

Chicago Tribune

North Shore DAR Enjoys Private Concert with Joan Hammel

(March, 12, 2018) At North Shore Chapter's March general membership meeting, nationally recognized vocalist and National Park Service artist-in-residence, Joan Hammel highlighted the powerful nexus of the arts and American heritage that occurs through conservation and historic preservation. Members and guests were treated to her extraordinary private solo performance in the spectacular setting of a David Adler designed Lake Forest home. The only other National Park Service musical artist-in-residence was Woody Guthrie who wrote *This Land Is Your Land*.

Hammel's presentation included the Park Service selection process, her six-week journey with her young son through several national parks including parts of the Lewis and Clark trail, and the experience at Lake Roosevelt along the Columbia River where she was ensconced on an Indian Reservation for a most memorable summer sabbatical. The magnificent natural beauty of the land and the spirit of the Indian people inspired her composition of not just one piece, but two complete albums. Her works incorporate the instruments of the Indian tribe and the lyrics reference the magnificent terrain, the abundant fauna and the animal kingdom that sustained the tribal people first living there.

For the first time in public, Hammel gave our members an "unplugged" preview of her upcoming debut release. In a nod to icons Guthrie and John Denver, she collaborated with tribal members on their traditional instrumentation and indigenous affect. Her composition recording is scheduled for release through the National Park Service and will officially debut this coming spring.

Attendees were welcomed by our vivacious and gracious hostess to her beautiful historic home, a Lake Forest enclave of elegance and the perfect setting for this private concert. The historic residence and the landscape are world-class masterworks, triumphs of domestic architectural design. The afternoon performance was capped with chapter discussions and business, and followed by sumptuous high tea in the dining and drawing rooms.