



The Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington
"Every Voice Matters... in a World That Listens"
Our 26th Season
The Rag

February 2 & 9, 2010

February: Altos in charge of set-up & providing water

Our Season Sponsor: Brother Help Thyself

WE HONOR:

- our legacy as a proud & outstanding non-auditioned musical & educational chorus
- effective consensus-based decision-making
- community
- our financially healthy, not-for-profit arts organization
- our LGBT identities
- artistic integrity
- gender cooperation & gender equality
- having fun
- diversity
- our commitment to developing talent
- the LGBT choral movement

TONIGHT...

Tue. 2/2, at CHAW

- 7:00-7:15 – set-up
- 7:15-9:15 – Open Rehearsal
- 9:15 – all assist with clean-up

NEXT GATHERINGS...

Tue. 2/9, at CHAW

- 7:00-7:15 – set-up
- 7:15-9:15 – Open Rehearsal
- 9:15 – all assist with clean-up

Then...

- Tue. 2/16, 7:15-9:15, at CHAW
- Tue. 2/23, 7:15-9:15, at CHAW

NEWS...

Welcome, New Singers! Welcome Back, Returning Singers!

We are *delighted* that you have joined us for our Open Rehearsals, and hope that you will find the LGCW to be the right fit for expressing your love of singing. As a reminder, membership in the LGCW requires *no auditions*, just a love of singing and a commitment to grow with the ensemble.

All singers (new and returning) are asked to fill out an **application form**. Contact information from your application form will be used to generate our Roster, which also appears online in a password-protected section of www.lgcw.org. Since it will take a few weeks to finalize our Roster, it's a good idea to connect with your Section Leader tonight, so that you have each other's contact information.

The application process includes the opportunity to make a **membership investment** (called "dues" in other organizations). If you need to make alternate financial arrangements, please see our Treasurer, Jane Hoffman. We ask that every chorister contribute according to his/her ability: our goal is 100% participation.

Tonight's rehearsal will include a **voice placement exercise**, to help you determine which part you can sing most beautifully. This exercise is done as a group, so you need not worry about being singled out to sing a solo! If, after the exercise, you are still uncertain as to which part to sing, please ask Paul. He would be happy to meet you privately to help you determine the best part for you to sing.

Most weeks, we print this newsletter, *The Rehearsal Rag* – commonly called just **The Rag**. Please keep up-to-date with the news, instructions, and dates printed in *The Rag*, especially if you miss a rehearsal. (*The Rag* is also available online at www.lgcw.org in the Members' Section.) If you have an article to submit to *The Rag*, please e-mail Paul no later than 8:00 PM on the Sunday night before the edition you wish the article to appear.

At the start of each semester, it is a good idea to remind yourself of the contents of the **LGCW Handbook**, an invaluable resource that outlines our history, traditions, and processes. Copies of this document are available upon request, and the complete Handbook is also available online at www.lgcw.org.

We are still finalizing our **semester repertoire**, with a developing theme of Relationships. If you have repertoire you would like to suggest for inclusion in our developing theme, please see Paul. As always, it is most helpful if repertoire suggestions are already identified as being available in SAB or SATB arrangements. The theme we select – and the repertoire that comprises the theme – will be decided by consensus. We use the **consensus process** for our decision-making in the LGCW. If you are new to the consensus process, please become familiar with it by reviewing the section on Consensus in the chorus Handbook. (This will allow you to participate in our chorus decision-making in the most appropriate and effective manner.)

Please remember that your **assigned music** belongs to the chorus. Please use pencil to record instructions, and please do not write non-music related notes in your scores. Of course, we hope that everyone will remain in the chorus for the entire semester, but we understand that schedule conflicts come up, and one or two of you may end up needing to withdraw early. If you need to withdraw, please return your music immediately, either by dropping it off at rehearsal or by mailing it. Returned music can be reassigned to other singers. Music returned late creates an extra burden on volunteers who file our music.

Free **tutoring** is available every week by appointment. If you need help with note-reading, with vocal exercises, with foreign-language texts, with tricky sections in your part, or any other choral matter, please contact Paul. He would be happy to meet with you ahead of rehearsal to work with you on these matters.

A quick reminder to sections in charge of **set-up**: set-up is to be *completed* by 7:15 in order to facilitate a quiet space for tutoring. Please plan ahead.

[continued...]

We like to have fun, but **fun activities** don't usually appear magically! If you have a great idea for a social event, please organize it! We'd love to participate!

If you know of a singer who is looking for an ensemble home, please encourage him/her to attend one of our rehearsals. We welcome all singers, regardless of previous or recent choral experience. No auditions are required - just a love of singing and a commitment to grow with the ensemble.

Repertoire for Tonight

Tonight, Paul will lead the chorus in a rehearsal of several pieces from our library - pieces which might be included in our developing "Relationships" theme. These pieces are available for distribution tonight - please return them at the end of rehearsal. (We will assign folder numbers and will distribute music by the third rehearsal, Feb. 16.)

- The Best of Times (Jerry Herman, arr. Dave Hughes)
- Fare Well (Randall Thompson)
- The First Kiss (Johannes Brahms, ed. Arnold Freed)
- Frog Went a-Courtin' (arr. A.P. Jackman for the King's Singers)
- Hush, Little Baby (arr. John Blackwood for the King's Singers)
- A Kiss in the Dark (Victor Herbert, arr. Robert Russell Bennett)
- Life is Happiness Indeed (Leonard Bernstein, arr. Robert Page)
- Love Don't Need a Reason (as performed by Holly Near)
- Up Where We Belong (Will Jennings, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Jack Nitzsche, arr. Carl Strommen)
- Wicked - Choral Highlights (Stephen Schwartz, arr. Mark Brymer)

The LGCW in Spring 2010

We welcome back Music Director **Paul Heins** for the second half of his eighth season leading the music of the LGCW. Assisting Paul in sectionals and rehearsals and in performance is Accompanist **Barbara Schelstrate**, now in her third season with the chorus.

Tenor **Rick Mauery** and soprano **Jill Strachan**, who served as our most recent Co-Facilitators, have graciously agreed to assist with some of the arts administration tasks that keep the chorus machine humming. Jill, a founding member of the chorus, is the driving force behind the maintenance of our donor database (a responsibility that includes connecting with our donors after they send in contributions). Additionally, Jill is continuing her service as the LGCW's Grant Writer, a vitally important position that has helped the chorus obtain thousands of dollars in operating funds throughout the years. Rick is the driving force behind the maintenance of our PatronMail database, an e-mail tool that allows the chorus to stay connected with our supporters (about concerts, special events, and fundraising efforts). Rick also frequently shares his artistic talents in the creation of postcards, flyers, and program graphics.

In the past semester, we decided to try operating with a Steering Committee, with all members of the chorus serving on the Steering Committee. Individuals in charge of specific projects will organize and lead efforts related to that project and will report to the Committee as the project progresses.

Returning as our Treasurer is alto **Jane Hoffman**. Alto **Josette Desfayes** returns in her role as Chorus Librarian this season. Tenor **Eric Ziegler** has been filling the role of Chorus Historian, keeping our scrapbooks up-to-date. Bass-on-leave **Greg Bolling** continues to serve as our Web Site Committee Chair (be sure to visit www.lgcw.org to check out Greg's handiwork!). This spring, we will need to select Section Leaders (to help keep the chorus connected and occasionally organize sectionals). We could try having a Soprano/Alto SL and a Tenor/Bass SL.

Our returning singers include **sopranos** Dia, Doris, Jean, and Jill; **altos** Jane, Josette, Lauren, and Tricia (and possibly Amber and Kris?); **tenors** Eric, Lloyd, Peter, Rick, and Ron; and **basses** David, Jeff, and Jeffrey.

Many, many thanks to everyone in the chorus for your valuable contributions to the music we create and the organization we nurture.

Thank You, Choristers!

A hearty thank-you to all choristers who participated in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance at Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church two weeks ago (Tue. Jan. 19). The LGCW joined nine other ensembles in the presentation of a moving and beautiful tribute to the life and legacy of Dr. King. For this performance, the LGCW sang "Up to the Mountain," "All that we Dream" (from *Under the Greenwood Tree*), and the spiritual "Rejoice and Sing." Special thanks and congratulations to Alvin Mayes and Jane Hoffman for performing solos in the spiritual.

Please Return Your F09 Music

Before the end of tonight's rehearsal, please turn in to librarian Josette Desfayes your assigned copies of "Up to the Mountain," "All that we Dream" (from *Under the Greenwood Tree*), and the spiritual "Rejoice and Sing."

REMINDERS...

- All members – new *and* returning – are asked to fill out and submit **membership applications** tonight. Please be sure to indicate if you will be a 2-times-a-month chorister or a 4-times-a-month chorister.
- **Membership investments** may be paid tonight. The regular rate is \$120 per semester. As always, no one is turned away because of an inability to pay the entire membership investment. Our goal is 100% participation.
- **Warm-ups** are critical to the success of our rehearsals and to our long-term growth as an ensemble. Please be on time for this important part of our rehearsal process.
- Have you checked out the **YouTube video** of Jon & James' marriage equality presentation yet? We benefit as an ensemble when all choristers are "in the know." Please check it out at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=omBqOfAylJQ
- We need a **volunteer** to register the LGCW's participation in the 2010 Capital Pride events. See 12/8 *Rag* for details.
- Every bit counts! Register on **iGive** and channel your online purchases through that site to help the chorus raise money. See 12/8 *Rag* for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- Wed. 2/3 - Ysaye Barnwell community sing at CHAW (7:00-9:00 PM). See 12/15 *Rag*.

WINTER/SPRING CALENDAR...

A few notes about the calendar:

- Dates and times are subject to change. Please stay connected to the weekly *Rag* for updates.
- The semester calendar is usually published in *The Rag* the first Tuesday rehearsal of every month during the performance season (September – June). The full season calendar is also online at the Members section of www.lgcw.org.
- **UPDATE on TIMES:** Beginning in February, all listings are at CHAW, 7:15-9:15 PM, unless indicated otherwise.
- **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:** Choristers who are registered for the "Full Ensemble" are required to attend rehearsals on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Choristers who are registered for the "Small Ensemble" are required to attend all rehearsals. Chorus members are invited and encouraged (but not required) to participate in all meetings. All choristers are expected at all performances. Advance notice of planned absences is very much appreciated and helps with planning.
- Sections listed in parentheses are in charge of set-up and providing water for the month indicated. All choristers assist with clean-up.
- Tutoring is available by appointment - contact Paul to schedule a session.

February (Altos)

Tue	2	Open Rehearsal - introduction of music, welcoming new & prospective members
Tue	9	Open Rehearsal - introduction of music, welcoming new & prospective members
Tue	16	Full Ensemble Rehearsal
Tue	23	Small Ensemble Rehearsal

March (Tenors)

Tue	2	Full Ensemble Rehearsal		
Tue	9	Small Ensemble Rehearsal	* Note: Paul will be absent for this rehearsal	
Tue	16	Full Ensemble Rehearsal	* Note: Barbara will be absent this rehearsal	
Tue	23	Small Ensemble Rehearsal		
Tue	30	Full Ensemble Rehearsal	[Passover begins previous evening]	* Note: no Barbara

April (Basses)

Tue	6	Full Ensemble Rehearsal
Tue	13	Small Ensemble Rehearsal
Tue	20	Full Ensemble Rehearsal
Thu	22	Dress Rehearsal with Jon Arterton & James Mack at CHAW (7:15-9:15 PM)
Fri	23	Performance # 1 with Jon Arterton & James Mack at CHAW (8:00 PM; call time at 6:30 PM)
Sat	24	Performance # 2 with Jon Arterton & James Mack at CHAW (2:00 PM; call time at 12:30 PM)
		Performance # 3 with Jon Arterton & James Mack at CHAW (8:00 PM; call time at 6:30 PM)
Tue	27	Small Ensemble Rehearsal

May (Sopranos)

Tue	4	Full Ensemble Rehearsal
Tue	11	Small Ensemble Rehearsal
Tue	18	Full Ensemble Rehearsal
Tue	25	Small Ensemble Rehearsal
Mon	31	<i>Black Pride - LGCW usually sponsors a booth (volunteers needed for booth shifts)</i>

June (Altos)

Tue	1	Full Ensemble Rehearsal	
Tue	8	Small Ensemble Rehearsal	
Sat	12	Performance at Hillwood Museum & Gardens (2:00 PM; call time at 12:15 PM)	←←←←UPDATE
		<i>Capital Pride Parade (step-off at 6:30 PM)</i>	
Sun	13	Performance at Capital Pride Arts Corner (mid-afternoon time TBA)	
		<i>LGCW usually sponsors a booth (volunteers needed for booth shifts)</i>	
Tue	15	Full Ensemble Rehearsal	
Wed	16	Small Ensemble Rehearsal	
Sat	19	Dress Rehearsal at CHPC (10:00 AM-2:00 PM; call time for set-up at 9:15 AM)	
Sun	20	Performance at CHPC (4:00 PM; call time for set-up at 1:30 PM; warm-up at 2:30 PM)	
Tue	22	<i>Annual Meeting</i>	

Special Offer: Ed Wood, a long-time LGCW supporter, member of the LGCW-affiliated ensemble Not What You Think, and DC Realtor will donate 5% of his sales commission to the LGCW for referrals he receives from a member of the chorus family that result in a sale. This offer applies to both sellers and purchasers. If both seller and purchaser in the same transaction are referrals, he will double the contribution, making it 10%. Ed at City Houses: (202) 232-4167.

The Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington, DC (LGCW)

*** CFC # 30249 ***

P.O. Box 65285 / Washington, DC 20035

Chorus Hotline: (202) 546-1549 - call ANYTIME to leave a message

www.lgcw.org

The Rag is usually pub'd for every Tue. rehearsal during the LGCW's concert season. Submissions for *The Rag* are welcome and should be received via e-mail no later than 8:00 PM on Sunday. Send submissions to Paul at music.director@lgcw.org. *The Rag* is also available online at www.lgcw.org