

New CD: Solitary Treasures

“Darlene is an enormously gifted singer who’s striking in a sensual, yet sincere way. She has a . . . wholly magnetic stage presence.” – *Music Connection Magazine*

#1 Album *Infinite Voice* – Radio & Internet Airwaves Chart, April 2007

#2 Top 100 Airplay 2007 *Infinite Voice* – Radio & Internet Airwaves Chart

Best Vocal Album 2007 *Infinite Voice* – NAR LifeStyle Music Awards (voted by Broadcasters worldwide)

Best Holiday Album 2007 *Heavenly Peace* – NAR LifeStyle Music Awards (voted by Broadcasters worldwide)

What sets **Darlene Koldenhoven**, this beautiful tall blond Grammy® Award winner and three-time nominee, apart from the rest . . . It could be her worldwide 1.5 billion viewing audience on PBS as the memorable vocal soloist in *Yanni, Live at the Acropolis* . . . It could be her work in the war-torn jungles of Sierra Leone, West Africa where she met and coached musicians and singers whom she took on her tour of the US and Canada . . . Or the fact that she is one of the few classically trained singers with a five-octave range who improvises in classical and non-classical styles with both voice and piano, produces, composes, arranges, programs keyboards, and writes lyrics . . . Or even, perhaps it’s her ability to create, produce, and release in less than a year on her indie label TimeArt, three solo albums and two singles in 2011: the newest *Solitary Treasures* 10/10/11, *Inspired by a True Story* 6/28/11, *Angel on Ivories* 2/11/11 and two holiday singles *What Child is This* and *Cherry Tree Carol* 12/19/11. Darlene put all her talents and creativity to use in a similar way in 2007 with her Classical Crossover albums, *Infinite Voice* and re-release of her holiday *Heavenly Peace* while authoring and publishing a success-oriented, innovative, comprehensive music education book with 7 instructional CDs to train the mind’s musical ear and teach people how to sing entitled, *Tune Your Voice*, endorsed by faculty & students from **Juilliard** to **American Idol**. Both albums went to **#1** on the radio charts and were voted by Broadcasters worldwide as Best Vocal Album and Best Holiday Album, respectively.

At the core of her remarkable musical gifts is a voice for the ages. Angelically clear and expressively strong, Ms. Koldenhoven’s soul-stirring voice is a mesmerizing wonder, the touch of a celestial goddess on the souls of all. This is the woman who brings all people together from classical purists and jazz hipsters, Christians, New Agers, to rockers and video gamers. Ms. Koldenhoven has appeared on-camera singing: with **Robin Williams** in the *Academy Awards 2000*; *The Young and the Restless*; *Studio 60*; in three *American Idol* specials; *Academy Awards 2010*; and as the beloved tambourine-waving choir nun and real life vocal coach/musical director of both *Sister Act* films with **Whoopi Goldberg**. Darlene’s voice has graced a plethora of albums from pop giants **Barbra Streisand** and **Rod Stewart** to jazz legend **Ramsey Lewis** to progressive rock icons **Pink Floyd** to soloing with London’s **Royal Philharmonic** and the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** to singing for **President Clinton**. Some of her vocal contributions include solo vocal improvisations on the main title of *Surrogates* with **Bruce Willis**, soundtrack of **2012**; rocker **Neil Young’s** *Living With War* CD, and a song with her ethnically diverse children’s choir (Young Vocal Artists of Los Angeles) by rapper/producer **will.i.am** (of the group **Black Eyed Peas**) for the soundtrack *Freedom Writers* (starring **Hilary Swank**). And she gets major “cool points” with young people for her soaring vocals on the video games *Baldur’s Gate* (for **Sony PlayStation II**) and *Harry Potter: Chamber of Secrets*.

With all of that and much more ground zero work in the film, television, session, concert touring, and educational industries filling her resume, one would marvel that Ms. Koldenhoven has any time left for anything else. Yet this prolific and multi-talented singer has done just that with her seventh album release *Solitary Treasures*: 12 classical crossover pieces including Darlene’s two original pieces and eight arrangements, from "Nessus Dorma" to "Kiss From a Rose." Number six – *Inspired by a True Story*: 10 positive, spiritual songs (nine are Darlene’s) designed to uplift and restore your spirits including Darlene’s arrangement of “The Prayer” that she sang on camera in *The Young and The Restless*. Number five – *Angel on Ivories* is a timeless collection of 17 classical art songs and arias with Darlene performing both roles as vocalist and piano accompanist. She also launched her annual holiday single release in 2011 with her arrangements of “What Child is This?” and “Cherry Tree Carol.” Darlene’s fourth, the classical crossover *Infinite Voice*, went to #1 on the Radio Charts and was voted by Broadcasters worldwide as Best Vocal Album 2007 as was her third album, *Heavenly Peace* voted Best Holiday Album 2007.

With her latest work, *Solitary Treasures*, Darlene did the majority of the arranging, orchestration, keyboard and programming work as well as performed *all* the solo vocals and some choir parts on the album. In her role as producer, she called upon some of the world’s most accomplished, award-winning composers, arrangers, and instrumentalists performing on acoustic, synthesized, World instruments and crystal singing bowls. Of the twelve songs on the album, two are her originals and eight were arranged and orchestrated by her. As Darlene tells it, “I chose or wrote songs that deeply spoke to me regardless of the original genre, to introduce my audience to, how in my musical mind, classical and pop can live together and thrive. I wanted each song to be a sparkling gem glistening in the ear of the listener. This way, they can fully enjoy the most exciting thing about music – the

sweet anticipation and mystery of ‘what will come next’ and how these new musical treasures all curiously come together into one solitary treasure.”

The exquisite dynamical range of her vocal work throughout her entire career is second to none and we see the soul of a true artist manifesting itself in every nuance of **Solitary Treasures**. Weaving all this together is Koldenhoven’s ‘vocal alchemy.’ Sounds that touch the depths of your soul, from the powerful operatic tones in “Nessun Dorma” to the lyrical coloratura of “Lo Specchio;” and then include her high, power packed, long tones that crescendo to the duelling voice and rock guitar climax in the haunting tribute to heroes “Remember Me.” Or how she pours her heart out in the dramatic ballads “All I Am” and “The Last Words You Said;” or shifts into that silvery innocence on “A Celtic American Treasury.” Not to be forgotten is her sultry contralto, Spanish singing on “Ay Cariño.” Thrilling may describe how she uses the wide range of her voice like an instrument on “Bella’s Lullaby” the only *vocalise* on this album and its introduction “Clair de lune.” As Darlene explains, “Singing in *vocalise* liberates me in my choices of melodies and allows the listener room to interpret and feel the full emotional content of the music without the lyrics getting in the way. My passion for improvising in all styles requires me to be bold and take risks.”

And some of these beautifully entertaining risks are starting to be noticed, such as singing a traditional tenor aria but up an octave; creating a medley of Celtic and American folk songs; or including her original instrumental track “Lucid See,” featuring Darlene’s piano prowess. Already, tastemakers and industry professional are recognizing **Solitary Treasures** as a *tour-de-force* of musicianship, performance, composition, and vocal excellence.

"Darlene's unique and beautiful interpretations of classical and modern songs, along with her original pieces, creates an unparalleled musical experience. From producing to vocals, she has presented a solid album without sacrificing her vision. Another great piece from Darlene Koldenhoven. Las interpretaciones de Darlene tanto de sus canciones como de las clásicas generan una experiencia sin igual. Su versión de "Ay Cariño" es exquisita. Darlene hace uso de su experiencia y su talento para generar una maravillosa interpretación de la canción. Otro gran disco de Darlene."

—Gustavo Borner, Multi-Latin Grammy Award-Winning Record Producer

"The thing I have always liked best about Darlene Koldenhoven’s voice is its velvety roundness. Many sopranos have, by default, a pronounced high end while the mids and lows fade out fast. Darlene’s voice has the weight of a contralto but the rangy highs of a coloratura. Here are my favorites among her Solitary Treasures: “Remember Me” – a Darlene original that shows she was influenced by all the movie soundtracks she sang on; it feels like a romantic movie cue. “The Prayer” by David Foster and Carol Bayer-Sager, a lovely song with melodic leaps and an unpredictable, very Darlene high-note ending. “Kiss From a Rose” by Seal, a song of grandness in the British tradition of Queen. Darlene, who has always had rock and roll in her heart, adds to the grandness with not one but two choirs, children’s and adult. Freddy Mercury would be proud."

—Morgan Ames, Producer, Arranger, Singer, Founder of the Rhino Records a cappella vocal group Inner Voices

In addition to her career as a recording artist, Ms. Koldenhoven is a respected music educator with a magna cum laude Master’s Degree in Voice and a cum laude Bachelor’s Degree in Music Education from Chicago Conservatory College. She feels it’s essential to open her professional recording studio in Los Angeles for classes and private lessons, to distill her vast knowledge of the voice, singing, musicianship, and music therapy to an array of students from non-singers to name professionals. In the age-old model of giving back, she has formed a professional children’s choir, the “Young Vocal Artists of Los Angeles.” Participating children have the opportunity to learn from and sing on a wide variety of professional recording sessions, benefiting from Ms. Koldenhoven’s many contacts in the industry, the likes of **Disney, Paramount** ...

Koldenhoven emphasizes, “Singing is a learned experience and often people are afraid to open themselves to the uplifting energy of singing and the powers of music. By creating the **Tune Your Voice** program, it allows me to reach everyone, empowering them to enhance the quality of their life by experiencing the joy and nurturing effects of singing and appreciating music. It’s like they have their very own personal voice coach. I am very proud of **Tune Your Voice**. It is a comprehensive body of work that trains the mind’s musical ear both consciously and sub-consciously, enabling pitch challenged individuals to open up and find their voice; refining and developing the ear-to-voice connection of the natural singer or professional; *and* preparing the mind to *audiate* (to think musically) which is fundamental to writing music, playing an instrument, and singing.”

Darlene explains, “I enjoy motivating people and sharing my gifts with others, whether it be through my music, my singing, or through music education. I’m grateful for the divine gifts I have been given and for the privilege of helping others, engaged in something I absolutely love – music. It was my desire to do an album that could touch all people and bring the beauty of these melodies to each and every land, simply creating beauty in everyday life.”

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Supplemental
Darlene Koldenhoven's Biography

Darlene Koldenhoven was born in a mixed neighborhood on the South side of Chicago to a family with an extensive musical lineage, but hearing only the singing of her mother and grandfather. Darlene could hold her own harmony part by age 3, making her Easter Sunday debut in church singing a solo, "Low in the Grave He Lay." Her initial emphasis of formal training was classical piano, which she began studying in earnest at age 9. Her father, awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, died from malaria complications contracted during his "tours of duty." The family suffering from the financial hardship, a single mother, and her sister being born deaf, didn't allow her hard working mother to afford formal singing lessons for Darlene until age 16. The product of a strict Dutch Christian Reformed/Calvinist family, Darlene was only allowed to listen to or play religious or classical music, not allowed to improvise, and never really listened to pop music until college where she absorbed everything from the Beatles and Middle Eastern music to jazz. But the fierce work ethic and discipline she gleaned from home and her schooling made her an outstanding scholarly achiever, thus preparing her for the ubiquitous and enviable career she now relishes in the entertainment capital of the world, Los Angeles. Arriving in Los Angeles with only a leap-of-faith, \$400, her car, 6 wool turtleneck sweaters (she's from Chicago) and *no contacts* – therein lay the story of how hard work and perseverance pays off . . .

Ms. Koldenhoven revealed an early sensitivity to teaching and nurturing when she assisted in the early therapy of her only sibling, a sister 9 years younger who was born deaf. Experimental surgery created some hearing capabilities for her at age 4. Revelations from that experience impacted Koldenhoven three-fold, sparking her intense interest in how vocal sound is created by the smallest gestures of the structures of the mouth, sound vibration as a source of healing and restoration, and the expressive possibilities of vocal sound without words - a signature element of her singular style.

Darlene Koldenhoven's first two albums are her debut *Keys to the World* (an adult contemporary pop work with an emphasis on positive lyrics), *Free to Serve* (an eclectic gospel soundtrack commissioned by the Christian Reformed Church of North America and lifted from a World Missions multi-media concert that she co-directed, wrote all the music for and performed in, featuring musicians and singers she brought back from the impoverished Sierra Leone, West Africa). When asked about the future, Darlene is looking forward to touring with her new concerts and starting a music educational non-profit organization.

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