

Peninsula Women's Chorus' Trailblazers Project

An Insider's View



PWC'S TRAILBLAZERS PROJECT



- ▶ Multi-year, 3 female composers
- ▶ Works highlighting 3 women trailblazers
- ▶ Collaboration with Stanford University's Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program

YEAR 1

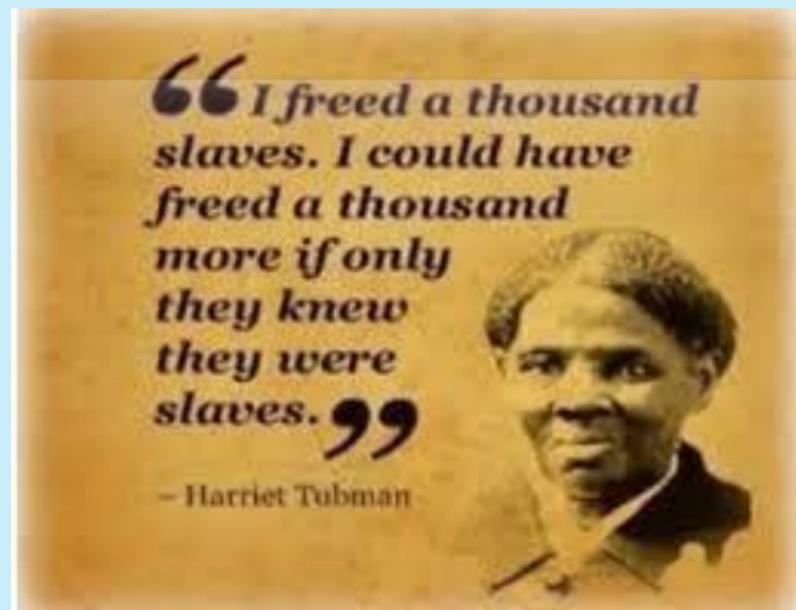
YEAR 2

YEAR 3

2018

2019

2020



Harriet Tubman



Miss Major



Alice Paul

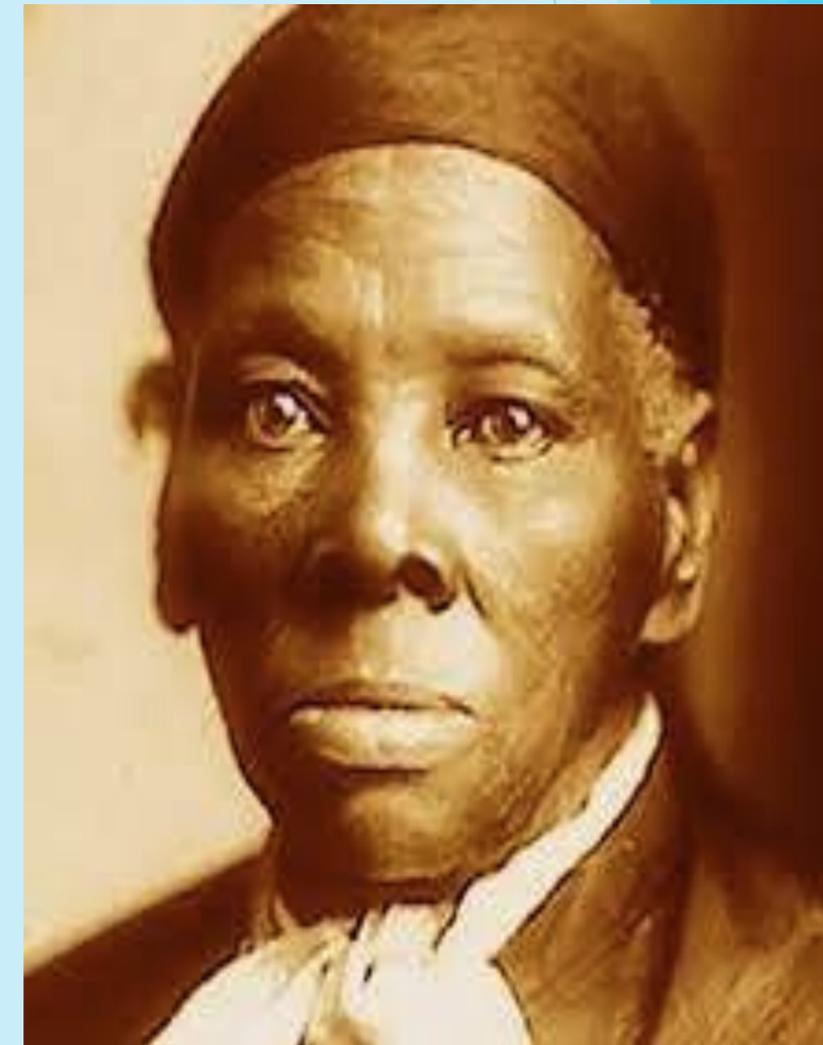
TRAILBLAZER HARRIET TUBMAN



“I had crossed the line. I was free; but there was no one to welcome me to the land of freedom. I was a stranger in a strange land.”

Harriet Tubman

- ▶ During a 10-year span she led over 140 slaves to freedom. And, as she once proudly pointed out to Frederick Douglass, in all of her journeys she "never lost a single passenger."



TRAILBLAZER MISS MAJOR GRIFFIN-GRACY



“I want things better for everybody, not just my community. If they would accept my community just for who they are, it would be better for everybody.”

Miss Major Griffin-Gracy

- ▶ Through the TGI Project, she has provided legal assistance and personal support to the transgender community. “We seek to create a world rooted in self-determination, freedom of expression, and gender justice.”



TRAILBLAZER ALICE PAUL

“To me there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality.”

Alice Paul

- ▶ Architect of one of the most outstanding political achievements of the 20th century, the passing of the 19th amendment in 1920.
- ▶ After 1920, she earned 3 law degrees for the battles ahead, and was instrumental in winning guarantees of gender equality in the United Nations charter and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Campaigned for the ERA but never saw it ratified.



WHY THIS PROJECT?



Mission: Through the creation and performance of diverse, dynamic and adventurous music, the Peninsula Women's Chorus strives to inspire and enrich its singers and audiences.

Embarking upon a commissioning project where the music and poetry address issues of social significance is certainly an adventure.

- ▶ *Song of Survival* (1980s) adapting music from **World War II women's internment camps in Southeast Asia**
- ▶ *ripple* (2012) addressing the **effects of PTSD**
- ▶ *displacement* (2017) inspired by the ongoing **Bay Area housing crisis**

JULIA ADOLPHE



- ▶ Julia is under 30 years old
- ▶ Has had two orchestral works performed by the NY Philharmonic (=trailblazer!)
- ▶ Doctoral student in Music Composition at USC, from New York, lives in LA
- ▶ She is also an active writer; published an article in 2014 about teaching music in an all-male maximum security prison

SAFIYA SINCLAIR

- ▶ Born and raised in Jamaica

- ▶ PhD Candidate at USC



- ▶ Recipient of numerous awards and honors; lives in NYC

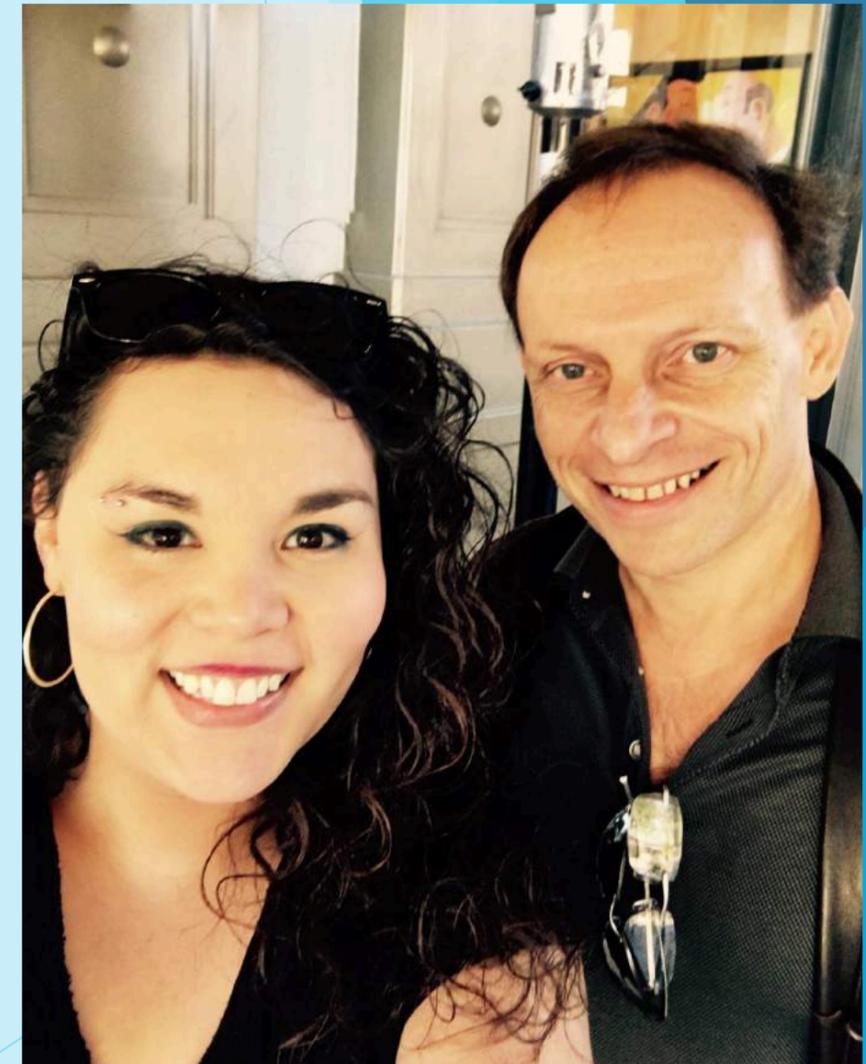
- ▶ “That the proposed project will revolve around pioneering women, specifically Harriet Tubman, is a dream. I am excited about the possibilities of this poem and composition, to have her voice and history speak through me, and to have you interpret that through music. My mind is already racing.”



MARI ESABEL VALVERDE



- ▶ Award-winning transgender composer
- ▶ San Francisco Conservatory of Music: Master of Music, 2012
La Schola Cantorum, Paris: Diplôme, July 2011
St. Olaf College, Minnesota: Bachelor of Music, 2010
L'École Normale de Musique de Paris: Diplôme, July 2009



JOCELYN HAGEN



- ▶ Majority of her compositional output is for voice: solo, chamber and choral
- ▶ Her music has been described as “simply magical” and “dramatic and deeply moving”
- ▶ Theory, Composition, and Vocal Music Education degree from St. Olaf College
- ▶ Masters degree in Composition from the University of Minnesota

THANK YOU!



We are inspired by the women we honor who have blazed the trail before us, and whose stories we send into the world through our music. Thank you for helping us inspire future generations to be trailblazers as well!