

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

DATE: February 29, 2008

CONTACT: Ann Pearce, 802-658-8488, [info@socialband.org](mailto:info@socialband.org)

## SOCIAL BAND EXPLORES THE THEME OF WORK

**BURLINGTON, VT. February 29, 2008.** Social Band, Burlington's lively band of singers, presents "While I Labor: Songs of Work." In addition to traditional work songs from around the world, pieces include premieres of new works with classical, folk and rap influences by Vermont composers David Gunn, Colin McCaffrey, Jeremiah McLane, Thomas L. Read, and Pete Sutherland.

**Saturday, March 29, 7:30pm at the Richmond Public Library**

**Sunday, March 30, 4:00pm at the Unitarian Church in Montpelier**

**Saturday, April 5, 7:30pm at the Unitarian Church in Burlington**

**Sunday, April 6, singing workshop 3-5pm, concert 6:30pm at the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church**

*(sponsored by Sterling College, 802-586-7711 x166, [www.sterlingcollege.edu/folkart.html](http://www.sterlingcollege.edu/folkart.html))*

In "While I Labor on this Earth" Colin McCaffrey writes about the relationship between the work and the life of the spirit. Jeremiah McLane explores inner work in his song "Restoration." Thomas L. Read sets two poems by Oliver Wendell Holmes, "The Treadmill Song" and "The Ploughman" in his meaty work "A Treadmill of My Own." In his piece "When the Torch is Passed to You," Pete Sutherland describes how it feels to carry on the work of those who have gone before us. David Gunn takes us on a detailed journey through the ins and out of work-avoidance in his rap-inspired piece "Crasta Nation."

And speaking of the joys of putting off work, Social Band will perform two early works - one by Michele Pesenti (c. 1500) which describes a morning when one is allowed to go back to bed, and a six-part madrigal by George Kirbye (1597) "Sleep Now my Muse," which describes that kind of lack of productivity when "It's better sleep than wake and do no good." This program will also feature work songs from The Republic of Georgia, Finland, Croatia and the British Isles, as well as previously-commissioned works from Vermont composers Sara Doncaster, Will Patton and Michael Kellogg which round out our program exploring work in all its phases.

Tickets are available at the door for all shows. For Richmond, Montpelier and Burlington, admission is by suggested donation of \$12, and advance tickets are available from the Flynn Regional Box Office, 802-86-FLYNN (863-5966), [www.flynntix.org](http://www.flynntix.org). For the Craftsbury workshop and concert, call 802-586-7711, ext. 166, or visit [www.sterlingcollege.edu/folkart.html](http://www.sterlingcollege.edu/folkart.html) for ticket prices and reservation information. For more information, visit [www.socialband.org](http://www.socialband.org), 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 millennia, with a focus on new works by Vermont composers.

In 2005, Social Band commissioned 25 Vermont composers to write new choral works. This grant-funded project was so well received that the group secured a new round of funding in 2007 to present last Fall's concerts with seven new choral works on the theme of "Idle and Blessed: Exploring Rest in a Restless World," and also to present this spring's contrasting program with five more new choral works. This project will tour around the state for the rest of 2008.

This concert is supported in part by the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Vermont Arts Endowment Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation, by a generous gift from the Argosy Foundation Contemporary Music Fund, and by the many gifts from our patrons. Social Band is a Vermont Arts Council Juried Artist, and a Vermont Arts Council American Masterpieces Artist.

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