

# Svitanya

Eastern European Women's Vocal Ensemble



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

The songs we perform exude the spirit of traditional village 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 celebrating 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 too young.

---

### Bookings and Information:

215-848-2068 (Anne Ehrhart) [info@svitanya.org](mailto:info@svitanya.org) [www.svitanya.org](http://www.svitanya.org)

*Svitanya is a roster member of Pennsylvania Performing Artists on Tour.  
Funding may be available to support performance engagements with presenters in DC, DE, MD, NJ, NY, OH, PA, WV and the US Virgin Islands.*

# Svitanya

Eastern European Women's Vocal Ensemble



INSERT  
SPECIFIC  
CONCERT  
DETAILS



## *Meet Svitanya!*



**Susan Anderson** has been a “Balkanofile” 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 sings 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** has been an enthusiastic singer and folk dancer for most of her life. She and her daughter Leela began singing Slavic music 1998 with Slaveja Slavic Folk Chorus, until Svitanya was formed in 2000. Anne was the primary producer for the “First Light” CD, and currently is in charge of Svitanya’s administration. 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.



## *Meet Svitanya!*



**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](http://www.LeelaDesigns.com) and [www.LeelaDesigns.etsy.com](http://www.LeelaDesigns.etsy.com).



**Kimberly Fedchak** 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 currently teaches math at Lower Merion High School.



**Chrissy Steele** trained at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, majoring in painting and printmaking. She has studied Tamil, Arabic, and French and has a master’s degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Chrissy recently completed a house rehab project—a long time dream—and is now ready to admit that she wasn’t born to be a construction worker. She is now teaching English to foreign students at Drexel University.



**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.