



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(See below for a calendar listing. Photos for publication are available at our website: www.socialband.org)

DATE: February 14, 2007

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CELEBRATE THE EARTH'S AWAKENING WITH SOCIAL BAND

BURLINGTON, VT. February 14, 2007. Social Band, Burlington's lively band of singers, presents **Showers of Blessings: Sacred and Secular Songs of the Season**, in concert:

Saturday, March 24, 7:30pm at the Richmond Public Library

Sunday, March 25, 3:00pm at the Lincoln United Church

Friday, March 30, 7:30pm at the Unitarian Church in Montpelier

Saturday, March 31, 7:30pm at the Unitarian Church in Burlington

With pieces drawn from a wide array of world music and time periods, Social Band explores the miracle of spring and of life. Among the offerings are two Italian Renaissance pieces by Luca Marenzio, *Gia Torna a Rallegrar L'aria a la Terra*, and *Zefiro Torna: Ma Per Me, Lasso!*, which wax poetic about the joys of spring's warmth and returning birdsong. Claude LeJeune's classic early French chanson *Revey Venir du Printemps* heralds the awakening of spring – "Here returns once more the Maytime, playful love and lovely playtime...." The men of Social Band convey how the cricket sings for love in Josquin des Pres' early Italian madrigal *El Grillo*, and add the sentiments of Thomas Morley's English madrigal *Springtime Mantleth Ev'ry Bough*. The women of Social Band share *viridissima virga*, a medieval chant from 12th century visionary Hildegard von Bingen, and three haunting folk tunes from Eastern Europe.

A combination of older and more contemporary American compositions continues this exploration of the springtime rituals of thawing and awakening. Several early shape-note tunes portray the creator as gardener, while the recently written pieces in the program explore the garden as a symbol of the cycles of giving and receiving, planting and reaping. In *Anthem: Seasons of the Year*, "He sends his word and melts the snow, the fields no longer mourn: He calls the warmer gales to blow and bids the spring return." Burlington resident Billy Drislane's *Digging in the Garden* proclaims, "What you give is what you get, as long as rain is wet and the Lord and the sun shine down." A new composition by Social Band member Don Jamison, *Jackson Heights*, calls on all creation to

praise the creator. Jamison's composition *Mother-Root* asks, in the words of poet George Herbert, "Who would have thought my shriveled heart could have recovered greenesse?" Betsy Brigham's *The End of Sadness*, based on text from the 13th century Sufi poet, Rumi, echoes the same idea. "Moan and cry like a water wheel, and wait until green leaves of grass spring in your soul."

Admission to all concerts is \$12 suggested donation. Tickets are available in advance from the Flynn Regional Box Office, 802-86-FLYNN (802-863-5966), www.flynntix.org, and at the door. For more information, visit www.socialband.org, or call 802-658-8488.

Social Band was founded in 1998 to explore the diverse repertoires of both traditional and "art" music. Directed by Amity Baker, their presentation strikes a balance between raw exuberance and polished sound. This mixed chorus of 20 singers has become known for their signature mix of homegrown and international choral works spanning the millennia, with a particular focus on newly composed works.

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This musical exploration of the springtime rituals of thawing and awakening includes an eclectic mix of English, Italian and French Renaissance offerings, songs from Eastern Europe, early American shape note hymns, newly composed works, and more.

Tickets: \$12 suggested donation

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Information: www.socialband.org, 802-658-8488