

CHORUS HAS ENCOURAGED AUDIENCES FOR NINE YEARS

The voice does the Buddha's work in many ways. I have used mine to sing with the America Rainbow Chorus for more than a year now. SGI President Ikeda gave us this name in 1990, and since 1991, the chorus has sung for SGI-USA members all over Southern California, and for public events such as the United Nations celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights last year.

This is a highly talented, committed and gutsy family of people with whom I have joined for the purpose of inspiring people through music. Its beautiful unity and diversity is also a reflection of the SGI-USA organization.

I have always thought that music is essential for the health of the spirit. And this really works both ways! I pray that our performances bring some joy to the people we sing for and that they leave feeling happy and hopeful. I know I always do! I think of it as a deeply fulfilling exchange of energy.

Last year I was sick on the eve of the L.A. Marathon where we performed. It wasn't a contagious illness, so in the end I dragged up to my place in the back row just as we began. The runners and the crowd appreciated our singing, and it proved to be the perfect medicine for me.

Regret sets in now when I have to miss rehearsal or a performance and I want to return to this activity ASAP!

— DON SANDERS