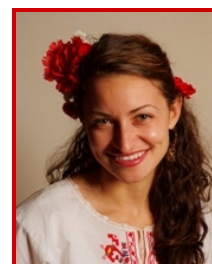
Leela Ehrhart began singing with Slaveja Slavic Folk Chorus at age 11, before becoming part of Svitanya. Prior to that she performed with Philadelphia Revels for several years. A recent graduate of Drexel University, she is now focusing her attention on her other longtime artistic passion, jewelry making. Currently working for Susan Rifkin Jewelry Design in Philadelphia, her own original pieces are available for viewing or purchase at www.LeelaDesigns.com and www.LeelaDesigns.etsy.com.



Kimberly DiMattia is Svitanya's musical director. She plays many instruments including piano, ney (Turkish flute), clarinet, recorder, accordion, flute and percussion. Kim also performs with world fusion band Animus and plays piano for English country dances. Kim is of Ukrainian descent, has a PhD in Russian, has taught Russian at Swarthmore, and recently has been teaching math at Lower Merion High School and Harriton High School.



Chrissy Steele sang along with recordings of Bulgarian folk music for many years before joining Svitanya in 2006. Inspired by the fun of making music, she is now learning the Macedonian tambura and frame drum. She has studied Tamil, Arabic and French. A graduate of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, Chrissy makes Artist's Books. Also with a Master's degree in TESOL, she is currently on leave from Svitanya while teaching English at the American University of Iraq, Sulaimani in Iraqi Kurdistan.



Petia Zamfirova was born in Bulgaria and moved to Baltimore when she was 14 years old. After the move, she continued her intensive classical piano training, throughout high-school. As a child she would often stand on her grandmother's steps and sing folk songs, and enjoys continuing that tradition, currently also being one of the vocalists for the Balkan/Gypsy/Jazz fusion band “West Philadelphia Orchestra.” In her spare time these days she hones her skills on the accordion.