

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

**Located at Dickinson College
Archives & Special Collections**

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

Documents Online

Title: Womyn's Chorus Brochure

Date: circa 2006

Location: LGBT-086 Marie DiFava Collection

Contact:

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**The Central PA
Womyn's Chorus
Invites You to
Join Us**

<http://www.cpwchorus.org>

Once upon a time...

A woman attended the 1993 Gay Pride Festival, and heard the Harrisburg Men's Chorus sing. She was so inspired, she asked to join. Chorus leaders offered to join her in founding a women's chorus . . .

"Cultural Warriors"

. . . a year later, the Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus debuted at the same Festival. Since then, we have sung for women's studies programs, the ordination of the woman pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church, the gay and lesbian alumni association of Shippensburg University, and Harrisburg's WinterFest.

We have raised money for RAWA, committed to full equality for Afghan women; performed benefit concerts for breast cancer prevention and treatment, AIDS programs, and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

We were the featured entertainment at the 25th anniversary celebration of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and at the annual women's conference at Bloomsburg University.

We performed the world premiere of *Song of the Dying Amazon*, the first piece specially commissioned by the chorus, and directed by the composer, Kay Gardner. We joined our brother chorus for the area premiere of *Boys and Girls With Stories*, a gay choral musical.

We have performed with, and as guests of the Anna Crusis Women's Choir in Philadelphia, New Wave Singers in Baltimore, and *Diva*, as part of Philadelphia's month-long Pride celebration and appeared as back-up singers for Judy Collin's Christmas concert at the Harrisburg Whittaker Center.

And every spring and fall we produce full length concerts of our own, introducing our audiences to songs by and about strong women, and a wide variety of music intended to inspire, soothe, amuse, and heal.

Our concerts offer a safe and happy environment for lesbians, feminists, gay men, human rights supporters,

lovers of choral music, and our families, friends and neighbors to come together and celebrate our diversity as well as our common goals. Donna Redwing, field coordinator of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, calls choruses like ours "cultural warriors."

Our Music

We strive for musical excellence in a wide range of styles, including classical, folk, jazz, a cappella, chants and rounds, popular songs of most decades of the twentieth century, and music recently composed. The chorus members work with the artistic director to find music that complements our talents, interests, and purpose, and to develop unique concert themes every concert season.

Our Dreams

- ♪ In response to popular demand (including domestic violence programs that would like to have meaningful music in their voice mail systems!), we want to produce our first recording.
- ♪ We would like to expand the repertoire of women's choral music by commissioning new works, especially by women.
- ♪ We would like to bring other women's choruses to central Pennsylvania to perform with us, and to spread our message by touring to other cities. We hope to grow, from 17 singers to 50 or more.
- ♪ We would like to establish an office, and hire a coordinator.
- ♪ We want to become one of the most respected performing arts organizations in central Pennsylvania.
- ♪ We would like to maintain our full-time artistic director who can help us achieve all these, and other yet-to-be-dreamed-of goals.

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.

Volunteer Opportunities

(check your choice)

I'd like to sing.

I would like to help with:

Selling tickets

Fund-raising activities

Concert production

Concert reception (food, serving and decorations)

Serving on the board of directors

Put me on the mailing list and keep me posted on concerts and other activities.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY:

NAME

ADDRESS

ZIP _____ PHONE (____) _____

EMAIL

Please send this form to us at:

Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus

P.O. Box 60426

Harrisburg, PA 17106-0426

Or leave a message for us at: (717)234-4825

Or e-mail us at: info@cpwchorus.org

Our fans say....

"Listening to the chorus, I felt like I was being wrapped in a velvet blanket of beautiful sound" ... Mary N., Lancaster

"What thrilled me was the chorus' precision, wit, and charm" ... Lorraine K., Shippensburg

"And to think I almost stayed home to watch TV!" ... Anonymous male, overheard after a concert

"The love I feel when singing with the chorus has been a powerful healing force in my life." ... Yvonne W., Harrisburg

"You make me proud." ... Shirl P., Gettysburg

"I almost wet my pants laughing!" ... Martha I., Gettysburg

"You make me cry." ... Barb N., Harrisburg

"I applaud the chorus' unique spirit and message." ... Doug W., New Cumberland



An International Movement

The Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus is a member of the **GALA Choruses**, the international association of gay and lesbian choruses, and **Sister Singers Network**, a network of community-based women's choruses.