



Sunday, May 21  
4PM & 6:30PM  
Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph  
San Jose, CA

*10th Annual*  
Spring  
Concert



2023

# Welcome!

Welcome to iSing's 10th Annual Spring Concert! We are happy that you are here and can't wait to share this special performance with all of you.

Spring is a symbol of growth and renewal. At iSing, it's also a time of deep reflection. As Directors, we tend to love the Spring Concerts most of all, because it's here that we are able to see most clearly the growth in individual and collective skill of our students. A piece of music that seemed impossible in November can now be performed with ease. Personal confidence that seemed a bit shaky just a few months ago, is now supplanted by a bit of swagger. We celebrate all of the hard work and dedication that has brought our students to this moment.

More broadly, we celebrate 10 years of this beautiful annual cycle at iSing. And year after year, all of it somehow gets better and better. We love this work, and we love being a part of your lives. So, here's to a decade! And here's to iSing for life! (We're looking at you, seniors and alums).

We have a wonderful concert to share with you today. The highlight: music of Asia, with a world premier by Harmonics, plus three additional songs — all composed by living female composers — with music and texts from Malaysia, China, Japan, and Korea. We're excited to celebrate the cultural backgrounds of some of our students and staff through the commissioning and performance of these works.

We wish you and your family a wonderful summer. Please wish us luck as the iSing artistic team + HD travel to Asia for the first time in July, to compete in the World Choir Games in S. Korea!

*Jennah & Shane*

## Team iSing

**Jennah Delp Somers**, Co-Founder, Artistic Director  
**Shane Troll**, Co-Founder, Artistic Director  
**Rhett M. Del Campo**, Executive Director  
**Marsha Genensky**, Operations and Communications Lead  
**Hayden King**, Associate Conductor  
**Erin McOmber**, Voice Instructor  
**Ella Jackson**, Choir Program Manager, Poly & HD  
iSing@RWC Program Assistant  
**Anny Cheng**, Collaborative Pianist  
**Melissa Lin**, Collaborative Pianist

## iSing Board of Directors

**Christina Lai**, Board Chair  
**Jennah Delp Somers**, President  
**Shane Troll**, Vice President  
**Dan Kaleba**, Secretary  
**Sherwin Chen**  
**Roxanne Leung**  
**Audrey Proulx**

## Special Guests

**Jessie Nucho**, flute  
**Daniel Ma**, cello  
**David Wishnia**, cello  
**Carol Rice**, cello  
**Melanie Eve Amber**, cello

# iSing Silicon Valley Choirs

## HD

Ali Bollyky  
Ananya Vats Das  
Anna Aganina  
Anne Mazza  
Caroline Connaghan  
Caroline Rose  
Celeste Maino  
Charlotte Ibbotson-Brown  
Chloe Bagi  
Chloe Kummerer  
Claire Comerford  
Claire Delay  
Emma Marquardt  
Finley Ho  
Fiona Eliot  
Greta Bollyky  
Indra Redding Lapuz  
Izzy Zohar  
Jacquelyn Chiang  
Jasper Donnelly  
Jing Peng  
Juli Spreckelmeyer  
Julie Chung  
Katy Jackson  
Kira Libby Robertson  
Laura McPhie  
Lia O'Donovan  
Madeleine Chen  
Maggie Kloninger-Stever  
Maia Tu  
Malaya Redding Lapuz  
Mary Courtney Templeton  
Marie Shotts  
Mikatrin Heynen  
Nadia Soberg  
Natalia Morrow  
Natalie Fishman  
Natalie Savastio  
Nina Chandy  
Sahana Stanger  
Sandhya Krishnan  
Sawyer Lai  
Simone Batra  
Sivan Kuo  
Skylar Burnett  
Sophie Chuang  
Stephanie Lee  
Sunaina Tadakamalla  
Tori Chou  
Tori Kaleba  
Vivi Sun  
Yaya Li

## Polyphonics

Aina Arnquist  
Ann Peng  
Audrey Berger  
Catherine Chen  
Clara De Barros  
Elaina Huang  
Ella Hoy  
Emily Chan  
Grace Johnson  
Ilaria Cline  
Ines Bensoussan  
Juliana Cioffi  
Kareena Agarwal  
Karuna Mukkamalla  
Katherine Peterson  
Kira Tzeng  
Leia Tu  
Lenna Yoon  
Leza Hervy  
Lucy Kim  
Maia Lin  
Maira Srivastava  
Meghna Singh  
Miranda Paskin  
Nadia Moehler  
Natalie Lee  
Nicole Peters  
Omi Yee  
Owyn Catanzaro  
Sadie Evans  
Sophia Chakos-Mitchell  
Tallulah Evans  
Taryn Hwang  
Tessa Chang

## Harmonics

Aadya Kumar  
Aanika Rapaka  
Aanya RaoRane Agrawal  
Aarya Phumbhra  
Abigail Huang  
Alana Baker  
Alexa Armstrong  
Alexandra Tong  
Alice Ibbotson-Brown  
Ankita Jayaraman  
Annabel Blanford  
Annabelle Lee  
Annabelle Pickett  
Annelise Bergeron  
Anushka Ratha  
Aria Agarwal  
Asmara Haile

Audrey Pandolfo  
Blythe Jacobs  
Caitlyn Kwong  
Camille Ladhahoy  
Carly Buddin  
Caroline Lee  
Casey Moorehouse  
Charlotte Schoenen  
Claire Zhang  
Clara Mence-Barrins  
Clara Yu-Svensson  
Ela Gultekin  
Elena Tong  
Elisabeth Smarr  
Elizabeth Strebulaev  
Ella Chou  
Ella Connaghan  
Ella Gurunathan  
Ellen O'Donovan  
Ellie Markworth  
Emma Habbecke  
Emma Renie  
Eva Zhao  
Fabiana Littlefield  
Giovanna Lawant  
Hanna Heck  
Isabelle Baskin  
Ivy Alcheck  
Ixchel Yanez Meraz  
Julia Bao  
Julia Rabkin  
Julianne Morrissey  
Katie Waldo  
Kaya Chakra-Berra  
Kaylee Dieck  
Kelsey Maletis  
Kendall Lundell  
Kenley Schmidt  
Khloe Chang  
Kira Suh  
Kishi Towfiq  
Kitty Colbourne  
Koori Jasani-Gupta  
Laykha Desai  
Leonore Van Roessel  
Lexi Ko  
Lexi Lee  
Lindsay Anderson  
Lindsie Shim  
Liya McGraw  
Lourdes Wong  
Lucia Rose  
Lucy Dyer  
Maddie Chang

Madison Wang  
Mahie Sharma  
Maidi Crawford  
Margaret Carter  
Maria Gianotti  
Mariah Beim  
Marni Kuo  
Martha Van Roessel  
Meadow Wu  
Meera Bhushan  
Mihika Sarin  
Mili Gupta  
Mira McInerney  
Naina Garg  
Nidhi Prasad  
Oceanne Mayssat-Basu  
Paige Fehrenbach  
Paola Lopez-Breton  
Phoebe Wagner  
Presley Mineta  
Quinn Sanders  
Reiya McGraw  
Roos Koppel  
Rosalind Young  
Rou Rou Wang  
Sabrina Wang  
Sahra Kuo-Ahmad  
Samantha Chan  
Samantha Prabhu  
Seneca Miano  
Serena Winter  
Sofia Graney  
Sumaya Mukkamalla  
Taylor Wang  
Valentina Mottl  
Zoe Di Mauro

# 10th Annual Spring Concert



## Combined Choirs

### Dirait-on

Morten Lauridsen

American composer and National Medal of Arts Recipient, Morten Lauridsen celebrated his 80th birthday this year. *Dirait-on*, a movement from *Les Chansons Des Roses*, written in 1993, is one of his most popular compositions. With a nod to French poet, Rainer Maria Rilke, Lauridsen composed *Dirait-on* as a *chanson populaire*, a lovely melody with a lyrical refrain.

Abandon entouré d'abandon,  
tendresse touchant aux tendresses...  
C'est ton intérieur qui sans cesse  
se caresse, dirait-on;

se caress en soi-même,  
par son propre reflet éclairé.  
Ainsi tu inventes le thème  
du Narcisse exaucé.

-Rainer Maria Rilke

Abandon surrounding abandon,  
tenderness touching tenderness...  
Your oneness endlessly  
caresses itself, so they say;

self-caressing  
through its own clear reflection.  
Thus you invent the theme  
Of Narcissus fulfilled.

## Harmonics

### Be Simple Little Children

Bob Chilcott (anonymous 19th-century Shaker text)

### Sing to Me

Andrea Ramsey

## A JOURNEY THROUGH ASIA

### Lenggang Kangkung

Traditional folk song, Malay Archipelago, arr. Tracy Wong

#### ***iSing Commission, World Premiere***

*Lenggang Kangkung* is a rhythmic arrangement of a well-known folksong from the Malay archipelago featuring simple, catchy, and repetitive melodies. Folksongs from this region are usually lively and festive; they introduce new melodies and encourage children to sing freely. The lyrics often tell a story or bear advice intended for young people, although some are humorously written and are meant to entertain. *Lenggang Kangkung* suggests the story of a person moving along in a carefree manner (*lenggang*), like water spinach (*kangkung*) swaying or dancing in the paddy field. The text speaks to the carefree nature of folks who work in the fields – even though they have a simple life, they are proud of their work and are content with what they have.

Lenggang lenggang kangkung  
Kangkung di tepi paya  
Balik dari menyabung  
Makanlah nasi sahaja

Water spinach swaying/dancing  
By the marsh  
Returning home from working at the fields  
Only to eat plain rice

## HD

### Up the Crane Tower

Chen Yi (China)

Choreography by Yi Feng

*Up the Crane Tower is a well known poem, often taught to children in China. The Yellow River mentioned in the text is the second largest river of China. Li is a Chinese mile. The poem message: There is no limit to knowledge; one should keep studying. Up the Crane Tower is the first of six movements in Chen Yi's Chinese Poems for Six Girls' Choruses, which introduces ancient Chinese texts to new audiences.*

Bai ri yi shan jin  
Huang he ru hai liu  
Yo qiong qian li mu  
Geng shang yi ceng lou

*Pale sun on hill dies,  
Yellow River seaward flows,  
To view thousand li,  
One more flight we go.*

### Where the Insects Cry

Santa Ratniece (text from Japan)

Maggie Kloninger Stever and Sawyer Lai, soloists

**iSing Commission, World Premiere at ACDA National Convention 2023, Cincinnati, OH**

*Latvian composer Santa Ratniece's work Where the Insects Cry was inspired by two of Japan's most famous writers. Ryōkan was a Japanese, Buddhist monk who spent the majority of his life living in simplicity and solitude at the base of Mount Kugami. Despite his reclusivity, he became well-known during his lifetime for his Zen poems and calligraphy. Murasaki Shikibu is the author of The Tales of Genji, said to be the world's first novel. Both authors describe the subtleties of nature and the passing of time. Santa uses extended vocal and cello techniques to create a fascinating, immersive soundscape.*

Waga yado ni  
uete sodateshi  
momokusa wa  
kaze no kokoro ni  
makasu nari keri

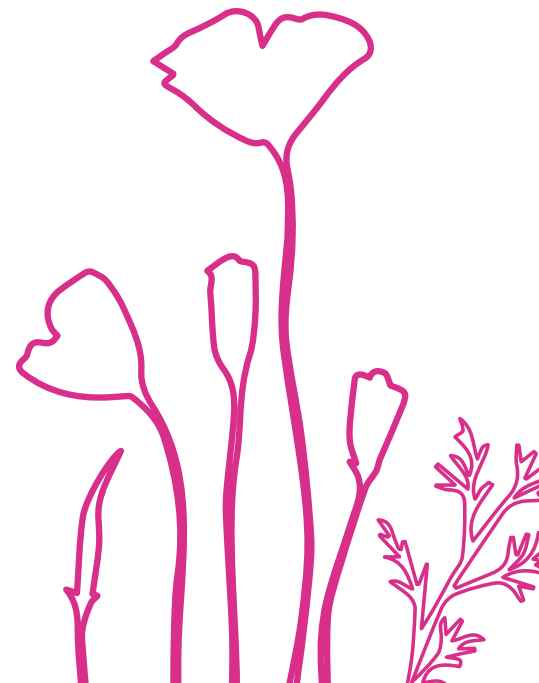
Itodoshiku  
mushi no ne shigeki  
asajiu ni  
tsuyu okisouru  
kumo no uebito.

Yūgune ni  
kugami no yama no  
koekureba  
takane ni shika no  
koe wo kiki keri

*At my house  
these hundred plants  
I planted and raised –  
only to give them up  
to the will of the wind.*

*A visit from one above the clouds  
has brought yet more  
tears of dew  
to these reeds  
where the insects cry.*

*In twilight  
crossing over  
Mount Kugami  
at the crest I heard  
the cry of a deer.*



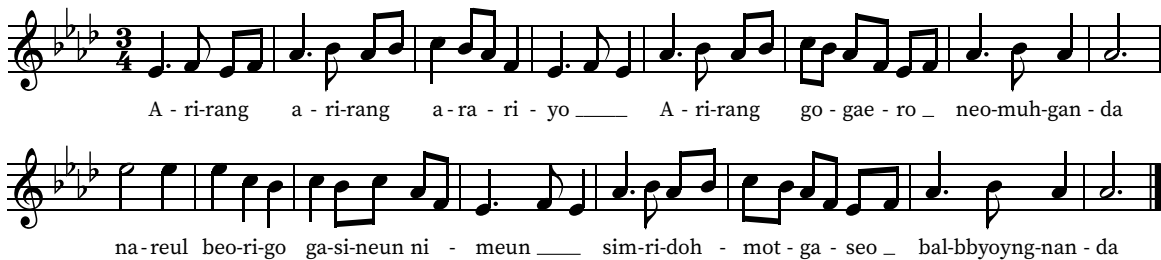
## Arirang

Traditional Korean, arr. Hyo-won Woo

"Arirang is a popular form of Korean folk song and the outcome of collective contributions made by ordinary Koreans throughout generations. Essentially a simple song, it consists of the refrain 'Arirang, arirang, arariyo' and two simple lines, which differ from region to region. While dealing with diverse universal themes, the simple musical and literary composition invites improvisation, imitation and singing in unison, encouraging its acceptance by different musical genres. Experts estimate the total number of folk songs carrying the title 'Arirang' at some 3,600 variations belonging to about sixty versions. A great virtue of Arirang is its respect for human creativity, freedom of expression and empathy. Everyone can create new lyrics, adding to the song's regional, historical and genre variations, and cultural diversity. Arirang is universally sung and enjoyed by the Korean nation. At the same time, an array of practitioners of regional versions, including local communities, private groups and individuals, actively lead efforts for its popularization and transmission, highlighting the general and local characteristics of individual versions. Arirang is also a popular subject and motif in diverse arts and media, including cinema, musicals, drama, dance and literature. It is an evocative hymn with the power to enhance communication and unity among the Korean people, whether at home or abroad."  
–UNESCO.org, Inscribed in 2012 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

Arirang, Arirang, arariyo  
Arirang gogaero neomuhganda  
Nareul beorigo gasi neum nimeun  
Simiroh motgaseo balhyong nanda

Arirang, arirang, arariyo  
You are going over Arirang Hill  
My love, you are leaving me  
Your feet will be sore before you go ten miles.



A - ri-rang a - ri-rang a - ra - ri - yo \_\_\_\_ A - ri-rang go - gae - ro \_ neo-muh-gan - da  
na-reul beo-ri-go ga-si-neun ni - meun \_\_\_\_ sim-ri-doh - mot - ga - seo \_ bal-bbyoyng-nan - da

## Polyphonics

### Frühlingslied

from Mädchenlieder (Op. 103)

Robert Schumann

Audrey Berger and Owyn Catanzaro, duet

German composer of the Romantic era, Robert Schumann, celebrates the welcome of Spring with this lovely two-part soprano duet. The poet, Elisabeth Kulmann, was fluent in 11 languages, and wrote over 1,000 poems before her death at the age of 17.

Der Frühling kehret wieder,  
und schmücket Berg und Thal,  
schön tönen rings die Lieder  
der süßen Nachtigall!

Wie steigt hoch die Sonne,  
in's Himmelblau hinauf,  
verbreitet Lust und Wonne  
auf ihrem weiten Lauf.

Es eilen Schaal und Rinder,  
der grünen Wiese zu,  
es blick auf's Spiel der Kinder  
der Greis aus seiner Ruh'.

With joy we greet you, springtime,  
your flowers on hill and vale,  
resounding ring the songs  
of the lovely nightingale!

Yet higher ascends the sun,  
into the heavenly blue,  
bestowing love, joy and rapture  
over all its earthly view.

It welcomes flock and shepherd  
as they return to the fields,  
it smiles on children playing,  
the days to warmth do yield.

## Esurientes

from *Magnificat RV 610*

Antonio Vivaldi

*Sweet thirds, charming trills, and playful melismas offer singers and audiences alike a taste of the art of Baroque style.*

Esurientes implevit bonis,  
et divites dimisit inanes.

*He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.*

## The Angel

*Six Choral Songs for Treble Voices," opus 15*

Sergei Rachmaninoff

*The Angel is a showpiece of Russian Romantic era composition. Rachmaninoff's setting of Lermontov's poetry is lush, rich with sweeping melodic lines, and grounded by a dynamic and virtuosic piano accompaniment. We are delighted to showcase our wonderful singers alongside iSing's extraordinarily talented collaborative pianist, Dr. Anny Cheng.*

Po nebu polunochi angel letel,  
I tikhiju pesnju on pel;  
I mesjac, i zvezdy, i tuchi tolpoj  
Vnimali toj pesne svjatoj.

On pel o blazhenstve bezgreshnykh dukhov  
Pod kushchami rajskih sadov;  
O boge velikom on pel, i khvala  
Jego neprivorna byla.

On dushu mladuju v ob"jatijakh njos  
Dlja mira pechali i sljoz;  
I zvuk jeho pesni v dushe molodoj  
Ostalsja -- bez slov, no zhivoj.

I dolgo na svete tomilas' ona,  
Zhelanijem chudnym polna,  
I zvukov nebes zamenit' ne mogli  
Jej skuchnye pesni zemli.

-Mikhail Lermontov

*In the midnight sky an angel flew  
and sang a quiet song:  
and the moon, and the stars, and the clouds all as one,  
attended to that holy song.*

*He sang of the blessedness of sinless spirits  
beneath the branches of Paradise's gardens;  
he sang of God Almighty,  
and his praise was without guile.*

*He carried in his bosom a young soul,  
destined for a world of sadness and tears.  
And the sound of his song, through lacking the words,  
remained alive in that young soul.*

*A long time it suffered in the world,  
filled with a wondrous longing:  
for it the sounds of the heavens could not be  
supplanted  
by the ordinary songs of earth.*



## HD

### Petites Voix, No. 4 & 5

Francis Poulenc

*These two short songs from Poulenc's five-song cycle, Petite Voix, are wonderfully playful compositions. They are so very Poulenc – every detail perfectly notated in the score, harmonies that demand a sense of adventure (and skill!), and elaborate depictions of the text. Enjoy!*

#### Le petit garçon malade

Le petit garçon malade  
Ne veut plus regarder les images  
il ferme ses yeux las;  
il laisse ses mains chaudes  
traîner sur le drap.

Sa mère ouvre la fenêtre  
et le rideau blanc se balance sur la rue  
un soir de mai.

Il entend jouer les autres  
qui sautent à cloche pied  
en criant sur le trottoir.

Alors il tourne la tête  
et pleure en silence  
dans son petit bras plié.

#### Le Hérisson

Quand papa trouve un hérisson  
il l'apporte à la maison.  
On lui donne du lait tiède  
dans le fond d'une assiette.

Il ne veut pas se dérouler lorsqu'il entend  
parler...  
mais si nous quittons la cuisine  
Il montre sa tête maligne,

et si je me tais un instant  
je l'entends boire doucement.

#### The Little Sick Boy

*Oh the lonely little sick boy  
He is weary of looking at pictures  
He shuts his tired eyes  
and lets his hot hands fall  
slowly on the bed.*

*The nurse opens wide the window  
and the curtain blows very gently in and out.  
'Tis a night in May.*

*And he hears the other children  
playing in the street below  
hears them shout and gaily laugh.*

*And weeping sadly in silence  
he buries his face  
in his little folded arm.*

#### The Hedgehog

*When Daddy found a young hedgehog  
he brought him to live with us  
We gave him warm milk to drink,  
in a deep china saucer,*

*When we were around him he would not uncurl  
himself  
but if we slipped out of the kitchen  
then his naughty head popped right out,*

*and when I did not make a sound  
I heard him drinking quietly.*





## Gute Nacht

Josef Gabriel Rheinberger

*Ahhhh — That's the feeling we get when we sing this piece. The text is so charming! The close harmonies are gorgeous, and every phrase feels yummiier than the next – a singer's perfect piece.*

Schon fängt es an zu dämmern,  
Der Mond als Hirt erwacht,  
Und singt den Wolkenlämmern  
Ein Lied zur guten Nacht;  
Und wie er singt so leise,  
Da dringt vom Sternenschein  
Der Schall ins Ohr mir sacht,

Schlafet in Ruh'! schlafet in Ruh'!  
Vorüber der Tag und sein Schall;  
Die Liebe Gottes, sie deckt euch zu  
Allüberall

Von Tür zu Türe waltet  
Der Traum, ein lieber Gast,  
Das Harfenspiel verhallet  
Im schimmernden Palast,  
Im Nachen schläft der Ferge,  
Die Hirten auf dem Berge  
Sie halten ums Feuer Rast.

Gut' Nacht denn, all ihr Müden,  
Ihr Lieben nah und fern!  
Nun ruh' auch ich in Frieden,  
Bis glänzt der Morgenstern.  
Die Nachtigall alleine  
Singt noch im Mondenschein  
Und lobet Gott den Herrn.

The twilight has already come upon us,  
The shepherding moon awakens,  
And sings to the cloud lambs  
A good night song;  
And how quietly he sings,  
So that, down from the stars' orbit,  
The sound gently reaches my ear:

Slumber in peace! Slumber in peace!  
The day and its noises have ended;  
God's love blankets you  
Completely.

Dream wanders from door to door,  
A beloved guest,  
The song of the harp dies away  
In the shimmering palace,  
The ferryman sleeps in his skiff,  
The shepherds on the mountain  
Find rest around the fire.

Good night, then, to all you weary ones,  
You beloved ones near and far!  
Now I also will take my rest,  
Until the star of morning shines.  
The nightingale alone  
Still sings when the moon shines  
And praises the Lord God.

## Shining Light

Joanne Metcalf

*Shimmering, tightly-dissonant chords characterize this a cappella work setting a text by the composer. Joanne writes, "In Shining Light I wanted to capture the impression of a profoundly beautiful outer light, such as that of the stars, that reflects back the beauty of the inner light of the soul. I composed Shining Light as a memorial to the late Jennifer Fitzgerald—a dear friend and talented composer—but I hope that it will speak to others who have experienced loss as well."*

## HD and Polyphonics

### Light of a Clear Blue Morning

Dolly Parton, arr. Craig Hella Johnson

Julie Chung, solo

### Sing Gently

Eric Whitacre

Sawyer Lai, conductor

Alumns, please join us!

### I Sing Because I'm Happy

Charles H. Gabriel, arr. Kenneth Paden, ad. Rollo Dilworth

## Combined Choirs

### Grow, Little Tree

Andrea Ramsey

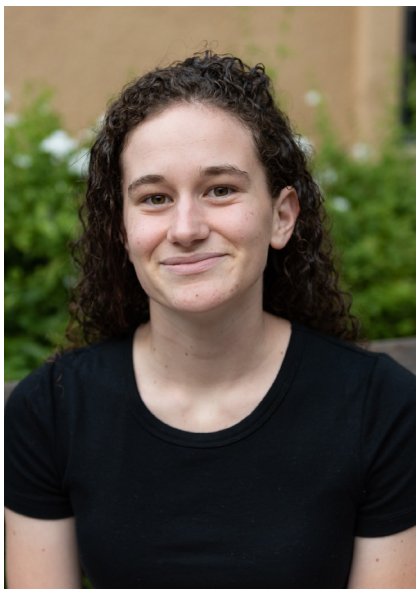


# Our Graduating Seniors



## Anne Mazza

As a self-proclaimed introvert, I've struggled to find a place where I feel comfortable expressing myself. Sharing something as vulnerable as a singing voice is especially daunting. That is why I was pleasantly surprised to feel comfortable at iSing almost immediately when I joined in the middle of fourth grade. I connected with others quickly and on a personal level, and iSing soon became one of my favorite places. I have always loved singing along to songs on the radio. Now, thanks to iSing, I can do it without making others regret having the ability to hear. iSing has been a place I could turn to whenever I needed support for these past eight and a half years. It's been my escape from college essays, calculus and my incredibly adorable but occasionally trying little brother. As I get closer and closer to the end of singing in such an exceptional group, I have realized just how amazing these past years have been. From my time at iSing, I have not only become a better singer, but I have learned valuable life lessons as well. I will apply these vital skills to my college life and far beyond, and treasure this experience for the rest of my life.



## Celeste Maino

I believe my years with iSing have been a founding piece of who I am today. From inspiring the rigor to be a better musician to leadership, it's very easy to say I am a different person than when I first walked through the door for my first Harmonics rehearsal. iSing has helped me further my understanding of music beyond what we just do in choir; wherever sheet music might appear, I believe I am a stronger sight reader because of my time with iSing. I know I will continue to use the very perseverance and resilience iSing has taught me to harbor in the face of hard work beyond my time in iSing.





## Chloe Bagi

I joined iSing in its inaugural year in 3rd grade, as a girl who loved music. Music has always defined me as a listener, but iSing taught me how to become a musician. This experience of going to rehearsal every week and learning how to listen and create art has accompanied me for most of my life, and I've learned to cherish its stable presence. Music held my hand through those absolutely terrible middle school years, the uncertainties of high school, the gains and losses of friendships, and led me through the doors of adulthood. I've seen firsthand the value and power in our voices and the desire to be known — to be heard —because it has always been about more than making music. iSing has taught me to seek great things, and in the process to make touching, lifelong relationships that I will hold close to me forever. Next year I'm incredibly excited to study English and sociology at Cal Poly SLO, where I will enter the world with music and love in hand, from my years at iSing!



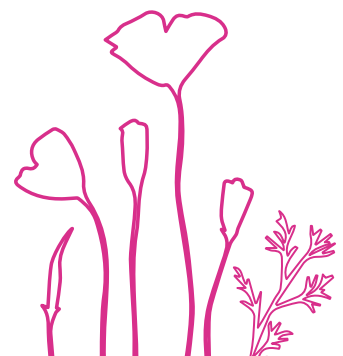
## Fiona Eliot

I live in San Rafael, about 30 minutes north of San Francisco. For the past 8 years, I have been taking the bus, ferry, BART, and even my Nana's car, to get to iSing. It has been so worth it. Being surrounded by the iSing community of passionate, fiery humans (mostly women,) I have learned not only how to tell the difference between a major second and a minor second, but I've also learned about the power we hold, as women. Through iSing, I have learned that though many in the world may try to silence us, women are powerful human beings who have so much to say and contribute, if we find the courage to do so. I have learned how to empower other women, and I have discovered that we are capable of so much, if we will just let our voices be heard. I am so excited to spread this message to the world.



## Julie Chung

As I reflect on my journey from singing on top of my dining table as a toddler to performing in large, scintillating auditoriums, I am filled with awe at how my lifelong dream of becoming a performer has become a reality. Joining iSing in fifth grade has been a significant backbone for my growth into the person I am today. iSing has taught me valuable qualities such as grit, empathy, and the importance of exploring my outlet of creativity through my voice.





## Maggie Kloninger-Stever

I joined iSing when it first started ten years ago. I was unsure whether music was my thing, as I had already realized I was not a natural at piano or guitar, but I soon fell in love with singing. I adored coming to rehearsal each week, and that has not changed a bit. I quickly made friends, because every girl was just so kind, and I formed bonds that will last forever. When I moved up to Polyphonics in 6th grade, I could barely hear myself when we sang. However, in class, Jennah nurtured my voice and my confidence, and year after year, my artistry and passion for music blossomed. I never feel on my guard or like I have to prove my worth, when I'm at iSing. I take on each challenge and risk because I know that iSing is a safe place to fail, learn, and grow. I can be my most authentic self at iSing. At school I don't think a lot of people would describe me as "outgoing", "confident", or "sassy," but at iSing I feel completely comfortable to take up space and be myself without fear of judgment. The iSing faculty and older singers have always served as incredible role models for me, and as I have gotten older, it has been so special to lead and support younger singers, as all the previous seniors have. iSing rehearsals remain the highlight of my week. Singing with such talented, amazing people never fails to lift me up and bring me joy. This year especially, I always stick around and chat after rehearsal ends, because I just don't want to leave. iSing has truly been my safe haven, support system, and second home for the past decade of my life, and I am going to miss it so much. I am forever grateful to every one of my teachers and friends at iSing for shaping me into the person I am today. I am excited to be going to Pomona College this fall, where I will be studying environmental science — and where I'll definitely be singing in the choir!



## Malaya Redding Lapuz

iSing is my home away from home. When I first started iSing in 4th grade, I was the shy kid. I was overwhelmed by the number of people, scared to make mistakes when I sang, and terrified of Mr. Troll and his pool noodle. I loved to watch the older singers perform, but it seemed like an impossible dream to be like them someday. Flash forward nine years later, and the impossible has become reality. I am infinitely more confident in my voice and in myself, and it's in large part thanks to iSing. Throughout my time here, Jennah and Mr. Troll have challenged me to move beyond my comfort zone and surrounded me with more love than I can put into words. In an environment where making big mistakes is encouraged and met with nothing but support, I have been able to push myself to do things I would never have otherwise been brave enough to do. I am most thankful for the opportunity to work with Harmonics and Melodics: watching our youngest singers express themselves with complete freedom and abandon inspires me every day to find that in my own life. Now, as I prepare to study vocal performance at Lawrence University, I know that I will cherish the strength and confidence I have gained at iSing for the rest of my life. And while I will probably never find a choir quite like iSing, I can only hope that I have the privilege to follow in Mr. Troll's and Jennah's footsteps and pass on the gifts of music and community to the generations to come.





## Mary Courtney Templeton

My mom introduced me to iSing when I was in third grade, after she discovered the new organization through a friend. I reacted with disinterest and typical 8-year-old resistance when she told me about this extracurricular activity that involved singing for fun. Until this point I had never considered music to be one of my passions. My mom persisted, requesting that I simply try the choir out. When I first met Jennah and Mr. Troll, I didn't realize I was auditioning. My mom had told me that I was simply meeting my potential instructors. She was smart to do this, knowing that I would never have agreed to go if I had been aware that I was being evaluated. After a few minutes spent matching pitch and performing solfege, I received a brown paper package, tied up with string, and full of M&Ms. This marked the beginning of my decade-long journey at iSing. In Melodics Chorus I was shocked by how engaging music could be. Whether I was improving my solfege skills or learning choreography, I found myself becoming increasingly absorbed by choir. At the age of eight, I began to understand the concept of work ethic. Subjects I learned in school did not fascinate me the way my music did. I remember repeatedly performing the unison pieces we learned at iSing for my mom, practicing until I could sing each song from memory. In Harmonics Chorus, I would sit in front of her computer, listening intently for my line in the two-part split, while jotting down notes. iSing was where I learned the true meaning of passion, dedication, self-discipline, and ambition. I wanted to be the best musician I could. I dreamed of one day wearing the floor-length black dresses of the Polyphonics and HD singers. To my excitement, this moment arrived, marking the commencement a new era of my time at iSing. In HD I learned the power of my voice, and I grew from an attentive listener to a committed leader. Most importantly, I made closer relationships at iSing than I could have ever imagined. Through countless rehearsals, retreats, and three tours during these ten years, iSing has become my second family. This group has remained a constant amidst changes in schools, the pandemic, and personal loss. My friends in this choir are my loudest cheerleaders and my most trusted confidants, people with whom I can both laugh and cry, and a gift for which I am forever grateful.



## Natalie Savastio

Music has always been the greatest passion in my life. Joining iSing has only made my love for the art grow. At my first iSing rehearsal two years ago, I was nervous and worried about fitting in with this group of singers who had already known each other for years. However, my worries were soon diminished, as I felt the warmth they extended to me. Everyone I met was — and is — welcoming and kind. I was struck by the overwhelming sense of community, support, and encouragement. Although I have been with iSing for only two years, the depth and intensity of my experience has lengthened the time. I've had the opportunity to sing alongside some of the most talented singers I've ever met, connect with like-minded people, and participate in a group wholeheartedly dedicated to their music-making. I have been challenged both as a musician and as a person, pushed to step outside of my comfort zone, and as a result, I have more confidence in my leadership skills. iSing has been one of the best experiences of my life. I will carry everything iSing has taught me as I pursue higher education at Pennsylvania State University. And while I'll be studying chemistry, I hope to maintain music as a part of my life through a vocal performance minor. Thank you, iSing, for providing me with a community where I can wholly express myself and grow my love for music.





## Sandhya Krishnan

I can still remember the day I walked into my iSing audition. I was in 4th grade. I didn't know what to expect, but the only thing I could imagine was a panel of judges who would watch me perform. So of course, I needed to prepare a song. Like any other 9-year old at the time, I was obsessed with Frozen, so I came ready to sing Let It Go. To my surprise, there were no judges, just Mr.Troll, who was (thankfully) spared my performance and instead warmly welcomed me to Harmonics! Ever since, I have been so grateful to be surrounded by a community of such hardworking singers and mentors who have shaped my musicianship. During my 9 years with iSing, I have been able to grow, not only as a singer, but also as an individual ,as I found my own voice. Experiences like recording an album and performing at ACDA could not have been possible without the passion and drive from all of you. As I study business at Chapman University this fall, I am so excited to bring all that I have learned from iSing to college!



## Sawyer Lai

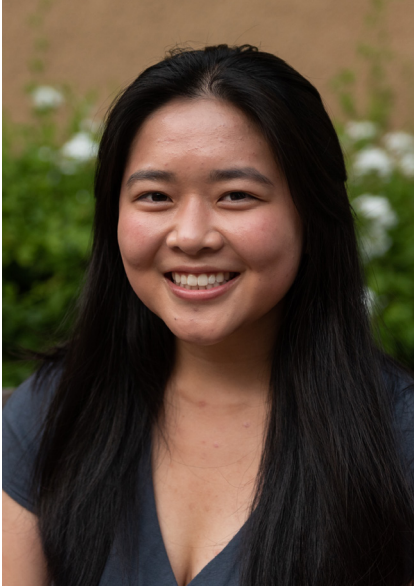
In the past eight years, iSing has truly changed me for the better, shaping me into a confident performer and leader—qualities I'll undoubtedly continue to rely upon in college and beyond. That being said, the main reason iSing is so meaningful to me is not because of how it's affected me personally, but rather because of the platform it has given me to be inspired by the singers around me and to inspire others. Some of my most memorable moments from choir are from when I was in middle school, watching the older girls perform, thinking to myself: "One day I'll be just like them." And now I'm on the other side, coaching Minis classes and volunteering at iSing Summer Camp in an effort to encourage the same kind of passion that I have for music, in other girls. My ability to transform the lives of others through the music I create has taught me to value my voice, both in choir and outside of my musical endeavors. Funnily enough, as a freshman, I never would have thought I'd continue to pursue music past high school; now I can confidently say that iSing has proven to me that music needs to remain a part of my life. I'm thrilled at the prospect of continuing to follow my passions at Stanford: whether on the a cappella stage, in conducting classes, in chamber choir, or even studying music theory and history, the opportunities are endless.



## Skylar Burnett

I remember walking into a room and being handed a little brown bag with a note on it saying, "Brown paper packages tied up with string, we welcome you to iSing!" Being only in third grade at the time, I had no idea how much of an impact that day would have on the rest of my life. For the past 10 years, iSing has been a place where I can truly be myself. I have learned so much during these years, whether it was sitting in front of a whiteboard reading solfege, or figuring out how to sound like a bug for a straight 10 pages of music. One of the main things iSing has taught me is that it's better to be a leader and make mistakes than to quietly hide your voice in fear of messing up. We all support each other no matter what, and this has helped me find my confidence. The iSing team are some of the best teachers and mentors I have ever known. I hope to one day be as amazing and inspiring as them. I am thrilled to further my education at Indiana University, where I plan to study sports marketing and management, while also continuing to pursue my love for music.





## Stephanie Lee

Since elementary school I have pursued many extra-curricular classes, robotics and assorted sports. Despite my ever changing schedule, iSing has been the constant in my life for 9 years. iSing has helped me shape my technical skills and expression as an artist, while also refining traits that have moulded my character. I have spent almost a decade with this choir, and it is and will be one of the most memorable parts of my life. Next year, I will be attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute studying engineering. I am grateful to have been part of the collaborative and supportive community at iSing, making music with incredible artists, and making memories with some of the most amazing people in the Bay Area. I am excited for what the future holds, and proud of what I have accomplished and learned with iSing.



## Sunaina Tadakamalla

It is very easy to be deemed “different” where we live. Along with this title often follows shame, because here, differences tend to result in division.

As a child labeled “different,” imagine my delight when I joined a community that embraces differences, celebrates uniqueness. At iSing, our differences unite us. Our differences are what make us beautiful.

After finding my voice at iSing, I was finally able to view myself as beautiful without feeling ridiculous for thinking so. I could love myself shamelessly.

At Harmonics rehearsals, I see this positive shamelessness in younger singers. iSing creates unwaveringly confident people whose voices will carry firmly and far. I am so lucky to call them my peers.

In and out of choir, I can wield my differences and share them, rather than succumb to them. Thank you iSing.



## Tori Chou

Recently in school, my English teacher prompted us to share our “Axis Mundi” — a place that represents the metaphorical center of our world, a sacred point around which our universe revolves. While my classmates struggled to come up with ideas (Chipotle? the couch?), I knew immediately what my “Axis Mundi” was: iSing. For the past five years, iSing has been a constant bright spot in my life. At iSing, I have made lifelong friends, grown from and been inspired by the community around me, and learned to unapologetically take up space. Choir has pushed me out of my comfort zone, yet even still, iSing is the place where I feel my most authentic self. iSing has made an irrevocable impact on my life, one that I will always carry with me, as I embark on my next chapter at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and beyond.





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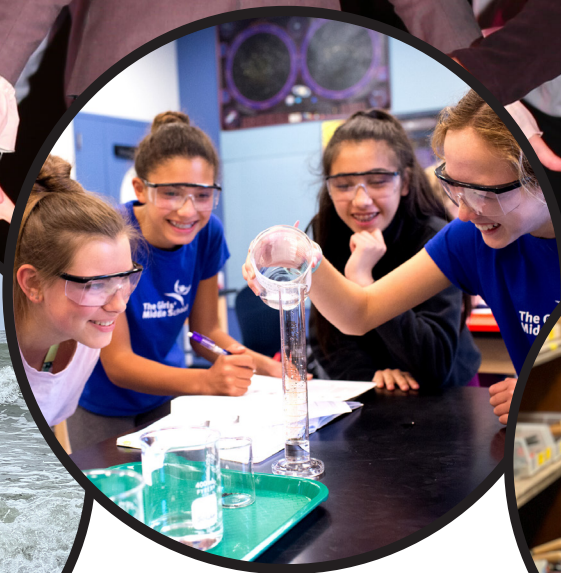
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