

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

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Documents Online

Title: Central PA Womyn's Chorus "Women Spirit" Program

Date: May 6, 2006

Location: LGBT-102 The Central PA Womyn's Chorus Collection

Contact:

LGBT History Project
Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu



Saturday
May 6, 2006
Unity Church
Enola

WWWe're on the WWWeb!

Information on upcoming concerts and other events, plus a delightful collection of photos, program notes, newsletters and lots more. Check us out!

www.cpwchorus.org

P. O. Box 60426 • Harrisburg PA 17106-0426
717-234-4825 • info@cpwchorus.org

Founded in 1996, the Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus brings together a diverse group of women, united by the joy of singing, to celebrate and empower women, and to affirm a positive image of lesbians and feminists.

The chorus rehearses every Monday night (with holiday and summer breaks) and the board meets monthly at United Church of Christ, 5000 Devonshire Road, Harrisburg We welcome new singers. Speak to Giesala, our director, about singing (A1969Diva@aol.com).

Join the Womyn's Chorus family
and find out how much fun Monday nights can be!



CPWC is a proud member of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA) and the Sister Singers Network.

Sister Singers Network's 25th Anniversary Festival will be in San Diego in June 2006 and the Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus will be there!

GALA
Gay and Lesbian Association of
CHORUSES

Sister
Singers
Network 

The

Harrisburg Men's Chorus

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6th and Hurlock Streets, Harrisburg

Tickets: \$10

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For additional information, contact David at 233-4353 or Tim at 433-0184

www.harrisburgmenschorus.org



Survivors supports those who experience domestic violence or sexual assault and strives to create a world in which violence against women and children is unthinkable.

Survivors, Inc. salutes Central PA Women's Chorus on their empowerment of women, and positive image of lesbians and feminists.

Survivors, Inc.

P.O. Box 3572
Gettysburg, PA 17325
Office: 717-334-0589



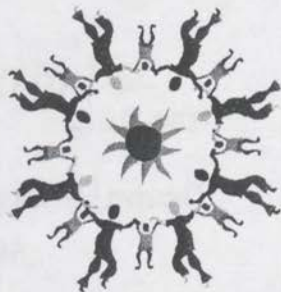
Hotline: 1-800-787-8106 or 717-334-9777

Voices United:

A Pride Celebration Concert

Friday, July 28, 2006 at 8 PM

The Theatre Harrisburg Jay and Nancy Krevsky
Production Center,
6th and Hurlock Streets, Harrisburg



Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus
The Choir of MCC of the Spirit
Harrisburg Men's Chorus
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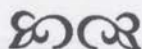
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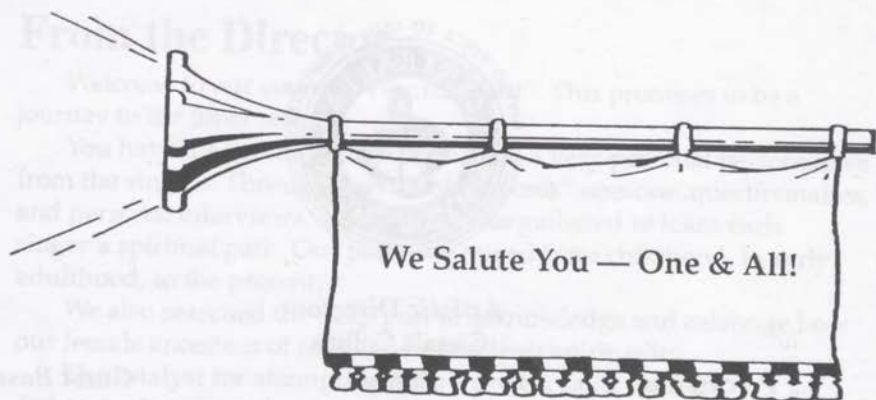
Angel Card

readings

by

Bonnie

717-545-7376



Welcome!

Without you, our audience, there can be no chorus. Your enthusiasm is contagious, and we thank you for it. Behind the scenes, countless individuals and organizations give quietly and generously of their money, time and talents to support the chorus. We wish we could name you all. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank each and every one of you.

Benefactors (\$500 or more)

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Shirley Tannenbaum

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Linda Noble &
Joanne Nicholson
Beth Stone
Lucy Twitchell

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Candace Kugel
Linda Mussoline
Angela Staub
Arleen Shulman
Sally Stone

\$25 or more

Chris Chew
Kim Hair
Cathy Hinman
Cathy Nelson
Dalia Stankus

Friends

Anonymous

Our apologies to those whose contributions we may have overlooked here.

*Please let us know, and we will be happy to acknowledge you
in our next program booklet.*



Artistic Director
Giesala Collins

Percussion
Renee Bartholomew

Piano
Anthony Haubert

Guest Bass
Patricia George

The Singers

Soprano One

Donna Bowers
Laura Dalton*
Adele Johannson
Kimberley Koester
Lorraine Hennessy
Beth L. Stone (on leave)

Lucy Twitchell

Soprano Two

Anna Conway
Jan Davis (on leave)
Darla Henry
Lee Melchior
Cathy Nelson*
Suzanne Noll (on leave)
Yvonne Rothstein
Shirley Tannenbaum (on leave)

Alto One

Chris Chew
Lil Morgan
Joanne Nicholson
Linda Noble
Susan Swope

Alto Two

Kay Baldwin
Sandy Boothe
Kim Hair (on leave)
Julie Lowery (on leave)
Linda Mussoline
Amy Shestack
Arleen Shulman
Florence Tarbox

*Section Leader

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Volunteers

Many thanks to the countless helpers who made this concert possible!

From the Director

Welcome to our concert "WomanSpirit". This promises to be a journey to the inner self.

You have the privilege of experiencing a very personal performance from the singers. Through a series of "process" sessions, questionnaires, and personal interviews, information was gathered to learn each singer's spiritual path. Our paths are traced from childhood, to early adulthood, to the present.

We also searched the deep past to acknowledge and celebrate how our female ancestors of song celebrated their spirituality.

The catalyst for attempting such a project came from a disheartening event the chorus experienced within the last year that touched upon religion vs. spirituality. My vision for a concert of how women celebrate spirituality through music shifted, from singing songs of various spiritual traditions across the world, to honoring how the women of this chorus celebrate their spirituality.

To my delight, the singers courageously took on this project very slowly and deliberately. Every piece that you will hear tonight was picked by a committee of women of very diverse spiritual paths, ensuring that all singers were represented in this concert. This music had to speak to the group as a whole. At the same time, we needed to make sure that each woman could find a piece of this concert that resonates with her and her alone.

I hope that you, our larger community, will see, hear, and know what it is that unites us and the unique perspective each woman brings to this chorus. Collectively, we have allowed ourselves to create a safe space in which all can come to the table welcomed and express their spirits. May your spirit be uplifted by the sights and sounds of our "WomanSpirit!"

Giesala Collins, Artistic Director



Program

*The narrations during this concert are the singers' own words,
performed by Jan Davis and Suzanne Noll.*

Alleluia

By Naomi Stephan

Balm in Gilead

Traditional African American spiritual
arranged by Ysaye M. Barnwell

So Many Angels

Traditional *Angels Watching Over Me*
arranged by Gwyneth Walker
part of her set of pieces, *The Spirit of Women*
Opening ensemble: Donna Bowers, Yvonne Rothstein,
Susan Swope, Arleen Shulman

Jerusalem of Gold

Original music and lyric by Naomi Shemir-Sapir
English version by Norman Newell
arranged by Lisa Taillacq
Trio: Laura Dalton, Cathy Nelson, Joanne Nicholson

*"The wine-clear mountain air and the scent of pines are wafted on the winds of dusk
together with the sound of bells. And with slumbering tree and stone
the solitary city with a wall through its heart is held captive in its dream.
Jerusalem of gold, of light, of bronze, I am the violin for your songs."*

Goodnight God

Music by René Clausen, words by Danu Baxter
from *Earth Prayers*

Myth in Genesis

by Linda Noel Schierman
as performed by Venus Envy
Singers: Sandy Boothe, Chris Chew, Laura Dalton, Adele Johannson,
Lee Melchior, Cathy Nelson, Linda Noble, Arleen Shulman

Breaths

Music by Ysaye M. Barnwell
words by Birago Diop

Guide Me

Traditional Appalachian spiritual
additional words and arrangement by Ellen Robinson
Singer: Lee Melchior
with Cathy Hinman, Lil Morgan,
Joanne Nicholson, Linda Noble, Susan Swope

I Ain't Afraid

Words and music by Holly Near
arranged by J. David Moore

Soloists: Chris Chew, Cathy Nelson, Yvonne Rothstein
Trio: Anna Conway, Cathy Hinman, Cathy Nelson

I Thank You God

by Gwyneth Walker
poem by E. E. Cummings

— INTERMISSION —

Frame Drum Blessing

Inspired by Layne Redmond's book
When the Drummers Were Women,
and drawn from her video

Ritual Drumming
(now available as *A Sense of Time*).

Ensemble: Lee Melchior, Linda Noble,
Joanne Nicholson, Susan Swope,
Shirley Tannenbaum

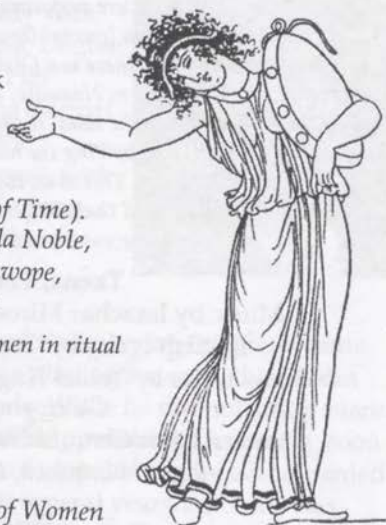
*The frame drum has been used by women in ritual
for thousands of years.*

Earth My Body

Contemporary chant
from the arrangement

on the CD *Circle of Women*

Singers: Sandy Boothe, Chris Chew, Adele Johannson,
Cathy Nelson, Yvonne Rothstein, Arleen Shulman, Anna Conway
Dancer: Lee Melchior



Kore Evohe

Based on a chant by Sabina C. Becker
words and music by John Schrag

SATB arrangement by John M. Kelleher

*For millenia, the central and most profound mystery celebrated by the peoples who
lived in the areas now known as Greece and Turkey was the maiden goddess Kore's
departure to the underworld each fall, bringing winter, and her annual reunion with
her mother, bringing spring. "Kore Evohe" means simply, "Hail Kore."*

We All Come from the Goddess

By Z Budapest
from the arrangement on the CD *Circle of Women*

— Program continues on the following page —

Welcome Table

Traditional, arranged by Sue Fulton and Penny Gnesin

Soloists: Anna Conway, Joanne Nicholson, Yvonne Rothstein, Susan Swope

Deep Peace

Traditional Gaelic blessing, arranged by Bill Douglas

Namasté

By Christine Korb

text by C.K., from Sanskrit

*Ensemble: Donna Bowers, Laura Dalton, Adele Johannson, Lee Melchior,
Linda Mussoline, Cathy Nelson, Arleen Shulman, Susan Swope*

This piece won an international peace award

after its premiere performance in Warsaw and Krakow, Poland.

According to the Yoga Journal (www.yogajournal.com), "the gesture Namaste represents the belief that there is a Divine spark within each of us that is located in the heart chakra.... To perform Namaste, we place the hands together at the heart chakra, close the eyes, and bow the head. It can also be done by placing the hands together in front of the third eye, bowing the head, and then bringing the hands down to the heart. This is an especially deep form of respect.

"In India it is understood that the gesture itself signifies Namaste, and therefore, it is unnecessary to say the word while bowing."

Tzena, Tzena, Tzena, Tzena

Music by Issachar Miron, arranged by J. David Moore

English lyrics by Gordon Jenkins and Pete Seeger

Hebrew lyrics by Yehiel Haggiz, Arabic lyrics by Salman Natour

Choreographer: Lee Melchior

Dancers: Chris Chew, Laura Dalton, Darla Henry, Lee Melchior,

Joanne Nicholson, Linda Noble, Lucy Twitchell

Find Us Faithful

By John Mohr

Singer: Laura Dalton

Feel Good

By L. Craig Tyson and Leonard Scott

arranged by Barbara Baker and David J. Elliott

Trio: Donna Bowers, Chris Chew, and Yvonne Rothstein

WomanSpirit Rising

by Karen Beth

***Please join us in the meeting hall to the east of the church
for a reception hosted by the women of **Unity**.***

Giesala Collins, Artistic Director

Giesala was a member of the chorus in 1995 and sang soprano one with us for several years before leaving to pursue other musical interests, including the women's band and vocal group, Stone Soup and Common Threads. When she attended our spring 2002 concert, *Singing for Our Lives*, featuring Diane's Benjamin's breast cancer oratorio, she was so inspired by our repertoire and our spirit that she rejoined our ranks. She became our artistic director in the spring of 2004. Her first accomplishment was to lead us in performing for 3000 people in the grand concert hall of Montreal at the summer 2004 GALA

Choruses Festival. Giesala has boundless energy and a wealth of plans for our future. She graduated from West Virginia University with honors and received a Bachelor of Music Degree with an emphasis in music education. Her primary instrument and first love is the clarinet. She also enjoys playing the recorder, the saxophone, an electronic wind instrument, and the tin whistle. She resides in Mechanicsburg with her partner JoAnn and two cats Chessie and Rocky.



Anthony Haubert, Piano

As a young lad, Anthony discovered that playing the piano came naturally; by the time he was 13, he was playing for everything from weddings to school musicals and recitals. While he did not study piano formally in college, the music faculty at Shippensburg University soon noticed his musical talents and while at Shippensburg he accompanied Oklahoma and Godspell. Over the past several years, Anthony has served as accompanist for the Harrisburg Men's Chorus, and played piano bar and cocktail piano in many venues. Currently, he is tickling the ivories at the Hotel Hershey and Catalano's in Wormleysburg. He studies jazz piano with accomplished jazz pianist Katie Rudolph.

Renee Bartholomew, Percussion

Renee plays percussion in many styles, including classical, jazz, rock, and drum and bugle corps. She was the drummer for the women's singing group, Stone Soup, and plays with many area groups.

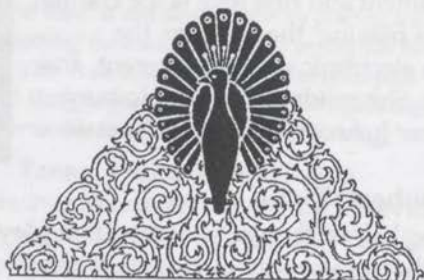
Patricia George, Bass

Patricia has had the blues in her blood for a long time, and has played bass with many area bands, including Beulah Mae, Octavia, the Voodoo Love Hounds, the Earthblood Blues Band, and T-Bone and the Turbo Kings. She lives in Lemoyne with Benie DeCat.

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- Encouraging spiritual growth by providing teachings and resources that support individuals in living the **Unity** principles as gay men and lesbian women.

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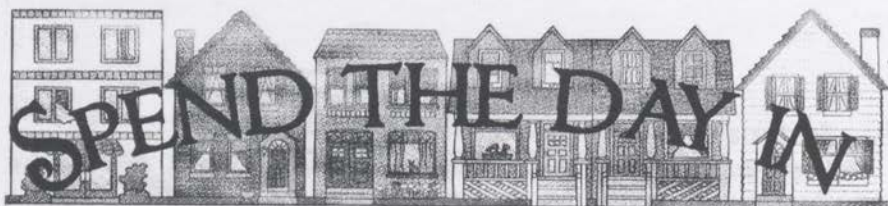
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Special thanks to Roni Rivera
for the artwork
that graces the front cover of this program book.