

# Svitanya

Eastern European Women's Vocal Ensemble

## WORKSHOP and RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

### **“Singing Workshop”** – *introductory vocal session*

Participants will experience the pleasure of singing folks songs from Eastern Europe and will also receive an introduction to the cultures from which the songs originate. Members of Svitanya will lead exercises to find your "folk voice" and then teach several simple songs representing different cultures and musical traditions. The workshop includes discussion of the meanings of the songs and their cultural context: translation, significance in rituals, and musical aspects including rhythms and harmonies particular to the culture. Sheet music with lyrics is provided.

In circumstances where time, the plans of the concert presenter, and the desires of the workshop participants permit, workshop participants can be included into Svitanya's concert, joining us on-stage to perform the songs they have learned.

### **“Singing & Dancing Workshop”** – *vocal session with dances & instruments*

As the title implies, the vocal component of the workshop described immediately above is enhanced with the chance to try traditional dances which accompany the songs being learned. Participants who are instrumentalists can add further enhance their experience by playing along.

### **“World Music Seminar”** – *Eastern European music styles*

Bulgarian folk music has many special elements that make it unique and provocative. In this seminar, we explore the beginnings of Bulgarian sound as the birthplace of Orpheus, to work songs in the rose fields and around the town square, up through the 19th century. As recording technology emerged, so did a movement from Socialist Bulgaria to showcase this dynamic art form. Western musicians began to share copies of Bulgarian choirs through "third generation cassettes" via Peter Murphy from the band Bauhaus, who released them through the British label 4AD, among others. Swiss ethnomusicologists Catharine and Marcel Cellier made thousands of recordings of folk ensembles. Kate Bush featured the Trio Bulgarka on her album *The Sensual World* and Bulgarian choirs were in high demand for world tours, including a 1986 appearance of the Bulgarian State Radio and Television Female Vocal Choir on the Johnny Carson show. It is an amazing history, and we love to share it. We cover singing technique and changing cultural contexts in this interdisciplinary presentation.

*Any workshop activities can be tailored to virtually any audience, regardless of age or abilities. We are always expanding the details of what we can do. Please share your needs or ideas with us!*

***Outstanding teaching and performing. I especially enjoyed the moment in your concert when our group of amateur singers formed as a chorus with you for the expanding circle of dancers.***

*—Bart Carpenter, Susquehanna Folk Music Society*