

Radiant Light: A Celebration of the Season

December 6, 2025

The logo for Concord Women's Chorus, featuring the letters 'CWV' in a large, light blue, serif font. The 'C' and 'V' are partially overlapping. Below the letters, the text 'Concord Women's Chorus' is written in a smaller, dark blue, serif font. The 'C' and 'W' are partially overlapping.

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THE POWER OF WOMEN'S VOICES



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Concord Women's Chorus

presents

Radiant Light: A Celebration of the Season

Jane Ring Frank, Artistic Director

Simon Andrews, piano

With special guest artists

Anne-Marie Chubet, *violin*

Andrew Koutroubas, *cello*

Gary Fieldman, *djembe*

Program Notes

Welcome to Concord Women's Chorus fall concert – an exploration of the season's golden light, joy, rhythm, and sacredness. We hope to give you a few pieces you know well (but perhaps in a new way!) and some repertoire that is wholly new and meaningful.

We open today's concert with one of my favorite pieces: a new melodic setting of the famous "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." Composer Elaine Hagenberg creates pathos and longing through the creation of a beautiful melody. The cello is a rich addition to the famous text and works beautifully with this modern rendering.

LUX: The Dawn From On High by composer Dan Forrest is a multi-movement work which explores various facets of *Lux* (Latin for "light"), in texts drawn from ancient liturgical chant and Scripture. The music of *Lux*, written in 2018, was inspired by these profound texts; visually by the light in the Reims Cathedral; and musically by a variety of sources from ancient chant to modern minimalist composers.

The title invokes a kind of dual meaning, where the light of dawn gradually ascends into the sky, yet the Light of the World descends from the sky - a "Dawn from on High." From another perspective, the music moves from a day's dawn, through the sun's high point in the sky, and then to the setting of the sun on the horizon at the end of day.

The first movement, "Illuminare," unfolds from a hallowed vocal unison into the luminous transparency of rising sound for which Dan Forrest has come to be known. The ensuing "Lux in Tenebris" employs, as the composer states, "contrasting musical meters and keys to portray its text about light courageously shining in darkness." "Gloria in Excelsis" follows in a joyful syncopated setting about the Nativity, marked by infectious rhythmic energy, soaring vocal lines, and a sparkling accompaniment, leading to the final movement, which is, in the composer's words, "an ancient evening hymn, presented as a solo, then unison, then in increasingly complex canons, before a closing section provides closure and unity between these multiple facets of light."

Ruth Morris Gray is an active music teacher, composer, arranger, choral conductor, clinician, and pianist. We have loved preparing her arrangements! *What Child?* is a joyous and rhythmic arrangement of the traditional hymn. *Stars I Shall Find* offers an artful setting of Sara Teasdale's serene and expressive poetry. The last in our set is Gray's exciting *Siyahamba*, constructed upon a set of stacking voices, accompanied by lively and steady djembe.

The final piece on our program is Forrest's achingly beautiful *Shalom*, set

for chorus, piano, and violin. This tender and comforting work is a “passing of peace” as its simple yet elegant melody washes over the listener, gently unfolding increasing texture: “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you, not as the world gives; do not be afraid.” The Hebrew word “shalom” forms the refrains, and whispers of the word “peace” further paint the spirit and promise of the text.

As always, thank you for your support. Thank you for finding us in today’s venue, Trinitarian Congregational Church. We are grateful to TriCon for hosting us and making us feel welcome. May the joy and sacredness of the season be yours. I look forward to seeing you immediately after the concert.

With light and gratitude,

Jane

Jane Ring Frank
Artistic Director



Concord Women’s Chorus congratulates Jane Ring Frank on her Choral Arts New England’s 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award for lifelong dedication to excellence, innovation, and the transformative power of choral music!

Concord Women’s Chorus

THE POWER OF WOMEN’S VOICES | JANE RING FRANK, DIRECTOR

A Light Exists in Spring
Saturday, May 9, 2026 at 4:00 pm

Trinity Episcopal Church
81 Elm Street, Concord, MA

For tickets and information: www.concordwomenschorus.org

Concert Program

Radiant Light: A Celebration of the Season

Jane Ring Frank, *conductor*
Simon Andrews, *piano*

Anne-Marie Chubet, *violin*
Andrew Koutroubas, *cello*
Gary Fieldman, *djembe*

O Come, Emmanuel [2016] Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)
Latin, trans. John M. Neale (v.1 , v. 2), Henry S. Coffin (v. 3)

Lux: The Dawn from on High [2018] Dan Forrest (b. 1978)
Pamela Schweppe & Amanda Kern, sopranos

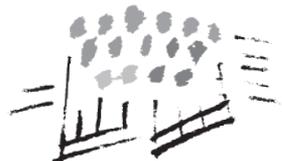
“Illuminare”

“Lux in Tenebris”

“Gloria in Excelsis”

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

Thank you to Choral Arts New England for the
Alfred Nash Patterson Grant Award
(the Hammond Family Award).



What Child? [2018]

arr. Ruth Morris Gray (b. 1961)/
William C. Dix (1837-98)

Stars I Shall Find [2015]

Gray/ Sarah Teasdale (1884-1933)

Siyahamba [2019]

South African Folksong / arr. Gray
(*We Are Marching in the Light of God*)

Shalom [2020]

Forrest/John 14:27



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Program Texts

O Come, Emmanuel [2016]

Latin trans. John M. Neale (verses 1-2)
Henry S. Coffin (verse 3)

O come, o come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
O come thou dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine Advent here,
And drive away the shades of night,
And pierce the clouds and bring us light!

Rejoice, Emmanuel,
Shall come to Thee O Israel.

O come Desire of nations bind
All people in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease,
And fill the world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice, Rejoice!

LUX: The Dawn from on High

“Illuminare”

Luke1:78-79, Antiphon for Epiphany. 14 c.

Per viscera misericordiae
Dei nostri
in quibus visitavit
nos oriens ex alto
illuminare his qui in tenebris
et in umbra mortis sedent
ad dirigendos pedes nostros
in viam pacis.
Lux ex alto,
Veni nos illuminare.

By the mercy of our God
the dawn from on high
will break upon us,
to give light to those
who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet
Into the way of peace.
Light from on high
Come illumine us.

Lux de luce apparuisti Christe
Cui Magi munera offerunt,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

You appeared as Light from light
O Christ, to whom the Magi offered gifts,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

“Lux in Tenebris”

Introit for Christmas Dawn, 10th c., John 1:5

Lux fulgebit hodie super nos,
Quia natus est nobis Dominus.
Lux in tenebris lucet
Et Tenebrae eam non superaverunt.

A light will shine on us today,
For the Lord is born unto us.
The light shines in darkness;
and the darkness has not overcome it.

“Gloria in Excelsis”

Luke 2:14

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Et in terra pax.

Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth, peace.

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

17th c. chant, various translations

Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people’s everlasting Light,
O Christ, Thou Savior of us all,
Now hear Thy servants when they call.

Creator alme siderum
aeterna lux credentium
Christe redemptor omnium
exaudi voces supplicum.

When the whole world drew on toward night,
Thou camest, not in splendor bright
As sovereign, but the humble Child
Of Mary, virgin mother mild.

To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Laud, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally. Amen.

It lights the Whole Sky. Amen

What Child?

William C. Dix (1837-98)

What child is this, who, laid to rest
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
Oh, this, this, is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Oh, haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come peasant, king to own him.
The king of kings, salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
So raise, raise the song on high
while Mary sings her lullaby.
Sing joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Stars I Shall Find

Sarah Teasdale (1884-1933)

There will be rest, and sure stars shining
Over the roof-tops crowned with snow,
A reign of rest, serene forgetting,
The music of stillness holy and low.
I will make this world of my devising
Out of a dream in my lonely mind.

I shall find the crystal of peace, – above me
Stars I shall find.

Siyahamba

Siya , siya, siyahamba
Siyahamba kukha nyeni kwen khos.

South African Folksong

We are marching in the light of God.

Shalom [2020]

John 14:27

Peace, I leave with you,
Peace, I give to you,
Peace, Shalom.
Not as this world gives,
I give to you.
Do not be afraid.
Shalom, my peace I give to you.
Peace.



Traditional Carols

Silver Bells

City sidewalks, busy sidewalks,
Dressed in holiday style.
In the air there's a feeling of Christmas.
Children laughing, people passing,
Meeting smile after smile.
And on every street corner you'll hear:

Silver bells, silver bells,
It's Christmas time in the city.
Ring-a-ling, hear them ring,
Soon it will be Christmas Day.

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

Have yourself a merry little Christmas,
Let your heart be light!
From now on our troubles will be out of sight.

Have yourself a merry little Christmas,
Make the Yuletide gay:
From now on our troubles will be miles away.

Here we are as in olden days,
Happy golden days of yore.
Faithful friends who are dear to us
Gather near to us once more.

Through the years we all will be together;
If the fates allow;

Hang a shining star upon the highest bough.
And have yourself a merry little Christmas now.

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields as they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell.
Born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wise men three
Fell rev'rently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell.
Born is the King of Israel.

White Christmas

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
Just like the ones I used to know.
Where the treetops glisten
And children listen to hear
Sleigh bells in the snow.

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
With every Christmas card I write.
May your days be merry and bright,
And may all your Christmases be white.

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin, mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in Heavenly peace,
Sleep in Heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night.
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from Heav'n afar.
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.



Jane Ring Frank, Artistic Director

Conductor **Jane Ring Frank** stands among Boston's most accomplished and sought-after choral conductors. Known for her unerring ear for intonation and color, her command of both choral and orchestral repertoire, and her uncompromising musical scholarship, she has spent more than three decades shaping the region's choral landscape with vision, artistry, and care. Ms. Frank recently received Choral Arts New England's 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award for lifelong dedication to excellence, innovation, and the transformative power of choral music.



Ms. Frank began her conducting career at California State University, Long Beach, where she became Associate Conductor of the premiere 70-voice University Choir, staff pianist, and musical director/conductor for the Department of Theatre Arts. She also worked as a *répétiteur* with professional opera companies in Los Angeles, including the Los Angeles Music Center Opera and the Long Beach Opera Company. Artistic mentors include Paul Salamunovich, Frank Pooler, Randall Behr (former conductor and music director of the Department of Vocal Arts, Juilliard Opera Center, and former resident conductor, Los Angeles Music Center Opera) and Michael Carson (conductor, Lake George Opera).

Ms. Frank moved to Boston in 1991 to conduct at Harvard University. For twelve years, she was also the critically acclaimed Founding Artistic Director of Boston Seccession (1998–2009), hailed by *The Boston Globe* as an “extraordinary chorus, notable for its beautiful balance, musical surety, and English-styled straight-toned singing.” With Boston Seccession, she conducted and produced two recordings—*Afterlife: German Choral Meditations on Mortality* and *Surprised by Beauty: Minimalism in Choral Music*—both widely praised by *The New York Times*, *Gramophone*, and *American Record Guide*.

Since 2003, Ms. Frank has also held the position of Minister of Worship and the Arts at the First Congregational Church in Winchester. She has recently retired from Brandeis University, after 21 years as a Senior Resident Scholar at the Women's Studies Research Center. From 2011-22, Ms. Frank was Artistic Director of Cantemus Chamber Chorus on Boston's North Shore. For a number of years, she served as Con-

ductor of E.C.S. Publishing Company's professional recording choral ensemble, Philovox, and was a 10-year voice faculty member at Emerson College. She is currently in her 32nd year as Artistic Director of the Concord Women's Chorus, a 45-voice ensemble based in Concord, Massachusetts. The chorus prides itself on commissioning and performing challenging, new music written especially for women's voices by women composers. Ms. Frank has conducted ensembles across Europe, Australia, and New Zealand and spent six years as a guest conductor and educator at the Gitameit Music Centre in Yangon, Myanmar.

Simon Andrews, Accompanist

Simon Andrews is an English composer-conductor living in Massachusetts. His output ranges from large-scale orchestral works and opera to intimate chamber music, with a special delight in chamber music with solo voices.

Winner of the 1985 Benjamin Britten Prize, his music has been commissioned, performed and recorded by the London Symphony Orchestra, The Janacek Philharmonic, the Britten-Pears Orchestra, the Berkeley Symphony, the Lancaster Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, the Cypress Quartet, and Catalyst New Music and many others. His edition-completion of Süssmayr's contribution to the Mozart Requiem has been performed to critical acclaim in England and America, and led to an accompanying book: *Mozart's Requiem: from 18th century forgery to modern hybrid*.

Gramophone magazine described the title track of his CD *And that moment when the bird sings* as "a clarinet quintet of lyrical impulse" and *The heart has narrow banks* as "an art song par excellence." His *Till voices wake us* was recorded by the Janáček Philharmonic in 2021 and *Interlude No. 3 "Battle Music"* (from his opera *The scars on his back*) by the London Symphony in 2022.

Before moving to Massachusetts, he maintained a lively career as a choral conductor at Franklin & Marshall College, the Harrisburg Choral Society, Millersville University, Harrisburg Opera Chorus, and worked with opera companies on both coasts, Berkeley Opera (now West Edge Opera), Berkeley Contemporary Opera, North Bay Opera, Concert Opera of Philadelphia and Opera Lancaster. He is currently organist at First Parish in Concord, MA and accompanist for the Concord Women's Chorus.





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Juliánna Nagy, Pamela Schweppe, Bozena Smith, Jeannette Taylor,
Heidi Unger-Dowd, Rosalind Walter

Soprano II

Michele Abroff, Sara Ballard, Elaine Chertavian*, Lee Ann Cohen,
Suellen Davidson, Linde Dynneson, Allison Hope Jones*,
Judi Kotanchik, Martha Lang, Denise McNamara*, Susan Mills,
Lisa Pohl, Marcie Troisi

Alto I

Susan Avery, Sue Beck*, Amy Davis, Suzanne Frank, Faxon Green*,
Barbara Keller, Rowena Nelson, Cynthia Nunan, Stephanie Smith,
Cynthia Sorn, Diane Taraz, Emily Teller

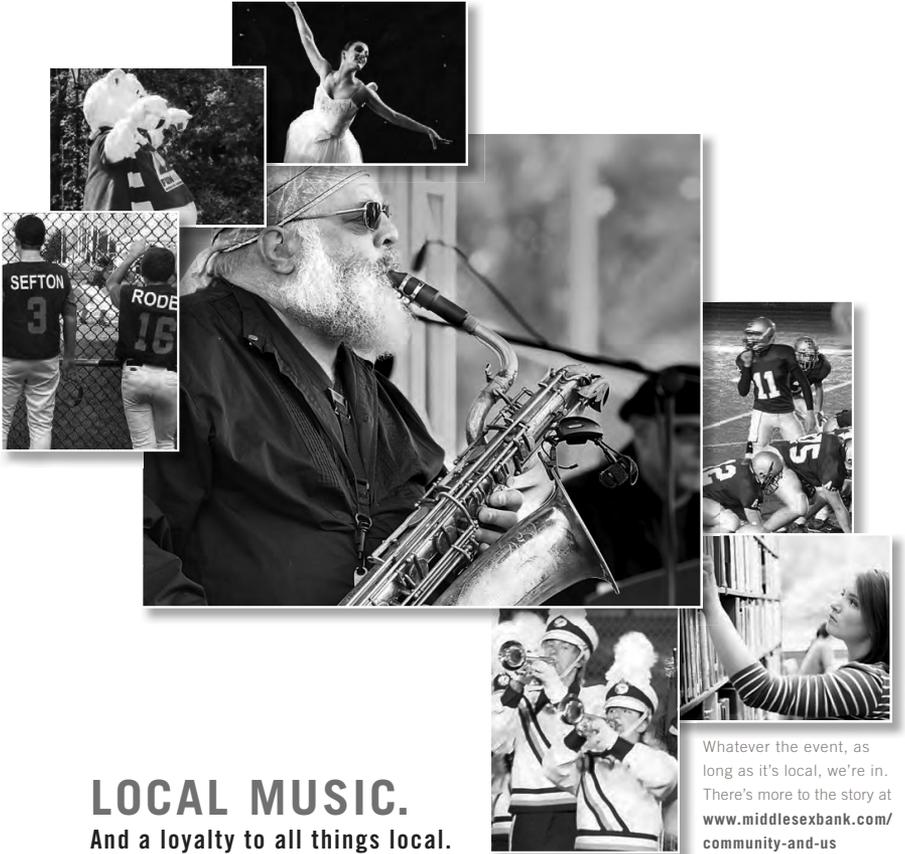
Alto II

Elizabeth Berk, Janet Clark, Pamela Dritt, Jane Farber, Angela Healy,
Jennifer Kobayashi, Danielle Murstein*, Judy Perkins, Lisa Sandeen

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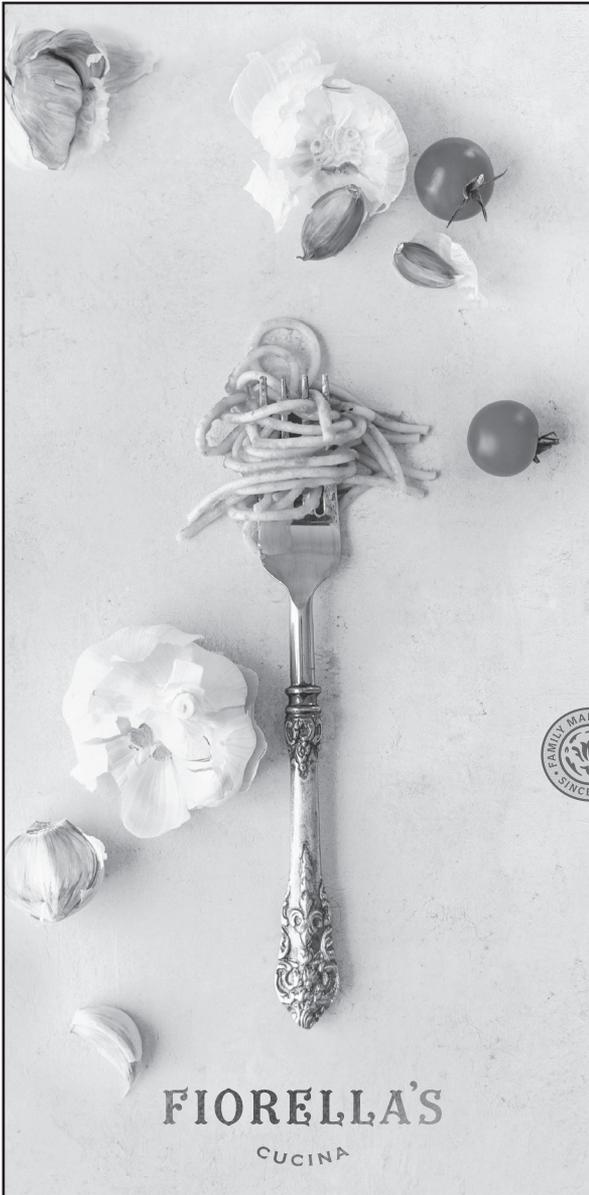
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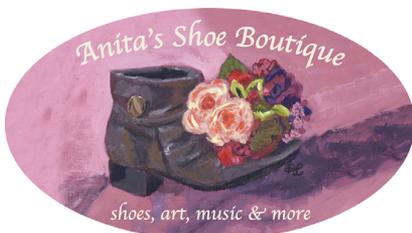


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See concordchorus.org for more information. The chorus will also have open rehearsals and auditions January 5 & 12, 2026.



The Concord Chorus gratefully acknowledges the support of the Mass Cultural Council and the local cultural councils of Acton-Boxborough, Bedford, Carlisle, Concord, and Lexington, which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



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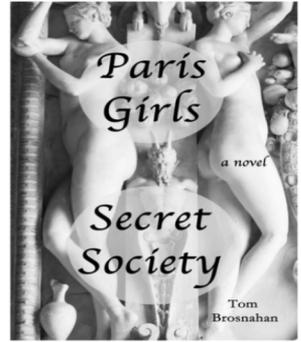
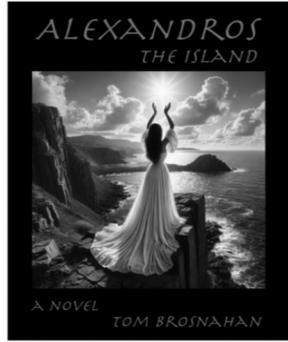
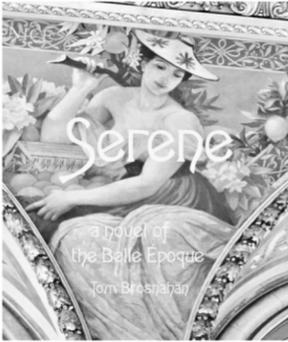
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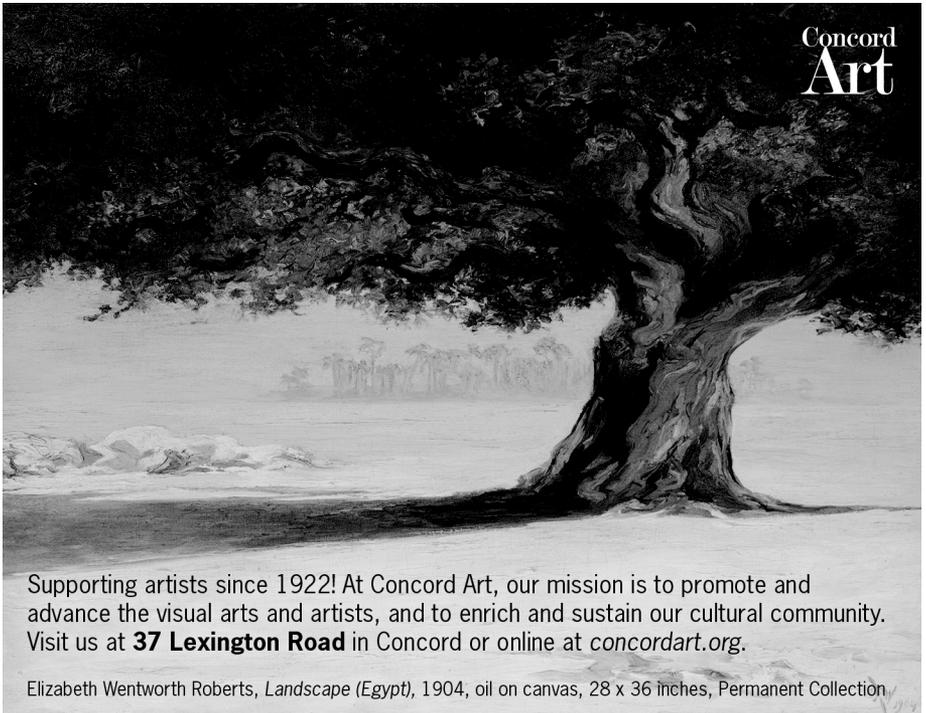
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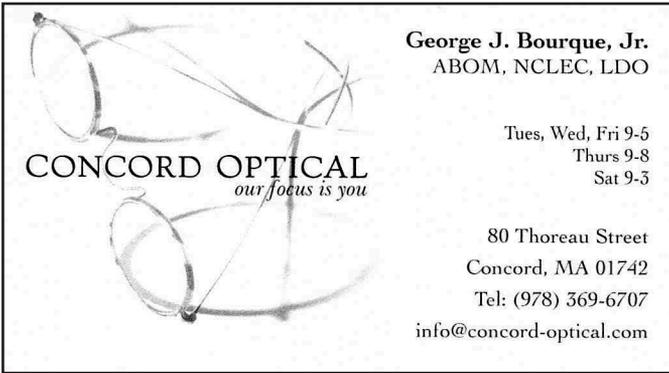
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