




ORANGE COUNTY 
women's
chorus

Annual Report

2017-2018

ocwomenschorus.org

From Our President



Mary C. Langsdorf

President

Dear friends,

We are so grateful to you for believing in what we do—and doing so for the last twenty years!

Your gifts this year enabled us to reach some remarkable milestones for our 20th anniversary season:

- Your generosity supported a full orchestra and three stunning soloists—Harriet Fraser, Jon Lee Keenan, and David Stoneman—for our collaborative performance of Haydn’s *Creation* with Men in Blaque.
- Your gifts allowed us to launch a completely redesigned website that can be easily navigated from a computer, tablet, or mobile phone.
- Scholarship funds provided support for three singers during the season and enabled five singers to participate in our anniversary tour to the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia who would otherwise not have been able to travel with us.
- You generously supported the 15th year of our conducting internship program.

We are led by a dedicated and talented Board of Directors and a phenomenal artistic team. We are so grateful to our patrons, volunteers, and donors who make it possible for us to bring our music to life in this community. We are careful stewards of your investment in the Orange County Women’s Chorus. Thank you for the trust you place in us to deliver outstanding choral music to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary C. Langsdorf".

Mary C. Langsdorf
President, Board of Directors



From Our Artistic Director

Eliza Rubenstein

Artistic Director



Technology, teamwork, and travel were some of the highlights of the OCWC's 2017-18 season—our 20th as an ensemble of “extraordinary women making extraordinary music” in Orange County! Our performances celebrated the past and looked to the future: We opened the season with a technology-enhanced program of music about the Virgin Mary as you’d never heard her before, presented Haydn’s *Creation* in collaboration with the international award-winning chorus Men in Blaque (a special performance for me, as MiB’s conductor, Joseph Huszti, was my teacher when I first moved to California!), and wrapped up the year with an anniversary concert of some of our favorite music from the past decade.

Crowning the year was our second major tour, an 8-day trip that took 30 of us by planes, trains, boats, and buses to Portland, Seattle, and British Columbia. We made new friends there and re-connected with old ones, gave performances that benefitted outstanding local nonprofit organizations, and learned traditional songs and dances at Vancouver’s Native Education College. We ate a lot of terrific food, hiked a lot of beautiful trails, played an embarrassing amount of Cards Against Humanity, and reaffirmed that the OCWC is a group that doesn’t just sing well together—we take deep, genuine joy in one another’s friendship, too.

We had a great anniversary year reminiscing about all that we’ve done, but this organization never spends long dwelling on the past when there’s an exciting musical future still ahead of us. Our 21st season is already well underway, and we think it’s our best yet. That’s thanks in great part to you, our friends and supporters, and we can’t wait to sing for you for another twenty years.

Thanks!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eliza".

Eliza Rubenstein
Artistic Director



About Us

Who We Are

The Orange County Women's Chorus creates and performs outstanding choral literature, engages and enriches our audiences, and celebrates women in music. We are women who believe in excellence, community, diversity, and leadership, the core values of the OCWC. We range in age from college students to retirees. We are educators, business leaders, social workers, preschool teachers, anthropologists, artists, and so much more!

Eliza Rubenstein, Artistic Director since January 2000



Eliza Rubenstein studied choral conducting and English at Oberlin College before moving to southern California in 1995 to earn her master's degree in conducting from UC-Irvine. Besides her work with the OCWC, she is the Director of Choral and Vocal Activities and music-department chair at Orange Coast College, and the Artistic Director of the Long Beach Chorale and Chamber Orchestra. She serves on the board of the California Choral Directors' Association as the editor-in-chief of CCDA's award-winning magazine, *Cantate*.

Eliza is a former animal-shelter administrator and dog trainer, and the co-author of *The Adoption Option: Choosing and Raising the Rescue Dog for You*. In 2006 she presented a seminar entitled "Sit! Stay! Sing! What Choral Conductors Can Learn from Dog Trainers" at the ACDA's Western regional conference. Her family includes her partner, Julie Fischer; a yellow Labrador named Dayton; and Wilbur, a grey cat. She's passionate about good grammar, vegan food, photography, and the St. Louis Cardinals

Sarah Hughes, Assistant Director since 2013



Sarah Hughes, the OCWC's Assistant Director since 2013, is a 2011 graduate of the Conservatory of Music at Chapman University in Orange, CA. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in music education with an emphasis in voice and completed her Master of Arts degree in teaching at Chapman University's College of Educational Studies in 2016.

Sarah's passion for music has led her to pursue a career in teaching and conducting. Sarah currently teaches music to students in K-5th grade in Fountain Valley School District and maintains a private voice studio. If she's not swing dancing the night away or scaling rocks and walls, you'll find her curled up with a cup of coffee and a pair of knitting needles.

Janelle Kim, Pianist



Janelle Kim was born in Seoul, South Korea, but has lived most of her professional life in the United States. She began her piano studies at age 7, and won her first competition at age 15. Janelle received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in piano performance from California State University-Fullerton, where she studied with Eduardo Delgado and was invited to become a member of the honors society Pi Kappa Lambda. Janelle has been a featured soloist with the Orange Coast College Symphony and the Corona Symphony. Besides maintaining a busy private piano studio, she is a staff pianist, vocal coach, and music instructor at Orange Coast College.

Amy Hwang, 2017 – 2018 Conducting Intern



Amy Dasol Hwang is a pianist, violinist, and aspiring conductor. She has her Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Vanguard University under the tutelage of Jenny Jee-El Park, and her Master of Arts in Teaching in Music from Longy School of Music. Her practicum at Youth Orchestra of LA (YOLA) and internship at LA Children's Chorus (LACC) during the 2015-16 season have inspired her to pursue conducting further. Her Master's thesis, "Tocar y Luchar": Women, the Art of Conducting, and Counterpoint in Leadership, also inspired her to gain more knowledge in the field. Amy is actively involved with her community, working with adoptive families and adoptees, playing music at local hospitals, and serving and providing music education at ethnic churches.

What We Do

- Our December 2017 program contrasted the innovative use of technology in “Physica” by Joel Matthys with Eric Whitacre’s hauntingly beautiful “Five Hebrew Love Songs.”
- We collaborated with our friends Men in Blaque to bring Haydn’s *Creation* to our community in April 2018.
- We welcomed Amy Dasol Hwang as our 2017 – 2018 conducting intern!
- Our 20th Anniversary concert in June featured the reprise of two works commissioned for the OCWC: Joan Szymko’s “Water Women” (2017) and Ruth Huber’s “To My Excellent Lucasia, on our Friendship” (2007).

“Create and perform outstanding choral literature”

- This is what some of our audience members had to say about their experience:
 - “Stunning, timely, and timeless. What an awesome concert and group of singers and musicians.”
 - “This concert moved us tremendously. We must open our hearts, our minds, our homes, and our time to those in need.”
 - “Thank you for the beautiful music! It seems I am in tears at least once during each performance.”
 - “Exquisite. Very powerful and deeply moving. Thank you!”
 - “Stunning repertoire! Outstanding musicianship! Bravo!!”

“Engage and enrich our audiences”

- More than 1,000 audience members enjoyed three programs and five concerts in California, including our first free performance at the Arts Plaza outside the Segerstrom Concert Hall in Costa Mesa.
- We are committed to highlighting the work of women composers, and are thrilled to host a website of work by women composers which can be found here: <http://ocwomenschorus.org/women-composers>
- We toured in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia to celebrate our 20th anniversary, reaching an additional 300 patrons on the road. Our concerts in Portland and Seattle were collaborations with *In Mulieribus* and Chroma, respectively, and free will offerings at each benefited local nonprofits.

“Celebrate women in music”

What Lies Ahead



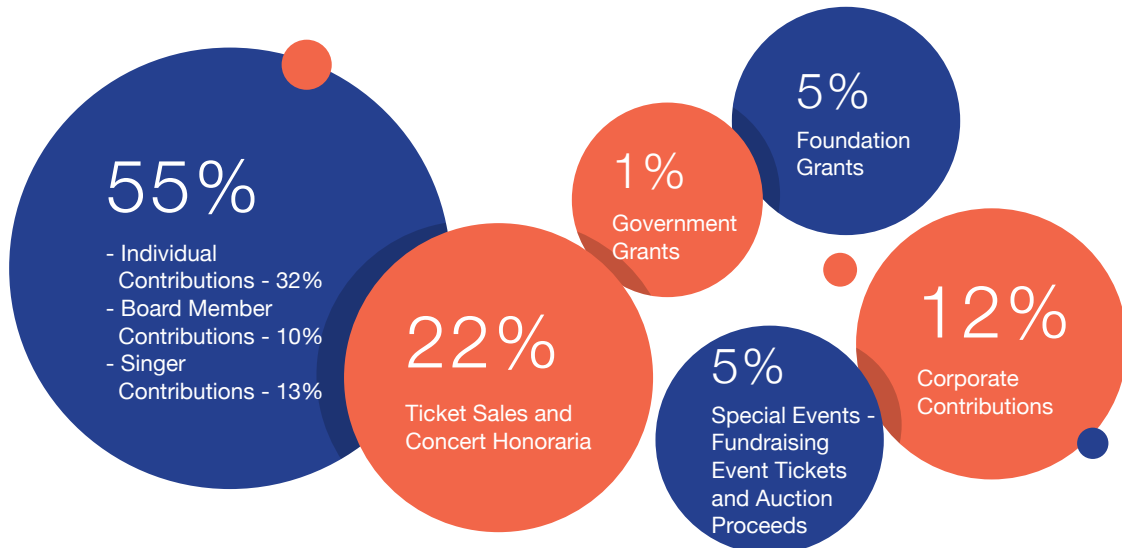
As we enter our third decade of making extraordinary music with extraordinary women, we look forward to continuing to bring you the very best music for women’s voices, collaborating with the best artists in the area.

We are grateful for your continued support, and we hope to see you in the audience in the months ahead. For more information or to make a donation today, please visit our website at www.ocwomenschorus.org.

Finances

Where Our Money Comes From

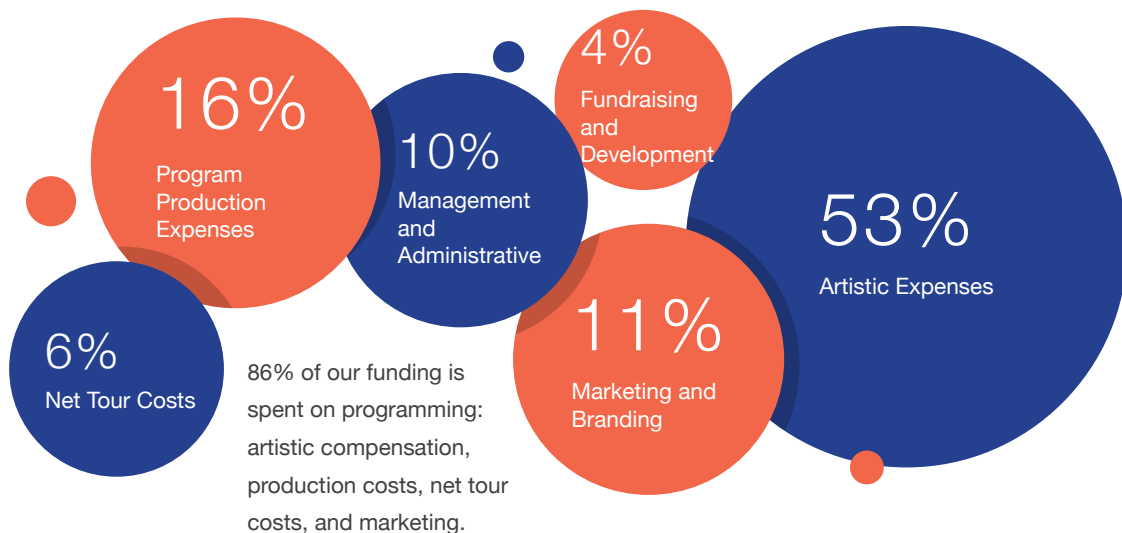
Just 22% of our revenue is derived from our ticket sales. We rely on the generosity of our donors to bring our music to the community. Individual donors, including our board members and singers, provided 55% of our revenue. Thank you for helping us to achieve our mission. We couldn't do it without you!



Highlights

- Our number of individual donors increased by approximately 25%, to a new high of more than 280.
- We received a one-time anniversary gift of \$10,000 from a generous donor.
- Individual and corporate donors, foundations, singers, and board members made designated gifts totaling more than \$16,000 to support the Haydn performance.

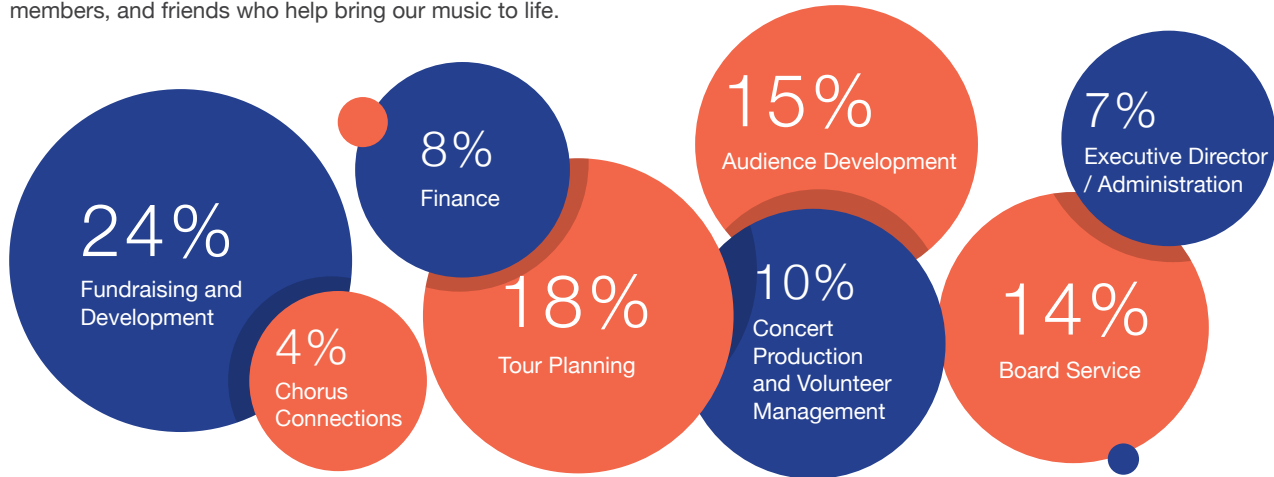
How We Spend Our Money



Volunteers

How Our Volunteers Spend Their Time

Our singers share their talents with the OCWC in so many ways beyond singing! We are grateful to them for the nearly 1,500 hours of volunteer time they devoted “behind the scenes” to manage the OCWC and deliver our programs to the community. At an average value of \$29 an hour in 2018, this represents \$43,500 in contributed service. We are also grateful to volunteers from Irvine High School, California Scholarship Federation and National Honor Society; and all the spouses, partners, family members, and friends who help bring our music to life.



2017 – 2018 Board of Directors and their Affiliations



Mary C. Langsdorf

President

Retired, Senior Vice President of Finance;
PacifiCare Health Systems, Inc.



Shauna Ehler

**Fundraising and Development;
Legal and Administration**

Independent Business Administrator



Kathryn J. Baldasari

Chief Financial Officer

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Allison K. Hieger

Chorus Connections

Independent Arts Education
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Marjorie A. Beale

Commissions and Touring

Independent Fund Development
Consultant



Heather Spickard

Audience Development

Preservation and Operations
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Janet A. Bratton

Operations

Retired, Senior Software Engineering
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Mary Watson Bruce

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Donors

Contributors to the OCWC

from July 1, 2017 — June 30, 2018

Dame Ethel Smyth's Suffragist Army (Gifts of \$2,500 and more)

Dame Ethel Smyth (1858-1944) loved music so much that in her early years, she went on a hunger strike to persuade her father to allow her to study composition in Leipzig. There, she met Clara Schumann, Brahms, and Tchaikovsky, and began her career as a composer of operas and choral works. In 1903, her opera *Der Wald* became the first opera by a woman to be performed at the Met. A leader of women, Dame Ethel was a fierce advocate for women's suffrage; she also possessed a solid sense of humor, once conducting her own suffragist anthem in prison with her toothbrush after she and her fellow protesters were arrested.

Marjorie Beale
Benevity

Janet Bratton and Tom Nichols

The Horowitz Group

Mary and Bill Langsdorf

Mary and Phil Lyons

Orange County Community Foundation

(Robert J. and Doreen D. Marshall Fund)

Ellen Quandahl and Larry Wheeler

Clara Schumann's Musical Family (Gifts of \$1,500 to \$2,499)

Recognized as one of the most gifted pianists in Europe from her early youth, Clara Wieck Schumann (1819-1896) was also a noted composer, performer, and advocate for the piano works of her husband, Robert Schumann. Clara Schumann raised seven children and was the breadwinner in the Schumann household, supporting her family as a concert artist and managing the family's finances. A multi-talented musician, a devoted wife and mother, and a lifelong friend and artistic muse to Johannes Brahms, Clara Schumann was a sustainer of artistic excellence with a strong practical sense.

Kathy and Nick Baldasari

Joseph and Melinda Huszti

Mary Watson

Hildegard von Bingen's Community of Vision (Gifts of \$500 to \$1,499)

Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179), also known as the Sibyl of the Rhine, was a theologian and a gifted composer who realized her mystical vocation early in life. After gaining deeper understanding of scriptural teaching in a moment of profound mystical insight, she was elected to head the community of women where she was trained. A visionary, Hildegard saw music as a way to recapture the original joy and beauty of paradise.

Anonymous

Susan and Jeffrey Berkel

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Joyce He

Pam Horowitz

Faith and Steven James

Kathleen and Mark Karnowski

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Martha Selby

Leurie Soderberg

John and Elizabeth Stahr

Dr. Sharon Stevenson

University of California Irvine

Barbara and James van Gaasbeek

Nick and Debbie Williams

Fanny Mendelssohn's Musical Salon (Gifts of \$150 to \$499)

Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel (1805-1847) was a brilliant young woman from a prominent Jewish family who was educated in music alongside her brother, Felix. A highly talented composer for voice and piano, Fanny was discouraged by her family from pursuing her own career in music, and many of her early songs were published under her brother's name. Still, since she was a young woman from a leading family, domestic concerts remained within her purview, and she soon became recognized as one of the leading cultural lights in Berlin for her musical salons, held in the Mendelssohn family home.

Jayne and David Baldwin

Ann and Deane Bistolfo

Susan Brown and Frank Bean

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Emily Bruce

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Lisa and Bob Claborne

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Randall King Hodges

Adam and Erin Horowitz

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Jill Johnson-Tucker* and Larry Tucker

Cynthia Knell

Tracy and Barry Kogen

Arlie Langager

Kathy Lyttle*

Karen* and James McBride

Carole and Alex Mintzer

Patricia and Ken Morgan

Masako Morita

Patsy Nichols

Dolly Platt

Amy Powell

Elyse and Brad Rosborough

Eliza Rubenstein

Paul Sandorff

Cortez Smith

Kristen Soderberg*

Gai Spickard

Heather Spickard and Alexander

Demetrescu



Paul Thodeson
Anne Walthall

Barbara Yunker and Amanda
Vandenburgh

Chiara Margarita Cozzolani's Chorus (Gifts of up to \$149)

Chiara Margarita Cozzolani (1602-c.1678), the Abbess of the Convent of Santa Radegonda in Milan, led a group of nuns widely acknowledged to be the best singers in Italy. An accomplished composer and choirmaster, she defended women's music-making before her superiors within the Church, and was a powerful and effective advocate for women's music and women musicians.

Anonymous
Lorna Adkins
Chatom Arkin
Michael Arkin
Diane and John Arnold
Kelly Arnold
Barbara Arrigale*
Shirley Baker
Vee Balma*
Viki Barie
Cheryl Barlow
Stacey Beck
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Gillian Bidgood
Amanda Bistolfo
Elizabeth Bjornsti
Mildred and Miron Bonca
Patricia Bonner
Carole Borg-Arvidson
John and Carolyn Breihan
Amadeus Burger
Deborah and Don Calkins
Gay Callan
Michael and JoJo Caprini
Leslie Carr
Andre Chasse
Denise Chilcote
Jen Chough
Naomi Christenson
Michelle Colburn
Christopher and Marika Cook
Jonathan Cook
Vivian Cook and Chet Wescott
Shannon Cooper
Birta Cullinan
Kenny Cunningham
Deborah deVries

Agnes Demetrescu
Holly Demetrescu
Dannette DeWeese
Willie Dirden
Jody Drew
Terrie Druehl
Gail Dufour
Andrew Dzida
Boska Dzida
Torend Ebner
Bertram Edelstein
Monique Farquharson
Shannon Fowler
Lorraine Fox
Luke Francis
Kristin Gallippi Byrnes
Merrilee Gardner
Taeko Genka
Phyllis Gilmore
Andy Graybeal
WB Graybeal
Les Greenberg
Ellen Greenberger and Michael Burton
Iris Griffitt
Krishnan Gurusamy
Mike Guscott
Laurie Haack
Cricket Handler
Ako Harada
Dean Hata
Amelie Hicks
Kenny Hidalgo
Philip Hodges
Laurie Hodson
Karen Hsieh
Deborah Hutton
Alex Iles
Kohji Itoh

Buddy James
Joyce Jenson
Dani Johnson
Julie Johnson*
Amy Jones
Lynne Kabaczy*
Masahito Kagawa
Deborah Kennedy*
Karen Elaine Ket
Genie Kirchner
Chiara Ko
Tommie Kozlov
Randel Kraemer
Lynne Kuhmerker
Vicky Kuo
Deborah Kuryan
Cinthia Kush
Carol Lam
Patricia Lassen
Peter Leschke
Susan Lew
Susan and Rich Liechty
Peter Lin
Danforth Lincoln
Steve Londo
Linda Lovett
Ashley Mac
Lindy and Paul Mahlow
Mary Martin
Matthew Martinez
Lourdes and Tim Mason
Cheryl Maxson
Daya Mayi
Teri McCasland
Kelly McClenon
Donna McCune and Tim Walker
Jamie McDonald*
Shauna McFadden

Victoria McKinney
 Theresa McManigal
 Hilde McNeil
 Susan Mehrtens
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 Barbara Metzger
 Meredith Michaels
 Catherine Miles
 Gwen Miles
 Penny Milne
 Michael Minard
 Dr. Roy Mintzer
 Darlene Moen
 Rebbecca Moen
 Rohde Morales
 Carrie Robinson Mulcahy
 Kaz Mulcahy
 Susan Nelson
 Michael and Joan Neuscheler
 George and Muriel Newell
 Gabrielle Newman*
 Bryant Nguyen
 Paulia Nice
 Susan Nichols
 Ann Nicholson
 Brian Noel
 Jason O'Connor
 Fumio Ogoshi
 Jenny O'Neill
 Ruth Parker
 Susan Parr
 Vanessa Pearson*
 Christopher Persichilli
 Lindsey Philpott
 Matthew Potterton
 Christopher Pounds
 Rosemary Powell
 Devereux Powers

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 Perry and Nestor Vicente
 Murray and April Wachtenheim
 Kenneth L. and Virginia Waldram
 Petrina Walker
 Frank Washington
 Marie Washington
 Michelle Washington
 Cynthia Wheeler
 Linda White-Peters
 Janyce and Michael Whitten
 Jill Williams
 Nicki Williams
 Robert Williams
 Linda Willus
 Jessica Wong*
 Nikki Wood
 Kristin Wood-Page
 Keith Wright
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