Songs for Students

Kenya Education Endowment Fund & Island Voices Chamber Choir

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow stated that "music is the universal language of mankind", and it is in this spirit that Island Voices Chamber Choir has joined forces with the Kenya Education Endowment fund to create "Songs for Students", an evening of music and conversation in support of KEEF's scholarship programs.

KEEF sponsors students in Kakamega County in western Kenya, only a few kilometres from the Equator. This area of Kenya is beautiful, fertile, and much of the population is desperately poor. A majority of people live by subsistence farming which often does not provide enough food for the average family. Approximately half of Kenya's population is under 19 years of age. This high dependency ratio puts tremendous strain on the country's health care and educational programs.

KEEF has been providing financial aid to assist students to further their education and developing skills that will empower them and their communities for more than 15 years. Since 1998, Black Creek's Alinda Ware has spent six months per year in Kenya. "I feel so fortunate to be working with this group", she states. "I have been able to witness the difference that scholarships have made in the lives of students, their families, and their communities".

The award-winning Island Voices Chamber Choir is excited to partner with KEEF for this fundraising event. An auditioned regional choir under the direction of Jenn Forsland, this group is known for its blended sound, its varied repertoire, and especially its ability to convey emotion. For this event, they will be performing selections from their "From Love to Light" program which takes place later in April.

"Songs for Students" takes place at 7 pm on Wed., April 1st at the United Mennonite Church, 2277 Enns Road in Black Creek. Audience members will see slides from Kenya, enjoy a 40-minute concert, and then share snacks and conversation with KEEF volunteers. Admission is by donation, with all proceeds going directly to KEEF.

> For more information about this event, please contact Alinda Ware at ware.alinda@gmail.com, Sally Gellard at 250 337 8328, or 250-337-5730



