



**EVENT DATE:** July 1, 2004

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE # 013**

**AURORA CHORUS STARTS ARTWALK  
and OPENS MEMORIAL CEREMONY**

**CONTACT:** Eric Bagai, (503) 869-8794,  
[info@theMourningProject.org](mailto:info@theMourningProject.org), [www.theMourningProject.org](http://www.theMourningProject.org)

PORTLAND, OR

Members of Aurora Chorus--powerful women singing peace--will open the July gathering of the Mourning Project with a free performance on Thursday, July 1, 7 p.m. at Waterfront Park, just north of Burnside. Founded in 1992 and led by Joan Szymko, Aurora Chorus has become a source of strength and inspiration in our community through finely crafted, heartfelt performances of music as rich and diverse as the lives of the women who sing.

The Mourning Project is a continuing memorial for the victims of the War on Terror. "We both sing praise to the spirit that brought these men and women to serve their country," said Eric Bagai. "We mourn their loss, and we seek another, better way to resolve conflict than through war." The gathering and ceremony take place around three ten-foot tall lists of all the military personnel and civilians killed in the War on Terror, beginning September 11, 2001 in the US, and continuing in Afghanistan, Bali, Iraq, and Spain, to the present. A short memorial for the dead will be spoken after the Aurora Chorus' concert. The concert and memorial ceremony will last about 40-minutes.

This free concert and memorial is a good way to start off a First Thursday Art Walk, and will add depth to the visual experiences found at several galleries. It is part installation, part happening, part concert, and part fulfillment of the obligation we all have to those who sacrifice themselves for their country.

Transcripts and descriptions of all of the gatherings of the Mourning Project can be found at their web site: <http://www.theMourningProject.org>. The web site also shows the current list of names, and is downloadable, and searchable by name, date, and place of death.

This will be the seventh gathering of the Mourning Project, which first met on New Years' Day, 2004. The lists have travel to College campuses and Farmers Markets throughout Oregon.

Call or write (503) 869-8794, [info@theMourningProject.org](mailto:info@theMourningProject.org) for further information, or to arrange for the lists of the Mourning Project to visit your school or market.

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*Editors Please Note: Photos and interviews available on request.*  
Additional information and material can be obtained at:  
[www.AuroraChorus.org](http://www.AuroraChorus.org), and [szymko@spiritone.com](mailto:szymko@spiritone.com).