

## Press Release

For immediate release  
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### **“The Singing Revolution” Comes to Burlington** One-night only screening with the director on December 13th

The Vermont Commons School will host a benefit screening of the documentary film, *The Singing Revolution* on Saturday, December 13, at the Film House at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center in Burlington. *The Singing Revolution*, released earlier this year, chronicles the story of Estonia’s non-violent struggle for independence from Soviet occupation. Through mass public singing of banned national folk songs, the Estonian people were able to gain their freedom and eventually bring about the demise of the Soviet Union.

Students at Vermont Commons School have been studying Estonia and the singing revolution as part of a research and service class offered by internationally renowned soprano, Shyla Nelson. Students have been researching the history of Estonia and learning about their non-violent struggle for freedom. They have also been learning Estonian folksongs and working on art projects that highlight different aspects of Estonian culture and history. The class has invited the filmmakers, Maureen Castle and James Tusty, to be present for the screening in an event whose proceeds will benefit the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program. They were delighted when Maureen Castle Tusty agreed to travel to Burlington to attend to the one-night only screening on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

*“This is one of the most moving and inspiring human stories of the 20th century. For years I have known about the event of the Singing Revolution and have quietly hoped that someone would make a film that tells this story. I was thrilled to find out earlier this year that someone has done just that,”* explains Nelson. *“We are so looking forward sharing this uplifting story with a larger Vermont audience.”* The film has been getting rave reviews from critics across the country:

#### REVIEWS:

*“Imagine the scene in ‘Casablanca’ in which the French patrons sing ‘La Marseillaise’ in defiance of the Germans, then multiply its power by a factor of thousands, and you’ve only begun to imagine the force of ‘The Singing Revolution’.”* Matt Zoller Seitz, *The New York Times*

***"INSPIRING!... GRIPPING!... A STORY OF HOW FEELINGS BECAME SONGS, SONGS BECAME A NATIONAL VOICE AND VOICE BECAME ACTION!"***

Robert Abele, *LA Times*

*The film offers a functional primer in Baltic history, as well as choice video footage of one small country as it weathers a tectonic shift in world politics.”*

Nick Pinkerton, *The Village Voice*

**IF YOU GO:**

When: Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

6:30 pm reception (open to the public), 7:30 pm screening;

9:00 pm Q&A with director Maureen Castle Tusty

Where: The Film House at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center (host sponsor)

Tickets: \$20 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors through the Flynn Regional Box

Office ([www.flyntix.org](http://www.flyntix.org) or 86-FLYNN) or at the door

Benefits: The Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program

More information, including a full press kit and a trailer, at [www.singingrevolution.com](http://www.singingrevolution.com)

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**About Vermont Commons School:**

Vermont Commons School is an independent day school for students in grades 7 – 12. The school offers a rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum that includes a focus on community service and experiential education. The mission of the Vermont Commons School is to provide a vision of education that crosses traditional boundaries and develops ecological citizenship, with the goal of empowering students with the knowledge, character, skills, and moral vision necessary to become responsible, pro-active members of the world community. For more information, please visit [www.vermontcommons.org](http://www.vermontcommons.org).

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