



BREAD & ROSES®

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ISSUE 59

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2006

Global Diversity

Performers Who Enlarge Our World

Photo by Ken Friedman



West African percussionist Amadou Camara talks to the audience at James R. Sylla School, San Anselmo.

By George Nevin

Sing globally, play locally.

That could be the motto of a growing number of Bread & Roses performers whose life paths have brought them to the shores of our Bay, far from their native lands.

These musicians are enriching the cultural mix at Bread & Roses venues throughout the Bay Area. Let's meet three of them:

- **Miena Yoo**, a raven-haired folksinger, pianist and guitarist from South Korea, whose go-everywhere miniature American Cocker Spaniel, **Yama**, huddles at her feet during performances.
- Guinean singer-drummer-dancer **Amadou Camara**, who delights audiences with the music that inspired reggae and hip hop.
- **Audrey Auld Mezera**, whose sweet and sassy country lyrics don't obscure the fact that she's from Tasmania, Australia.



Miena Yoo grew up in the small South Korean town of Samga, taught languages in Japan, and moved to the Bay Area 15 years ago.

But it wasn't until five years ago, when she was treated for cancer at UC San Francisco, that she started performing her music – a blend of Korean and American folk music, with some Korean pop thrown in.

"Basically, I pushed myself to stand up in public as a volunteer performer," she says. "It helped me regain my confidence."

Miena launched her volunteer and professional careers simultaneously. She began performing at volunteer venues, but only this year did she hear about Bread & Roses and sign up. She has performed at **On Lok** and **Laguna Honda Adult Day Health**, two multipurpose senior centers in San Francisco.

Most of the people in her audiences "had never encountered Korean singing. They liked the different styles of the songs, and hearing my stories about the songs," she says.

Photo by Ken Friedman



Korean folksinger/guitarist Miena Yoo serenades the audience at Laguna Honda Adult Day Health in San Francisco.



To hear Amadou Camara play is to experience the rhythms and haunting melodies of a West African village.

Amadou came to California from Guinea three years ago, after mastering the art and science of West African dance and percussion. With his handmade djembe drum pounding and his dreadlocks flying, Amadou has recently been exciting Bread & Roses audiences as part of the group **Baga Bae**.

“People love my music because I sing traditional songs,” he said recently. “I explain to them what the songs mean – there are songs for peace, and for agriculture, and for respect for women. I write some of them myself.”

“People appreciate the music. They really love it. They get excited and want to know when we are going to play again.

“I like to talk to the audience. I tell them the story of the music, since they don’t understand the words.”



Audrey Auld Mezera comes by her country music honestly. After all, she does hail from the south – about as far south as you can get.

“I come from Tasmania, an island south of Australia,” she says.

A guitarist and singer who performs solo and with accompanist **Nina Gerber**, Audrey

may sound country but she doesn’t sing country. Her lyrics marry traditional forms with a contemporary woman’s point of view. “My writing is honest, and I like a bit of humor. Artists look at how to cope during difficult times.”



Photo by Peter Merits

Audrey Mezera (right) from Tasmania, Australia, performs with acoustic guitarist Nina Gerber.

A resident of California since 2003, Audrey says, “America is a great place to play music, and I feel a great connection. I am embraced by audiences here, which is really nice. It gives me a sense of belonging.”

In her earlier life, Audrey said she could have been in the audience listening, rather than on the stage performing. “I’ve traveled a lot ... I’ve had experience with a broken heart, with homelessness, with being poor. Many people have had those experiences – it’s best to acknowledge them and to bring them into song, to feel them and laugh about them as well, to find that common human thread that runs through all of us.”

“Country music is about honesty, about the truth – the true human experience that can be really poignant or very funny.”

A Note from Cassandra Flipper Executive Director, Bread & Roses

Over the past 10 years, our audiences have come to include an increasing number of recent immigrants. As a result, we now have the privilege of touching the lives of individuals and families from around the globe.



Photo by Ken Friedman

Bread & Roses has been greatly enriched by this diversity. We have broadened our programs to include music, dance and storytelling from many world traditions. We have learned ways to transcend cultural and language barriers and to contribute to the wellness of people from many backgrounds. Because the artists in our community are as diverse as our audiences, our goal of being inclusive is both artistically and organizationally achievable.

Presenting performances by artists from many countries and cultures also provides an educational experience and eases the loneliness of those who are institutionalized. It is a joy to witness the interaction between audience members and these volunteer performers. And it is truly heartening to see how open and responsive all audience members are to learning about different cultures.

Our feature article shares the stories of three of these wonderful volunteers. When you see a professional performer from another country who inspires you – at a farmer’s market, a festival or a cultural event – please let that artist know about our work. Better yet, send the artist’s contact information to Associate Producer Kurt Huget in the program department at khuget@breadandroses.org

We hope you will also think about what you can do to welcome new immigrants to America – your neighbors, co-workers or children’s classmates. Bread & Roses strives to be more inclusive. You can, too.

From Your Heart to Ours, the Gift of Music

By Elizabeth Share

As I see each of the many generous donations Bread & Roses receives, I think of the African proverb: “The heart gives. The fingers simply let go.”

All of us at Bread & Roses thank you for the time you take to write checks, fill out remit envelopes, click and pledge online, or call to ensure that those in need receive the wonderful gifts Bread & Roses offers. We know that although your fingers do the walking, it is your hearts that do the talking.

Bread & Roses is a community rich in heartfelt kindness and it is always a privilege to thank you for your generosity, support and loyalty. Every gift, large or small, makes a difference in the lives of isolated children and adults. Our special thanks for the following gifts made between February 1, 2006, and July 31, 2006.

Spring Appeal

A very special thanks to **Jennifer Peak Barker, Stockard Channing, Joan and John D’Addario, Maurine Flipper, Richard Roberts, Nancy and Richard Robbins, Marci Rubin, Pegi and Neil Young**, and all of you whose generous gifts helped us meet our goal for this campaign.

Old Friends Bring New Life

Three dear friends stepped forward this season when we most needed them. Their generous grants make possible many performances, outreach to new volunteers, and a deepening of the work we do through performer and facility coaching.

A sincere debt of gratitude to **Irene Scully**, whose personal foundation renewed its support of our work for a second year, **Vivian Schneider** of the



Photo by Susan Hyde Greene

New board member Susan Mackowski (center) with her husband, Matt Mackowski, and Joan Baez at the recent benefit concert in their home.

Silva Watson Moonwalk Fund, for an extraordinary 10th year of support, and **Sally Buchanan and Steve Ross of Sony Computer Entertainment America** for a third year of sponsorship of our benefit event.

An Afternoon of Song and Support

Before new Bread & Roses Board member **Susan Mackowski** had even attended her first Board meeting, she was helping us meet new friends and raise money.

Susan and her husband, **Matt**, hosted an intimate and elegant benefit concert in their home featuring Bread & Roses youth volunteer **Sara Lemesh** and **Joan Baez**. Sara sang several pieces by Mozart and Verdi; Joan provided an encore, including a piece she first performed in grammar school.

A special thanks to the Mackowskis, to the evening’s generous emcee, Bread & Roses friend and donor **Zane Gresham**, and to those who generously contributed to our work that evening: **Sara and Andy Barnes, Martin Beresford, Patricia** and

Creighton Casper, Mary Doan, Susan and Dennis Gilardi, Karen Kaufman, Leslie Jahn and Don Bayer, Patricia Kelly, Leslie and John McQuown, Sudha Pennathur and Ed Messerly, Robert Shepler, Andrea Tebbets, Judy Jeanette Welsh, and Judy Wong and Family.

“The Jam”

On September 30, 2006, we will host our annual volunteer appreciation day—**The Jam**.

This is a one-day event that includes food and drink, opportunities to play music together, awards, and performances for our cadre of wonderful volunteer artists, hosts, photographers, sound technicians, and others.

It is a day on which we ensure that the contributions of our volunteers are acknowledged with great fanfare. It is also, we know, a day on which many of them rededicate themselves to our mission.

A very special thanks to **Bank of the West** for stepping up as this year’s lead

See **DONATIONS** – Page 7

THANK YOU TO ALL DONORS WHO GAVE BETWEEN JULY 1, 2005, AND JUNE 30, 2006

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Donor List Continued on Page 6

Note: Couples with two last names are listed by the woman's last name.

Board Changes

Bread & Roses welcomes new Board member **Susan Mackowski** from San Francisco.

Susan had a successful career in advertising sales and is now piloting a healthy foods cooking class in San Francisco public schools.

Her extensive volunteer experience includes docent work for the **de Young Museum** and the **Legion of Honor** as well as fundraising for **San Francisco University High School** and **Drew College Preparatory School**. In addition, she is an avid flute player who enjoys many types of music.

Board leadership has also changed for this year with **Susan Gilardi** and **Sudha Pennathur** now acting as Co-Chairs, **David Lusterman** as Vice Chair, **Tucky Pogue** as Secretary and **Dennis Parsons** as Treasurer.

Bread & Roses wishes to express its appreciation to Susan and Sudha for stepping up to share Board leadership this year and to thank **David Lusterman** for his service as Board Chair last year.

Noah Griffin has stepped down from the Board and we wish to thank him for his service. We are grateful he will continue to serve as a community

member of the **Public Relations & Marketing Committee**.

Staff News

Bread & Roses warmly welcomes

Photo by Ken Friedman



Vivian Largen

new Financial Administrator **Vivian Largen** to our staff. Vivian came from **NelsonJobs.com** to Bread & Roses with 17

years of senior-level accounting and financial experience. She is primarily in charge of accounting and human resource support. A Marin resident, she is also a holistic life coach and jewelry designer.

A fond farewell to **Darlene Marciniak**, who has moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Kurt Huget has been promoted to the new position of Associate Producer. His many contributions to the program department have been invaluable, especially in the areas of performer recruitment and database

management. Congratulations, Kurt!
B&R Honors Pickleweed

Special congratulations to San Rafael's **Pickleweed Park Community Center**, which recently doubled its size with a major renovation and grand reopening on July 15.

Bread & Roses has served the after-school program of the **Canal Alliance, Kids' Club** and **Pickleweed Childcare Center** – all of which are housed at the Community Center – since 1996.

Producer **Carolyn Gauthier** and Administrative Assistant **Andrea Hildreth** took part in the festivities. With the help of performer **Richard Segovia**, Bread & Roses presented the 10-piece band **York Street All Stars**, as well as a five-piece youth group **The Bellbottoms**.



Photo by Peter Merts

Christopher Romero from the youth group The Bellbottoms plays at the Pickleweed Park Community Center reopening.

Bread & Roses Donor List Continued from Page 5

IN HONOR OF

All the performers & volunteers • Suzanne Badenhop • Joni Beemsterboer • Ronald Bituin • Claudine Clark • Don Coluzzi • Mimi Fariña • Cassandra Flipper • Amy Friedrichs • Carolyn Gauthier • Susan Gilardi • Marian Hubler (and her 10th Anniversary at Bread & Roses) • David Lusterman • Marriage of Tal Kopstein & Avi Goldberg • Barbara Meislin • Dennis Parsons • Marriage of Hannah Sassaman and Joshua Marcus • Pete Seeger • Lana Severn • The 40th anniversary of Cece & Bill Silver • Young Performers International

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Photo by Amy Carr

Long-time event volunteer and donor Ken Harrison (right) with volunteer Steve Bjerklie at The Jam, 2002.

sponsor for The Jam. This is the first year Bank of the West has joined us in producing this event, and we are delighted for their support. Our heartfelt thanks also go to returning sponsors **Ken Burns** and **Eleanor** and **Francis Coppola**.

We would also like to thank **Ken Harrison**, a Bread & Roses volunteer whose annual gift to The Jam helps ensure that his fellow volunteers have a wonderful day.

It is Ken we call when a celebrity artist needs a chauffeur and local guide, Ken who protects the beloved instruments of his fellow volunteers at The Jam, and Ken whom we know we can entrust with the most delicate of responsibilities at our benefit events. Thank you, Ken, for all that you do.

Benefit Concert 2006

In addition to being an artistic success, our annual benefit concert, *The Evening for Guitar & Strings*, provided critical financial support to Bread & Roses. Thanks to all **Patrons** and **Friends** whose abundant contributions made this May 2 concert a stellar event.

Thanks also to Bronze and Crystal Sponsors **Jacqui** and **Christian Erdman** and **Susan** and **Matt Mackowski**, whose generous commitments were made after our last newsletter went to print.

A very special thanks to **Dede Wilsey** and **George Lucas** for donating their concert tickets to Activity Directors and other staff from facilities we serve. The 16 individuals who received these

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We thank these foundations and corporations who made generous gifts during the period 2/1/2006-7/31/2006:

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tickets partner with Bread & Roses staff and volunteers to bring joy to those in their care. We are so grateful for the opportunity to treat them to a wonderful night on the town.

Our deepest thanks again to **David Lusterman** and **String Letter Publishing** for inviting us to co-produce this concert, and to our Gold and Silver Sponsors **NelsonJobs.com**, **Susan** and **Dennis Gilardi**, and the **Marin Community Foundation**.

Our deepest gratitude to you for demonstrating your support of our work with such generous investments.

BREAD & ROSES

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Bread & Roses Newsletter
Issue 59 • Summer 2006
Published Semi-Annually
Printed by WIGT Printing



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Issue 59 Summer 2006

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Bread & Roses to Receive Compassionate Caring Award

Bread & Roses will receive the **Compassionate Caring Award** from the **Institute for Health & Healing** at **California Pacific Medical Center** (CPMC) on February 8, 2007, at the **Four Seasons Hotel** in San Francisco.

The award is sponsored by **CPMC, California Pacific Medical Center Foundation Board of Trustees**, and the **Institute for Health & Healing Community Council**.

The award will be given as part of the Institute for Health & Healing's special event, "Celebrating Science & Soul – An Evening Honoring Pioneers in Integrative Medicine."

This 12th annual evening honoring pioneers in integrative medicine will also honor dancer, choreographer and art therapist **Anna Halprin**.

Bread & Roses is being recognized for its role in bringing the healing power of live music and other performing arts to patients at California Pacific Medical Center, a leading San Francisco medical center, hospital and academic institution.

For many years, Bread & Roses has served various facilities at CPMC, including its rehabilitation hospital at the Davies Center campus, the short-term residential mental health unit on Sacramento Street and its main hospital pediatrics ward.

Tickets start at \$250. For information, please call (415) 600-1562.



Photo by Peter Merts

Singer/guitarist Dan Lange performs on a National steel guitar at California Pacific Medical Center - Davies Campus, San Francisco