



RUTH CUNNINGHAM

**(A FOUNDING MEMBER
and SOPRANO
OF ANONYMOUS 4)**

presents a solo concert
“LIGHT AND SHADOW”

May 30, 8pm
Kerrytown Concert House
Ann Arbor

The concert will take place on May 30th, 2008 at the Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, at 8:00 PM.

The program features several chants from Western and Eastern traditions as well as Ruth’s own compositions and improvisations. The texts she will sing include Medieval Latin Marian texts, Sanskrit mantras, prayers, and poems by Ruth’s sister Elizabeth Cunningham. She will accompany herself on piano, Medieval harp, Renaissance flute, recorder, and shruti box.

TICKETS: can be reserved by calling the Kerrytown Concert House at 734-769-2999

\$25 assigned rows 1-2

\$15 assigned rows 3-5

\$10 general admission

\$5 student

For more info: www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Ruth Cunningham is a classically trained musician and a sound healing practitioner. She combines these skills to improvise music that connects people to the healing and spiritual power of music. She specializes in improvisational sacred music from varied spiritual traditions in both in liturgical and concert settings.

Ruth was a member of the critically acclaimed women's vocal quartet **Anonymous 4** for ten years. With them, she performed in concerts and festivals throughout the United States, Europe and the Far East and made ten recordings—nine of medieval chant and polyphony for **Harmonia Mundi** and one, *Voices of Light* by contemporary composer Richard Einhorn, for **Sony Classical**. After some time away Ruth rejoined Anonymous 4 in 2007.

This evening's concert is based on Ruth's most recent CD release, *Light and Shadow: Chants, Prayers and Improvisations*. Of this concert, **The New York Times** said "Ms. Cunningham sang with a lovely, pure, expressive voice."

In the program *Light and Shadow* there are two gregorian chants (*Salve Regina* and *Alma Redemptoris Mater*). Also included are several chants in Sanskrit. Ruth will sing a number of improvisational settings of Latin Marian devotional texts including *Ave maris stella* accompanying herself on medieval harp. There is also a chant by Hildegard of Bingen (*Virius Sapeintie*). Near the center of the program is a sound journey. This is where Ruth's training as a sound healer comes into play. The piece is completely improvised and will change with every performance. It is an intuitive musical response to the space and those gathered for each concert.

Scattered throughout the concert are six wonderfully evocative poem/prayers set to music by Ruth (for voice and improvised piano accompaniment). The poems were written by her sister Elizabeth Cunningham (from her book *Small Bird, Poems and Prayers*).

Though the texts and the music come from different times and places they all relate to each other on a deep level and the pieces have been arranged to reflect this. The entire concert becomes a musical journey through light and shadow.

The concert is performed as an hour-long journey, without intermission.

For more information on the artist, including sound clips from the concert and photos;

www.ruthcunningham.com

In addition to her recordings with Anonymous 4, Ms. Cunningham's discography includes:

-Light and Shadow: Chants, Prayers and Improvisations

-Harpmodes: Journey for Voice and Harp

-HARC: Inside Chants, a recording of multi-faith chants with Ana Hernandez. (2005)

- Sacred Light with harpist Diana Stork on the At Peace Music label

-Ancient Beginnings, part of the Open Ear Center's music for healing series.

-Invoking the Muse with Frame Drummer Layne Redmond released on the SoundsTrue label.

She has been part of the women's ensemble of Early Music NY and participated in their CD *Music of Medieval Love*. She has also performed and recorded with the Renaissance vocal ensemble Pomerium.

OTHER EVENTS:

Duet Concert May 31 with soprano Norma Gentile

(also at Kerrytown Concert House)

PR at www.healingchants.com/itinerary

Sunday, June 1 from 10AM-1PM in Ypsilanti, MI

Healing in Sound and Silence

A workshop gathering of chanting and meditations

with sound healers and sopranos Norma Gentile and Ruth

Cunningham Location: TBA \$45 see www.healingchants.com for more info