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**(Photos for publication are available at our website: [www.socialband.org](http://www.socialband.org))**

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**SOCIAL BAND PRESENTS PART 2 OF VERMONT POETRY AND SONG PROJECT**

BURLINGTON, VT. October 17, 2011. Social Band presents The Vermont Poetry and Song Project, Part 2: "A House of Many Rooms." Burlington's lively band of singers builds a house of poetry and song with a program that combines the talents of Vermont's wordsmiths and tunesmiths in celebration of this place we call home, premiering new works of 10 Vermont composers.

Saturday, November 5, 7:30pm, Richmond Community Library

Sunday, November 6, 4:00pm, Charlotte Congregational Church

Saturday, November 12, 7:30pm, Hinesburg United Church

Sunday, November 13, 3:00pm, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington (presented by Cathedral Arts)

Social Band continues its mission of commissioning and featuring works by Vermont composers by bringing Vermont poets into their signature mix of homegrown choral music. This three-part project coincides with celebration of "The Year of the Composer in Vermont," as declared by Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin in February of, 2011.

"Two sources of delight for us over the years have been our work with local composers and our careful consideration of the texts of songs in the design of our programs," said Amity Baker, Social Band's Artistic Director. "Asking composers to set the words of Vermont poets to music seemed like the next logical step. For this project, we decided to explore the theme of 'place' with the goal of treating the entire program as a piece of art in itself that celebrates the place (Vermont) from which this talent springs."

Composers participating in this project hail from all across the state and represent a wide variety of genres and interpretations. The poetry that they have chosen includes unpublished pieces side-by-side with poems that have long been in the Vermont poetry canon. Composer and Social Band member Don Jamison ably sets the tone for the program with his setting of a poem by the late Burlington poet, Gladys LaFlamme. LaFlamme describes how the skilled poet is able to create with words "a house of many rooms...with a deep center gathering to a hearth..." In this way, the combined efforts of poet and composer are able to build moments of beauty and insight out of our common experience of Vermont's seasons, landscapes and weather.

And it should come as no surprise that the seasons feature prominently. Jean L. Connor of Shelburne writes, "Sing in September for all that lingers, sedums of autumn, their palettes of rose..." and composer Erik Nielsen's skillful and ardent setting of Connor's words allows Social Band to do just that. Composer Kathy Wonson Eddy sets a poem of Miriam Herwig in a sometimes mysterious and often exuberant tribute to winter. Emily Miller's Appalachian-inspired setting of a poem by Sarah Cleghorn describes a charming scene as winter becomes a frozen background for burning imagination. "And reading, past their frozen hill in charmed woods they range at will and hear the horns of Oberon shrill above the plunging Tam." Winter is also the flinty background for poems by Verandah Porche and Galway Kinnell, set by Peter Amidon and Mary Alice Amidon, respectively.

However, for those who don't wish to dwell in the cold, Irasburg composer Sara Doncaster sets the poetry of Burt Porter, which takes us to the light-hearted warmth of a summer farmyard. Porter charmingly writes, "...there's something in the morning that makes a rooster crow, like there's something in the dawning that only roosters know..." Barre composer David Gunn brings us full-circle back to autumn with his song "Leaf Peepers" —a dramatized setting of a haiku by Geof Hewitt. Thomas L. Read sums it all up with his song, "No Vermonters In Heaven," set to the sentiments of Ernest F. Johnstone —if given the choice, many of us would prefer to be in Vermont than to go and hang out in heaven.

Admission is by suggested donation of \$15. Tickets are available at the door. Tickets for the November 13 show presented by Cathedral Arts are also available in advance from [www.flynntix.org](http://www.flynntix.org) or at Hopkins Bookshop. For more information, visit [www.socialband.org](http://www.socialband.org), find us on Facebook, or call 802-658-8488.

Social Band was founded in 1998 to explore the diverse repertoires of traditional, early and contemporary music. Directed by Amity Baker, their presentation strikes a balance between raw exuberance and a polished sound. This mixed chorus of 25 singers has become known for their signature mix of homegrown and international choral works spanning the ages, with a focus on new works by Vermont composers.