

Kitka's "Wintersongs" Concert January 14 The Acclaimed Vocal Group's 3rd Visit To The Coast

Hearing the name "Kitka", one might think about the history of the Mendonoma Coast,

since Russian traders were uncommon between not the Bay area and Northern Sonoma County. The establishment of Fort Ross and the name of a town in Alaska (Sitka) where some Russian traders had already established a foothold contribute to the name game. In reality, Kitka means "bouquet"in Bulgarian and Macedonian. Our good fortune requires no necessary knowledge of either language, or of Russian for that matter. What is recommended is attendance

at the forthcoming concert by the vocal group Kitka, at Gualala Arts at 7:00pm on Saturday January 14.

Kitka is an American women's vocal arts ensemble inspired by traditional songs and vocal

techniques from Eastern Europe. Dedicated to developing new audiences for music rooted

in Balkan, Slavic, and Caucasian women's vocal traditions, Kitka also strives to expand the boundaries of folk song as a living and evolving expressive art form. Kitka's activities include an Oakland-based home series of concerts and vocal workshops, regional, national, and international touring, programs in the schools, recording, publication, and broadcast projects, master artist residencies, commissioning, original works, community service, and adventuresome collaborations.

Kitka makes a stop at Gua-

lala Arts Center as part of the group's Northern California "Wintersongs" tour. Featuring unusual seasonal music from a wide variety of Eastern European ethnic and spiritual tradi-

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