

Svitanya

Eastern European Women's Vocal Ensemble

About Svitanya

SVITANYA is a women's vocal ensemble whose lively performance of Eastern European folk music has captivated audiences across the northeast. Our mission is to bring this beautiful music to a wide range of audiences – from those who are familiar with it through their ancestral roots to those who are encountering it for the first time.

Svitanya's repertoire is drawn from the entire region of Eastern Europe. Some songs are modern arrangements of traditional folk tunes, some are original compositions in the folk tradition, and others are sung as they have been for generations. They range from strong and strident field-working songs to traditional dance tunes to lush and emotive arrangements, all evoking the timbres, rhythms, and harmonies indigenous to the region.

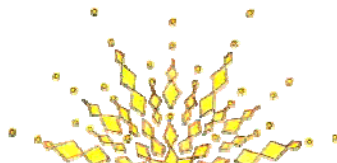
All songs are sung in their original languages—fifteen or so, including Bulgarian, Ukrainian, Macedonian, and many others—so Svitanya's performances include entertaining stories and translations that make the music accessible and relevant to English-speaking audiences. Many pieces are sung a cappella, but a variety of ethnic instruments may accompany others. Eye-catching costumes include brightly colored, hand-embroidered blouses from different Eastern European countries, some made by the singers' own relatives. Two of our singers are a mother-daughter pair, appropriate in a genre where songs have been passed through generations from mother to daughter.

Svitanya offers several workshops in addition to its performances. These include singing, of course, but we can enhance the experience with traditional dances to accompany the songs, and can include instrumentalists as well singers. We can tailor workshops to many ages and abilities.

Svitanya has been presented in many venues including Philadelphia's Kimmel Center, the Philadelphia Folk Festival, Musikfest in Bethlehem, PA, the Philadelphia Art Museum. We have performed in collaboration with the dancers of ContempraDance Theatre, with famed Ukrainian singer Mariana Sadovska, repeatedly for Southern Tier Celebrates in Binghamton, NY, and also with Yara Arts Group of La MaMa Experimental Theater in New York, NY.

We are honored to be included in the juried artist roster of Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour (PennPAT), whose mission is to support the ability of their Pennsylvania-based artists to tour in about ten surrounding states. PennPAT does this through a multi-layered approach that includes grants to presenters, grants to artists, and tour-readiness or technical training for artists. Information on grants for concert presenters can be found at www.pennpat.org.

In 2005, we released our first full-length CD, *First Light*, which has been a popular item in person and online. Our music has been played on radio stations in at least twelve countries to date. We have begun recording for our second CD.



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