



The Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington

"Every Voice Matters... in a World That Listens"

Our 26th Season

The Rag

February 23, 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. 2/23, at CHAW

- 7:00-7:15 – Set-up of rehearsal space by Altos, begin labeling music
- 7:15-7:25 – Finish labeling music, distribute assigned scores
- 7:25-7:35 - Stretching, breathing exercises, vocal warm-ups
- 7:35-9:15 - Rehearsal of: Fare Well (m. 1-26), Life is Happiness Indeed (m. 50-end), Wicked (m. 145-205)
- 9:15 – all assist with clean-up

NEXT REHEARSALS...

Tue. 3/2, at CHAW (Full)

- 7:00-7:15 – Set-up of rehearsal space by Altos
- 7:15-7:25 - Stretching, breathing exercises, vocal warm-ups
- 7:25-8:15 – Rehearsal of: Wicked (m. 68-144), Fare Well (m. 27-52)
- 8:15-9:15 - MFB
- 9:15 – all assist with clean-up

Then...

- Tue. 3/9 (Small)
- Tue. 3/16 (Full)

NEWS...

Catching Up

If you missed one of our two Open Rehearsals, please obtain a copy of the first *Rag*, as it contains a great deal of important start-of-semester information. *The Rag* is always available online at www.lgcw.org. From the main page, click on the third button down on the right-hand side ("Latest Newsletter"). A few reminders:

- We need your **membership applications**.
- Please include your **membership investment** on your application form. We ask that every chorister contribute according to his/her ability: our goal is 100% participation.
- If you are new tonight and uncertain of your **voice placement** (i.e., which part to sing), please connect with music director Paul Heins before you leave.
- If you need help with music-reading and would like to work with Paul Heins, please connect with him to arrange tutoring.

Spring Semester Repertoire (Proposal)

It has been challenging finalizing the semester repertoire because we have not heard from everyone regarding his/her intent to sing. If you have not yet completed a membership application, please do so tonight, as this information is critical to our rehearsal and performance planning.

Theme: Our developing theme centers around Relationships. A practical reason this topic was chosen was to mesh our S10 repertoire well with the program being developed for our performance with Jon Arterton and James Mack (see Semester Calendar). The Jon & James program will highlight marriage, but our S10 program can be broader in scope, addressing relationships with family and friends, with work and interests, with our beliefs and values, etc.

Pieces marked with an asterisk (*) are available for pick-up tonight:

Full Ensemble Pieces - to be included in rehearsals **two** times per month

- Everything Possible (Fred Small)
- Fare Well (Randall Thompson) *
- Life is Happiness Indeed (Leonard Bernstein, arr. Robert Page) *
- Up Where We Belong (Will Jennings, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Jack Nitzsche, arr. Carl Strommen) *
- *Wicked* - Choral Highlights (Stephen Schwartz, arr. Mark Brymer) *

Small Ensemble Pieces - to be included in rehearsals **four** times a month

- (NEW) The Arrow and the Song (music: John S. Dixon, text: H.W. Longfellow) - about finding friendship cost is \$1.75 each (x 15 = \$26.25)
- The Best of Times (Jerry Herman, arr. Dave Hughes) *
- The First Kiss (Johannes Brahms, ed. Arnold Freed) *
- Frog Went a-Courtin' (arr. A.P. Jackman for the King's Singers) *
- (NEW) We are Made for Music (Joseph M. Martin) - about the relationship between humanity and nature cost is \$1.90 each (x 15 = \$28.50)
- (NEW) We Can Be Kind (David Friedman, arr. Kirby Shaw) - about our common needs and propensities cost is \$2.25 each (x 15 = \$33.75)
- (NEW) We Shall Be Free (Stephanie Davis, Garth Brooks, arr. Keith Christopher) - about working together to solve the world's problems, creating a world that is free for everyone cost is \$1.80 each (x 15 = \$27.00)

The following pieces are probably best saved for another time:

- Hush, Little Baby (arr. John Blackwood for the King's Singers) - many divisis
- A Kiss in the Dark (Victor Herbert, arr. R.R. Bennett) - requires a very high tenor or soprano soloist
- Love Don't Need a Reason (as performed by Holly Near) - we only own the choral acc. (i.e., we do not own the full music)

NWYT Offers to Join LGCW for Jon & James Performances

Not What You Think, an a cappella ensemble that had its origins in the LGCW, has offered to contribute music to the LGCW's April 23-24 performances with Jon Arterton and James Mack. NWYT suggests the following pieces from their repertoire:

- Shooting Star (a Cris Williamson song which The Flirtations sang on their first CD; Jon was a member of The Flirtations)
- Can't Buy Me Love (Beatles)
- Obladi, Oblada (rewritten verses reflect same sex couples)
- When You Are Old
- Kiss Him Goodbye

S10 Folder Numbers

Please remember that "your" music is not really "your" music. It is paid for by and belongs to the LGCW. Please be sure to return your assigned scores when requested (usually at the end of the semester). If at some point in the semester, you find you are not able to continue singing with us, we greatly appreciate the return of your music within 1-2 weeks. This makes re-filing much easier.

The following are folder assignments for S10. If you have indicated that you will be singing with us **two** times a month, you will see "full" next to your name, meaning your attendance is needed at Full Ensemble Rehearsals. If you have indicated that you will be singing with us **four** times a month, you will see "small" next to your name, meaning your attendance is needed at Small Ensemble Rehearsals. Please note the rehearsal schedule (listed in *The Rag*).

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Music Director (small) | 12. Mercado, Manny (small) |
| 2. Accompanist (small) | 13. Michels, Dia (_____) |
| 3. DeHart, Jeffrey (small) | 14. Peavler, Tricia (small) |
| 4. Duff, Penny (small) | 15. Sherwood, Jeff (small) |
| 5. Feuer, David (small) | 16. Walters, Spike (small) |
| 6. Gilliland, Ron (small) | 17. Werwie, Doris (full) |
| 7. Godwin, Jean (small) | 18. _____ (_____) |
| 8. Hoffman, Jane (full) | 19. _____ (_____) |
| 9. Mauery, Rick (small) | 20. _____ (_____) |
| 10. Mayes, Alvin (small) | 21. _____ (_____) |
| 11. McCullough, Kathryn (_____) | 22. _____ (_____) |

Thank You, Donors!

The LGCW extends its sincere thanks to Brother Help Thyself for renewing its support of our music-purchasing via a \$2000 award, presented recently. We also extend our thanks to the following individuals who made recent contributions to the work of the chorus: John & Laurie Klinovsky, Bruce Lederer, Elizabeth McCluskey, Michael Vreeland, and Jeff Davis. (These individual donations totaled \$775!) Thank you!!!

Next Week: Meeting on Resources vs. Goals

Next Tuesday, March 2, we will rehearse music for the first hour (7:15-8:15 PM). Following that, an LGCW Meeting for Business will be held in our rehearsal space to discuss the following question: "In view of our current number and configuration of singers, do we have the human resources, commitment, and energy (both musically and organizationally) to continue operations?" This is an important discussion in light of projections that show our organization's membership to be very small this semester. All LGCW members are invited to attend and encouraged to participate in the discussion. Rick Mauery has agreed to facilitate the discussion.

Tonight: Financial Report Available

Treasurer Jane Hoffman has prepared a financial report outlining the current status and projected expenses for the semester. Copies are available from Jane at tonight's rehearsal.

Please Return Your F09 Music

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

Librarian Needed

Alto Josette Desfayes will continue working on the cataloguing of LGCW's extensive music library this semester, but in her absence on rehearsal nights, we need a librarian to take over these tasks:

- Distribute music to visitors throughout the semester. This is an especially important part of our goal to make the LGCW welcoming to newcomers, as it facilitates a visitor's meaningful engagement in the rehearsal. This is not a task that is easily taken over by the Music Director, because it takes him away from leading rehearsal (especially when a visitor arrives right at the start of rehearsal or after rehearsal has begun). Ideally, the librarian would be "on the lookout" for new faces, greet visitors and give them a copy of the week's *Rag*, direct them to an appropriate section to sing, and obtain loaner copies of the scores being rehearsed that evening (then collect and re-file the scores at the end of rehearsal).
- Provide music to choristers as needed. There are occasionally times when a chorister forgets his/her music, and having a loaner score for each piece to be rehearsed allows him/her to participate confidently and with good singing posture (i.e., not leaning over to read another chorister's music). There are also times when choristers lose their music and need replacement copies. Ideally, the librarian would be the "go to" person for choristers to obtain loaner or replacement music. The librarian would collect and re-file loaner scores at the end of rehearsal and would make note of replacement copies provided for lost music.

- Help organize the collection and re-filing of music. At the end of a semester, we need to collect from each chorister his/her assigned music (easy to do) and then re-file it (takes some time). Music new to the library needs to be organized into a Gamble box or a file folder (and occasionally, we need to order new Gamble boxes and file folders). The re-filing can be a multi-person project, but a librarian is needed to head up the effort, and make sure that consistency of filing is maintained.
- Other! When Josette is finished creating the paper files of all the music we own, we need to organize that information into a database such as Excel. As part of that effort, we could create new labels for our Gamble boxes and file folders (as the ones originally created were intended to be temporary and should be replaced with labels that are long-lasting and have information that is precise and easy-to-read.)

Our music library is perhaps our most valuable non-human resource. If you can help with any of these tasks, please step forward right away! Your help is greatly appreciated.

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 (full ensemble) or a 4-times-a-month chorister (small ensemble).
- **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=omBqOfAyIJQ
- Last chance: We need a **volunteer** to register the LGCW's participation in the 2010 Capital Pride events. See 12/8 *Rag* for details. (All past *Rags* are archived on the LGCW web site: www.lgcw.org.)
- 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. (All past *Rags* are archived on the LGCW web site: www.lgcw.org.)

TRANSITIONS...

- Alto **Josette Desfayes** is not able to sing with the LGCW this semester due to extensive travel. She extends her best wishes to the chorus and indicates that she will be back to hear the spring concert in mid-June. Josette has also offered to continue her work cataloging the LGCW's music library.
- Alto **Amber Pearson** is not able to sing with the LGCW this semester due to conflicting rehearsal schedules with the Alexandria Singers. She writes that she "will continue to support the LGCW in any way I can, and will attend concerts and fundraisers." Amber invites LGCW members to attend the Alexandria Singers' first annual "Winter Cabaret" on February 27 (8:00 PM) at the First Baptist Church of Alexandria. For more info, visit: www.alexandriasingers.com.
- Soprano **Jill Strachan** writes: "I wanted to let you know that I am not going to sing in the LGCW this spring. After more than 25 years, I need a bit of a break. I will stay involved with my various LGCW tasks, which include production, so I will certainly see you. Please know that my heart is with you. I will miss my Tuesday evenings with you and will miss singing with Jon and James, an event that will be a significant gift to our community. You will be well taken care of by the wonderful artistic hands of Paul and Barbara, so you will have a great time. Please be in touch. Thank you for bringing your voice to the LGCW, a unique organization with a special place in the world. -- Jill"

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- Fri. 2/26 (7:00 PM) - Vocal-Piano concert by Nancy Almquist & Jeffery Watson, CHAW. (See 2/23 *Rag*)
- Sun. 2/28 (5:00 PM) - Third Millennium Ensemble concert, River Road Unitarian Church. (See 2/23 *Rag*)
- Sun. 2/28 (7:00 PM) - National Master Chorale concert, National Presbyterian Church. (See 2/23 *Rag*)
- Through March 7 - *Once on This Island*, UUCA. (See 2/23 *Rag*)

CHAW Presents Vocal-Piano Duo This Friday (Feb. 26)

The Capitol Hill Arts Workshop (CHAW) is presenting soprano Nancy Almquist and pianist Jeffery Watson in a special concert of classical and jazz music on Friday, February 26 (7:00 PM). Highlights of the concert include: "*Quatre chansons de jeunesse*" by Claude Debussy, "Cantata" by John Carter, and favorites such as "Over the Rainbow," and "Stardust." Almquist and Watson have already presented this program in Chicago and will travel to Paris in March 2010 for another presentation. For bios on the artists, additional information about the program, and to purchase tickets, visit www.chaw.org. Tickets for the concert are \$15; advance purchase is recommended. You may also purchase tickets by calling (202) 547-6839 or by e-mailing victor@chaw.org.

Barbara Schelstrate Leads Arlington Production of *Once on This Island*

Once on This Island, a musical by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, is being presented by the Chalice Theater of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington (4444 Arlington Blvd, Arlington, VA) through March 7. The production is under the musical direction of LGCW's very own Barbara Schelstrate, and features actors John Bohman, Tori Clodfelter, and Tom Michalisko (known to LGCW folks through their participation in summer G&S productions). Trudi Olivetti, who sang with the LGCW in our premiere of Convery's *Under the Greenwood Tree* last year, is the producer.

The production runs February 19 through March 7, with performances on Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 3:00 PM. An additional Matinee performance will take place on Saturday, March 6 at 3:00 PM. Tickets are \$20 (adults) and \$15 (students and seniors). For reservations, call: (703) 892-0202 ext. 6.

Third Millennium Ensemble to Present Winter Concert Feb. 28

"Beyond the Horizon" is the title of The Third Millennium Ensemble's winter concert on Sunday February 28 (5:00 PM), at River Road Unitarian Church (new location), 6301 River Rd. / Bethesda, MD. The ensemble, which is led by clarinetist Pamela Helton (who collaborated with the LGCW several seasons ago), will present works by George Crumb, Suzanne Sorkin, Carter Pann, and Luciano Berio. For tickets and additional information, visit www.thirdmillenniumensemble.org.

Morten Lauridsen to be Featured at Inaugural Concert of National Master Chorale Feb. 28

The National Master Chorale, led by Tom Colohan, will present its inaugural concert at the National Presbyterian Church on Sunday, February 28 (7:00 PM). The 20th-century program, entitled "Winter into Spring" will explore themes of Winter, Spring, transition, and transformation through choral works of Poulenc, Hindemith, Copland, Morten Lauridsen, and others. The evening will feature Morten Lauridsen's first choral cycle, *Mid-Winter Songs*, and a pre-concert talk by the esteemed composer. For tickets and additional information, visit: www.nationalmasterchorale.org.

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 23 Music Distribution / 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 *Black Pride - LGCW usually sponsors a booth (volunteers needed for booth shifts)*

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)
Capital Pride Parade (step-off at 6:30 PM)
Sun 13 **Performance** at Capital Pride Arts Corner (mid-afternoon time TBA)
LGCW usually sponsors a booth (volunteers needed for booth shifts)
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 *Annual Meeting*

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