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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 EXPLORES THE CREATIVE PROCESS

BURLINGTON, VT. February 10, 2009. Social Band, Burlington's lively band of singers, presents *Veni Creator Spiritus: Come Creator Spirit!*, featuring premieres of three new choral works penned by Vermont composers Sara Doncaster, John Harrison and Pete Sutherland, as well as a variety of other works and reflections on the creative process.

Saturday, March 28, 7:30pm at the Richmond Free Library

Sunday, March 29, 4:00pm at the United Church of Hinesburg

Saturday, April 4, 7:30pm at the Unitarian Church in Burlington

Sunday, April 5, 4:00pm at the First Baptist Church of Bristol

Social Band takes its mission of supporting the creation of new choral works one step further by building active collaborations between these composers and singers into the creation and interpretation of their pieces. Each composer has rehearsed their piece extensively with Social Band, and, in some cases, have developed it further as a result of the interactions!

According to Amity Baker, director of Social Band, "We wanted to dive deeper into the creative process by asking for more insight and direction from the composers, by creating a learning environment in which we could more fully take advantage of their gifts and skills, and, in the process, make Social Band more skilled in the interpretation of new works."

Each of the three new pieces delves into different aspects of their authors' creative process. Pete Sutherland created a "collage text" for two choirs made up of writings solicited from members of Social Band, called "Breakthrough." "The goal was and is a 'musical interior monologue with choral back-up,' drawing from the largely unexplored 'cooler, jazzier' end of the Social Band spectrum," he explained. John Harrison put original words to a jazz piece he had previously written in "Down At the Old Hotel." He said, "It's ultimately about music's ability to evoke and fulfill nostalgic yearnings in the true sense of that word (the Greek root *nostos* meaning to return home). I personally think this has just about everything to do with my creative process, and with why I've ended up who I am as a musician." Sara Doncaster composed a set of three pieces. The first one, "Deadline," describes her challenge with meeting deadlines. In the second piece, "Voices," she explores her process of finding her authentic musical voice. And the third piece, "Ballad," puts the confusion and struggle of the craft of writing in proper perspective.

In addition to the premiered pieces, earlier-commissioned works by Liz Thompson, Tom Cleary and Will Patton will be on the program, as well as selections of early works by Tomás Victoria, Hildegard of Bingen and John Dunstable. The program will be rounded out with a few shape note tunes and selected readings to tie together this exploration of the creative process.

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 22 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.

Admission is by suggested donation of \$15, \$10 for students/low income individuals. Advance tickets are available from the Flynn Regional Box Office, 802-86-FLYNN (863-5966), [www.flynntix.org](http://www.flynntix.org). For more information, visit [www.socialband.org](http://www.socialband.org), or call 802-658-8488.

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