

# Anonymous 4

Ruth Cunningham  
Marsha Genensky

Susan Hellauer  
Jacqueline Horner-Kwiatek

Thursday, December 3, 2009, 8pm

Herbst Theatre

## PROGRAM

### The Cherry Tree

*Songs, Carols and Ballads for Christmas*

Sequence:	<b>Prophetarum presignata</b>
Carol:	<b>Nowel syng we bothe al and sum</b>
Carol:	<b>Alma redemptoris mater</b>
Folk hymn:	<b>The Shepherd's Star</b>
Carol:	<b>Newell—Tydings trew</b>
Carol:	<b>Mervele noght iosep</b>
Carol:	<b>Syng we to this mery cumpane</b>
Song:	<b>Qui creavit celum</b>
Folk hymn:	<b>A Virgin Unspotted</b>
Carol:	<b>As y lay up on a nyght</b>
Carol:	<b>Now may we syngen</b>
Ballad carol:	<b>Lullay my child—This ender nithgt</b>
Folk hymn:	<b>Star in the East</b>
Carol:	<b>Veni redemptor gencium</b>
Carol:	<b>The Cherry-Tree Carol</b>
Sequence:	<b>Salve mater misericordie</b>
Carol:	<b>Hail mary ful of grace</b>
Fuging tune:	<b>Bethlehem</b>

*Please hold applause until the end of each section.*

Anonymous 4 is represented exclusively by Alliance Artist Management, PO Box 388, Bristol, RI 02809; [allianceartistmanagement.com](http://allianceartistmanagement.com).

The ensemble records exclusively for harmonia mundi usa.

## ARTIST PROFILES

*The Anonymous 4 appear with San Francisco Performances for the fifth time. Previous concerts were in March 1996, October 1998, March 2001 and December 2002.*

### Anonymous 4



Renowned for their unearthly vocal blend and virtuosic ensemble singing, the four women of Anonymous 4 combine historical scholarship with contemporary performance intuition to create their magical sound.

The ensemble has performed on major concert series and at festivals throughout North America, Europe and Asia, including appearances at Tanglewood, Wolftrap, BBC Proms, Edinburgh Festival and the Brisbane Biennial. Enchanted both by their live performances and by their 18 recordings of medieval, contemporary and American music, Anonymous 4's listeners have bought nearly two million copies of the group's albums on the harmonia mundi label.

The group's 2004 release, *American Angels* (18th-20th century folk psalmody, hymnody and gospel songs), spent 76 weeks on *Billboard's* Top Classical Chart and received a perfect 10/10 from *ClassicsToday.com*. Their 2005 release, *The Origin of Fire* (sequel to their 1997 bestseller, *11,000 Virgins, music of Hildegard of Bingen*) was named in Amazon.com's Top 25 Classical CDs for 2005. For two consecutive years (2004 and 2005), Anonymous 4 was voted one of *Billboard's* Top Classical Artists of the Year. *Gloryland* (the 2006 sequel to *American Angels*), featuring Darol Anger on fiddles and mandolins and Mike Marshall on mandolins and guitar was a *Gramophone* Editor's Choice for 2006. An anthology of the group's favorite chants from 11th-14th century Europe was released this fall.

In the realm of contemporary music, Anonymous 4 tours as the voice of Joan of Arc in *Voices of Light*, an oratorio with silent film, composed by Richard Einhorn. The ensemble has performed the work under Marin Alsop, with the Vienna Symphony and with Concordia Orchestra at Lincoln Center, as well as with the Hong

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Kong Philharmonic under Lucinda Carver. In 2000-01, Anonymous 4 and the Chilingirian String Quartet premiered John Tavener's newly commissioned work, *The Bridegroom*, included in their 2002 release, *Darkness into Light*. The ensemble commissioned Sir Peter Maxwell Davies to write *A Carnival of Kings*, premiered and recorded on their 2003 release, *Wolcum Yule*, which also included works by Geoffrey Burgon and Richard Rodney Bennett. Other new works include Steve Reich's *Know What is Above You*, and Richard Einhorn's *A Carnival of Miracles*, both commissioned by WNYC Radio.

Anonymous 4 has appeared on a wide range of radio and television programs, including NPR's *All Things Considered*, *Performance Today* and *Weekend Edition*, MPR's *St. Paul Sunday*, WETA's *Millennium of Music*, Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*, and ZDF's *Erstklassich!* (Germany). The ensemble has been featured on A&E's *Breakfast with the Arts*, CBS *Sunday Morning* and Australian ABC's *Access All Areas*, as well as on Discovery Health Channel and Fox News Channel.

**Ruth Cunningham** was raised in Millbrook, NY and has spent most of her adult life in Manhattan. She received a Bachelor of Music in Performance of Early Music from the New England Conservatory of Music and is certified as a cross-cultural music and healing practitioner. She specializes in improvisational sacred music from varied spiritual traditions in both liturgical and concert settings. Her most recent solo CD, *Light and Shadow*, on which she accompanies herself on medieval harp, Renaissance flute, recorder and piano, encompasses a mixture of music, including traditional chants from Western and Eastern traditions as well as her own compositions and improvisations. She also teaches classes and workshops on using the voice and music as tools for healing and transformation. She was a member of Anonymous 4 until 1998, rejoining the group in 2007. She has also performed with The Vox Vocal Ensemble, Early Music New York, Pomerium, and many other ensembles. For more information visit her website [www.ruthcunningham.com](http://www.ruthcunningham.com).

**Marsha Genensky** grew up in the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains, only two miles from the Pacific Ocean. After earning a B.A. in Music and Folklore from Scripps College, she traveled east in order to pursue an M.A. in Folklore and Folklife at the University of Pennsylvania before moving to New York and helping to found Anonymous 4. She handles Anonymous 4's American music research and acted as music director for the group's recordings *American Angels* and *Gloryland*. Language and other historical research have numbered among her other

much-loved tasks for the ensemble. After her return to California in 2004, she spent a year as a visiting assistant professor, followed by an additional year as a visiting scholar, at Stanford University. Genensky has become a regular at Bay Area shape-note sings and continues to teach courses and workshops on Anglo-American sacred and secular song. She also performs with the exciting new trio, Scott Nygaard and Crow Molly, and with fiddle and guitar masters Darol Anger and Scott Law, and is working on a third American project for Anonymous 4.

**Susan Hellauer** is a native of the beautiful Bronx, New York, where she grew up rooting for the Yankees. While earning a B.A. in Music as a trumpet player from Queens College (City University of New York), an increasing fascination with medieval and Renaissance vocal music led her to convert to singing, and to pursue advanced degrees in musicology from Queens College and Columbia University. She handles Anonymous 4's medieval music research, and is an adjunct assistant professor of music at Queens College, CUNY, where she teaches music history and directs the Collegium Musicum. She has appeared as a vocal soloist with the Harp Consort, Parthenia and the 2006 US Fés Festival of World Sacred Music. Hellauer leads Chant Camp workshops throughout the US ([www.ChantVillage.com](http://www.ChantVillage.com)), plays Baroque guitar and clawhammer banjo, and is proud to be a volunteer EMT with the Nyack Community Ambulance Corps.

**Jacqueline Homer-Kwiatk** comes from a little village called Monkstown, in Northern Ireland. After getting a joint honors degree in Music and English from Queens University Belfast, she moved to London and became a professional singer known for her willingness to sing all types of music, from baroque and classical opera and oratorio to the extremes of new music. She then moved to New York, thanks to winning a Green Card in the US visa lottery program. In addition to her recording and touring activities with Anonymous 4, she has a busy career as a soloist, appearing with such distinguished ensembles as the Washington Bach Consort, Carmel Bach Festival, Parthenia and Albany Symphony, singing in everything from Bach cantatas to world premieres such as Richard Einhorn's *The Origin*. Her own recital program, "A Musical Journey," features an eclectic mix of songs from the three places she has called home—Ireland, England and the United States. She can also be found teaching voice and ensemble vocal technique in Manhattan and gives workshops and residencies throughout the country. For more information, visit her website: [www.jacquelinehomer.com](http://www.jacquelinehomer.com).