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Title: Central PA Womyn's Chorus "God Bless This Family: A Christmas Concert"
Program

Date: December 13, 2008

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

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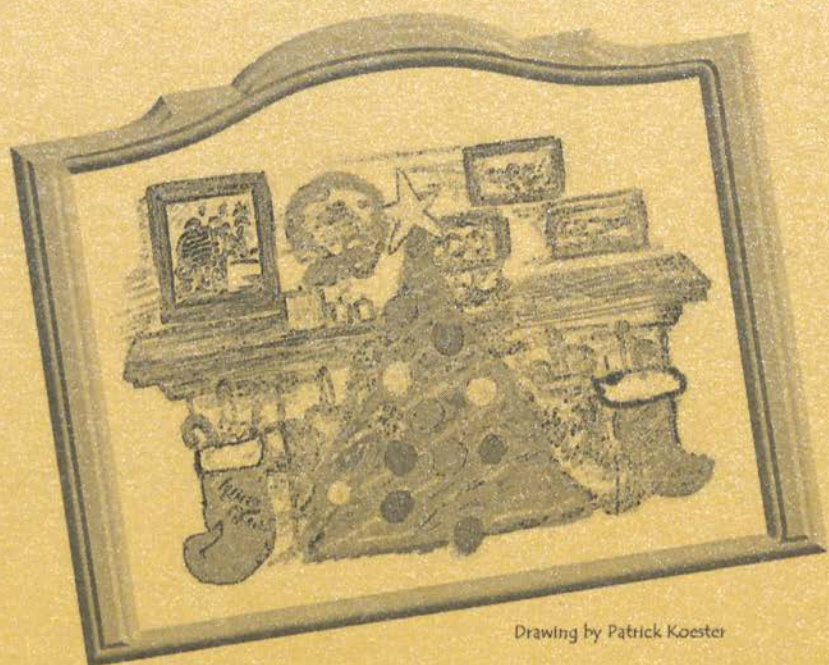
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Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus
presents

God Bless This Family

A Christmas Concert



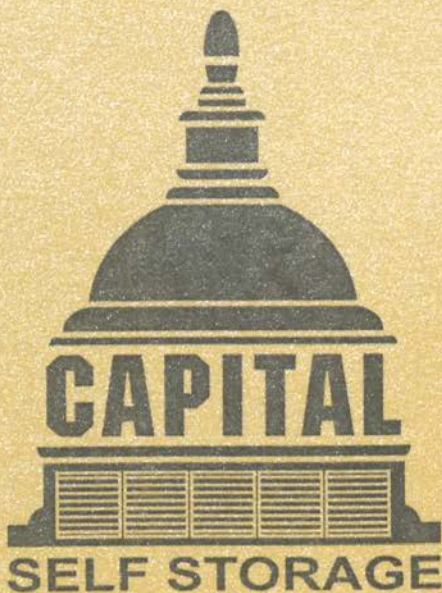
Drawing by Patrick Koester

Saturday, December 13, 2008
7:00 PM
Lakeside Lutheran Church
Harrisburg

Sunday, December 14, 2008
2:30 PM
Holy Trinity Lutheran
York Springs

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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.

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UPCOMING CPWC EVENTS

January 31, 2009 Music for A Winter's Night
with the Harrisburg Men's Chorus, Vision of Hope MCC, Mountville
Part of Winter Arts Festival. For more information, see
www.winterartsfestival.com

A Saturday in the spring: The Region's Best Pancake Breakfast
and 2nd Annual Rummage Sale

Saturday, June 6, 2009: Spring concert in collaboration with organizations providing services for the abused. The CPWC encourages such organizations to contact the chorus if they are interested in joining the collaboration.
Send an email to info@cpwchorus.org.

WWWwe're on the WWWweb!

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

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Founded in 1994, 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 Colonial Park United Church of Christ, 5000 Devonshire Road, Harrisburg.
We welcome new singers.

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Welcome!

from the

Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus . . .

This is the first Christmas concert ever presented by the chorus.

There is so much beautiful, joyous, jazzy and yes, silly Christmas music in the choral repertoire, that it just seemed about time to bring some to our audiences. And we've got a couple of Hanukkah songs, too.

We sing this concert in English, Latin, Yiddish, German, and Spanish with a few other languages thrown in - Native American, Xhosa, Zulu, Afrikaans, Hebrew. The music stretches through history, from carols whose origins are unknown to modern compositions. The songs speak of the profound mystery of the birth of Jesus and the agonies of the modern shopping season, of Hanukkah in the early part of the 20th century and of creating a new South African nation in unity.

There is something in this concert for everyone, just as there is something in the Christmas season for everyone, not just Christians. It's a "magical, lyrical, annual miracle", and we wish you and your loved ones the very best wishes of the season.



Visit the Raffle

before and during intermission at the
Harrisburg concert.

**WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IMMEDIATELY
AFTER THE HARRISBURG CONCERT!**

PROGRAM

Ave Maria Jacob Arcadelt

Angelus ad Pastores Ait David Burks

Carol Sing Along

Angels We Have Heard On High, Felice Navidad, We Wish You A Merry Christmas

We Need A Little Christmas Jerry Herman
arr. Roger Emerson

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head Appalachian Carol
arr. Gwynn S. Bement and John Jacob Niles
Soloists: Laura Dalton, Nora Carreras, Virginia DeChristopher, Cathy Nelson

Huron Carol Traditional
arr. Edward Henderson

Two Songs for Hanukkah

Borukh Ate, Zingt Der Tate. Avron Reisen and Solomon Golub
We Come To You Children. S. Tsesler and L. Dreytsel
arr. William Zukof and Elliot Z. Levine

Stille Nacht Joseph Mohr
and Franz Gruber
arr. Philip Lawson
Guitar: Janie Womack

Come, Colours Rise Grant McLachlan and Frank Barry

INTERMISSION

- God Bless My Family Ann Hampton Callaway
arr. Mac Huff
Soloists: Donna Gomboc, Laury MacIntyre, Cathy Nelson
- Nanita Lullaby Spanish Carol
arr. Earlene Rentz
Guitar: Janie Womack
- Riu, Riu, Chiu Spanish Carol
arr. Russell Robinson
Soloist: Nora Carreras
- The Holly and the Ivy 18th Century Carol
arr. Kirby Shaw
- Dashing Through the Slush Philip Hagemann
Guest conductor: Caeden DeVuo
- Wassailin! Traditional English Carol
arr. Clifton J. Noble, Jr.
- Coming Out On Christmas Craig Sturgis
arr. Dean X. Johnson
- White Christmas Irving Berlin
arr. Roy Ringwald
Guest Pianists: Nora Carreras and Cheryl Huber
- The Twelve Days of Christmas Traditional English
arr. Peter Harvey

Join us for a reception and the announcement of the
raffle winners after the Harrisburg concert.

MUSIC NOTES

Ave Maria. What better way to start a concert of women's voices than with the traditional prayer for the intervention of the mother of Jesus. This arrangement of Ave Maria was written by Jacob Arcadelt, a Flemish composer who was born in 1505. This "homophonic" style was new for its time. (Homophonic just means the voices move together at the same time creating chords, as opposed to polyphonic, where voices move independently.) The translated text is: *Hail Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.*

Angelus ad Pastores Ait. "The Angel said to the Shepherds" is a text taken from Luke 2:8-11. It is the second antiphon for Morning Prayer of Christmas Day. This setting was written for the women of the Torrance Civic Chorale in 2002. The translated text is: *The angel said to the shepherds: I bring you tidings of great joy for unto you is borth this day the Savior of the world. Alleluia!*

We Need A Little Christmas was written in 1966 for hot musical *Mame* and has become a holiday standard. It's been performed by Angela Lansbury, the Muppets, Johnny Mathis and now, CPWC.

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head is an Southern Appalachian (Kentucky) carol and was collected and arranged by John Jacob Niles (1892 - 1980). He didn't state the source or date of his version but he collected in that area in 1912-13 and 1932-24. Niles was an American composer, singer and collector of traditional ballads, and an important influence on the folk music revival of the 1950s and 1960s.

Huron Carol is Canada's oldest Christmas song, written in 1643 by Jean de Brébeuf, a Jesuit missionary among the Hurons. He wrote the lyrics in Huron to a French carol; they were translated into English in 1926. The translated version used images from the Native American setting rather than the traditional Nativity story. The original version spoke less about the baby and more about those who found him and greeted him with reverence (literally, "greased his scalp"). The name of God used in the hymn, *Gitchi Manitou*, is actually Algonquin.

Songs for Hanukkah, one sung in Yiddish and one in English, convey the participants' sense of wonder at the Festival of Lights. Songs like this were used in the Jewish immigrant community as a way to accomplish a sense of community in a world that was very different culturally from that in the USA. The Jewish people struggled to survive in a foreign language environment all day, and they found empathy through contact with other Jewish people in the evenings.

Borukh Ate, Zingt Der Tate tells the story of the holiday in a poor immigrant household from the point of view of a child: *"Bless these candles," sings my papa with such humble grace, and the flicker of the flames lights his weary face. As the holy fire kindles in his eyes, my tired and worn-out papa straightens up and smiles. I can see and I can feel that papa is still strong, and I smile and love him dearly. Holy is his song. Ancient prayers, long forgotten? No, they ring out clear. Sing, my father, "Bless these candles" for your child to bear.*

We Come To You Children is sung in 18th century style, but is actually from a Buenos Aires children's songbook.

Stille Nacht, Silent Night, is the traditional carol, sung in German with guitar accompaniment, the way it was written and performed originally in 1818.

Come, Colours Rise is a South African Christmas Anthem, dedicated to Desmond Tutu. The inspiration for the song was Tutu's reference to the South Africans as the "Rainbow Nation." The rainbow and other images refer both to the natural beauty of the country and to the many colours of its people. The Xhosa words (a language related to Zulu) echo the English - "come, colours rise, under African skies. Christ has come!" The composers point out that so many Christmas carols mention snow, which most South Africans have never seen. In its first words, we are reminded that Christmas in the southern hemisphere takes place in the summer.

God Bless My Family was written by Ann Hampton Callaway, a jazz and pop singer-songwriter. She wrote and performed the theme song from "The Nanny" TV show. Her writing embraces many styles- romantic ballads, humorous novelty songs, inspirational anthems, jazz and bossa nova. Ann devotes much of her time to philanthropic causes, both as a singer performing in numerous benefits, and as a songwriter composing songs in times of need. This song was written at the height of the AIDS epidemic. Ann was getting ready for Christmas and all of the friends she had lost came rushing into her soul; this song came rushing out.

Nanita Lullaby is based on a Spanish carol. The song is sung by a person to whom the child is dear, probably a grandmother or great aunt. She sings: *"My child is sleepy. He will be blessed. Like a fountain that runs clear with the sounds of running water, like a bird singing in the forest, he sings and cries. He is quieted in the cradle that is swinging."*

Ríu, Ríu, Chíu (river, roaring river) was written in the Renaissance in approximately 1550. This was a traditional call the Spanish shepherds used when guarding their flocks by the river. The carol is a metaphor for the shepherd (God) guarding the lamb (Christ Child) from the black wolf (the Devil), imploring *"River, roaring river, guard us, give us safety. God will keep the black wolf from our lamb and lady."* And the story goes:

The wolf, he did try to bite her and scare. God did keep him from her, the wolf he would not dare. Pure the lamb would be, yes, her God would keep her safe. The first sin of man would not ever be repeated.

Many prophets, they foretold about his coming. Many came to see if it really was the truth. He was to be God, though, human was his visage. Down to earth he came to bring love in sacred message.

God did want to send a child to make us joyful. So, he gave to her a son to bring us peace. So, the father gave us a child born that night. He brought to the earth peace and joy and gave us light.

The Holly and the Ivy is a jazzy version of the traditional carol.

Dashing Through the Slush describes today's experiences in the mall and the aftermath of all that spending.

Wassailin' was arranged for a vocal jazz ensemble. It's rowdy and raucous all over the town.

This arrangement of Irving Berlin's **White Christmas** is ethereally beautiful with its four-hand piano arrangement.

The Twelve Days of Christmas are December 25 through January 6. The song could date from as early as the sixteenth century. The cumulative costs of the items mentioned in the song have been used as a form of economic indicator (maintained by PNC Bank). The arranger, Peter Harvey, is a tenor and comedian.

For the price of each and every commodity mentioned in the song, go to www.pncchristmaspriceindex.com/CPI/index.html. The Christmas Price Index is a little lower in 2008 than in 2007. The price of labor (drummers, maids, dancers) is up but the price of most birds (swans, French hens) has come down. However, you may want to put off purchasing that partridge in a pear tree.

Yiddish and Hanukkah in a Christmas Concert

In preparation for singing the two Hanukkah songs, CPWC asked former CPWC singer Susan Leviton to teach us the Yiddish and provide the background for the music. One legacy of the Holocaust is the destruction of the cultural milieu in which Yiddish flourished, and there remain few native speakers from that era. Susan is dedicated to keeping the language alive.

Susan told us that these simple songs might be sung at home around the piano to bring hope for the renewal into the home (at the new moon in the dead of winter). Some families would celebrate by bringing a tree into the home and lighting it. This tree lighting was a practice begun before the Christian tradition of lighting a tree at Christmas began. The holiday of Hanukkah celebrates the triumph of a few over many in war and the rededication of the temple upon its return to the Jewish people in ancient times. It's actually not a religious holiday or the Jewish "equivalent" of Christmas. But both holidays share the magic of bringing light into the winter world.

Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus

Artistic Director : Dan Krynak

Accompanist: Jeffrey J. Cogan

SOPRANO ONE

Anna Conway

Laura Dalton*

Virginia DeChristopher

Darla Henry

Lorraine Hennessy

Lucy Twitchell

SOPRANO TWO

Nora Carreras*

Jennie Jones

Stacy Jones

Kimberley Koester

ALTO ONE

Cheryl Huber

Laury McIntyre

Linda Mussoline*

Cathy Nelson

ALTO TWO

Kay Baldwin

Sandy Boothe

Donna Gomboc

Arleen Shulman*

Florence Tarbox

* section leader



Dan Krynak, artistic director, was instrumental in founding the CPWC in 1993, and served on the board for several years. He directed the Harrisburg Men's Chorus for 10 years and in 2000 became director of the CPWC for three years. He led the two choruses in several major collaborations: *Bandari*, an African-based celebration of building community; *Boys and Girls with Stories*, a lesbian and gay musical; and in December 2000, singing with Judy Collins. He holds a Master's of Church Music from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor's degree from Westminster Choir College.

Jeffrey J. Cogan, accompanist, is new to the chorus. He is director of music ministries at the Paxton United Methodist Church and teaches piano.

Renee Bartholomew, percussion, plays percussion in many styles, including classical, jazz, drum and bugle corps, and rock. **Patricia George, percussion,** has played bass with many area bands and has joined CPWC for many concerts. **Janie Womack, guitar,** has participated in a variety of musical projects including musical comedy, choral and ensemble work and individual performance. She performs at local coffee houses, festivals and private events.



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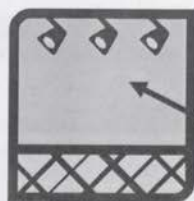
Harrisburg Men's Chorus

With Strings Attached

*Sat. Jan. 17, 2009 - 8pm
Sun. Jan. 18, 2009 - 2pm*

*Rose Lehman Arts Center,
Harrisburg Area
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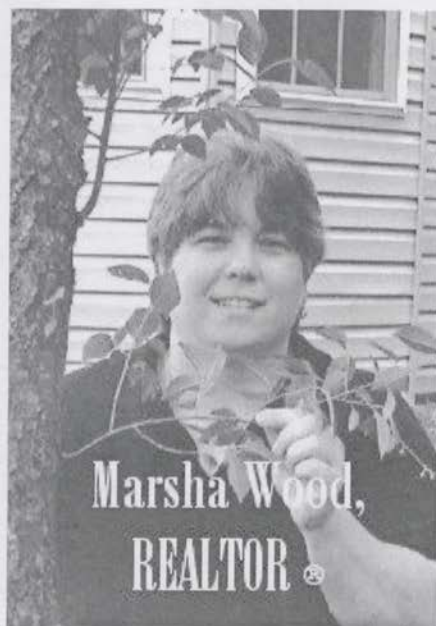
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Shirley Anne Angle
Tannenbaum
Born Oct. 27, 1938



**70th Birthday Celebration
Nov. 1, 2008**

Music for a Midwinter's Night

A special joint concert for the 2009 Winter Arts Festival
presented by

The Central PA Womyn's Chorus
and
The Harrisburg Men's Chorus

January 31, 2009

8:00 p.m.

Vision of Hope MCC

130 East Main Street

Mountville

7:00 p.m. The Pride Festival's Silent Art Auction
and reception. Results of the auction will be
announced at the conclusion of the concert.

Winter Arts Festival 2009 promotes the arts in the LGBT Community in Central PA and is a collaborative event between Common Roads and the LGBT Center Coalition. Running from January 17th through February 14th, Winter Arts Festival includes events throughout the region benefiting and hosted by various LGBT and allied groups.

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