



The Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington

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

Our 26th Season

The Rag

March 23, 2010

March: Tenors 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. 3/23, at CHAW

- 7:00-7:15 – Set-up by Tenors
- 7:15-7:25 - Stretching, breathing exercises, vocal warm-ups
- 7:25-7:50 - We Are Made for Music *
- 7:50-8:15 - We Shall Be Free *
- 8:15-8:40 - We Can Be Kind *
- 8:40-9:15 - Everything Possible *
- 9:15 – all assist with clean-up

* distributed tonight

NEXT REHEARSAL...

Tue. 3/30, at CHAW

- 7:00-7:15 – Set-up by Tenors
- 7:15-7:25 - Stretching, breathing exercises, vocal warm-ups
- 7:25-9:15 – TBA (please stay tuned to e-mail)
- 9:15 – all assist with clean-up

NEWS...

Responses from the LGCW Community

From conductor Frank Albinder:

...I've already put June 20th on my calendar... [W]hile it's never good to see a chorus fade away, I think it's really positive when you think about how gay choruses came into existence, and how much of the work they did helped push along so much positive change!

From composer and performer Ysaye Barnwell:

[The departure of the LGCW] will leave a hole in the fabric of DC but I understand that things change. The positive note is that in fact, there are more opportunities for GLBT people that when you were founded 26 years ago. I am proud to have been part of the life of the choir in many ways over the years, and am grateful that you have supported me by doing music that I have written, and given me the opportunity to work with the choir directly. Unfortunately, I will [not be able to attend any of the spring performances]. Know that I am there in spirit for all of the performances. Please give my regards to Jon Arterton and James. They have been attending my workshop at Rowe (in Mass.) for at least the past 5-6 years and I will be sorry to miss them... I wish you and all members of the choir much success.

From A. Peter Burleigh, long-time supporter and guest speaker at the LGCW's performance of Hanson's "Song of Human Rights":

I was really saddened... [b]ut I was also struck with the reasons for the slow demise and I guess should take heart from at least some of them. It would be fun to come up for the June 20th farewell and I will try to do so.

From composer Robert Convery:

LGCW has been such an immeasurably valuable part of the community of social consciousness through the shared experience of music. Your presence in your community, and beyond your community, these past 26 years, cannot be described in words regarding your impact on people changing ways of thinking through a medium which connects people. It is HUGE! I remember you have been thinking about doing this for a while. I hope you are not too sad. It is like losing the home for a family. Luckily the family won't be lost. Those ties are quite solid. And the past 26 years have produced and contributed many, many important and meaningful experiences for thousands of people. I am right in the front of the line to bear witness to this fact!

From supporters Dan & Coy, in Syracuse, NY:

Our reactions are mixed: mainly surprise and regret. But also pride for what LGCW did and stood for over the years -- a history that inspired uncounted audiences near and far, we as fans among them. We are pleased to note that, appropriately, the LGCW winds up the present chapter of its history singing. We look forward to learning what good and enriching accomplishments the always energetic and resourceful singers-on-break will turn to in the future. We'll stay tuned. Best wishes to all.

From Fred Fishman, founding member:

Sad news indeed. But, to hold it rather philosophically, all things come to an end, and if one lives long enough, one gets to see and experience this fact in a personal way, over and over again. We certainly did have some great times, and although there were difficult and painful moments, my main memories are of joy, empowerment, learning, growth, friendship, and satisfaction. What could be better than that?

From Pamela Jafari, frequent host of the MLK Remembrance at CHPC:

You all have such a lovely and loving aura that emanates from the group when you're singing.

From John Klinovsky, long-time audience member (he attended every concert but one!):

[The news is] bittersweet, but with some good implications, as noted... It's been a long time since the Friends meeting house in Georgetown!!!

From David Pearl, former pianist/MD for Suede:

I... was sad to learn the chorus will be closing up shop for now. I wanted to extend my warm wishes to you all, and thank you for all the collaborations I shared with you. I remember you all fondly, and am proud to have performed with you.

From Rebecca Singer at Hillwood:

Thank you so much for sharing this news with me. I am sad to learn that the LGCW will be disbanding following your annual spring concert, though I am heartened by the valuable perspective you offer with the reminder of the many more opportunities now available to the GLBT community, as compared with the time of the Chorus' founding. The LGCW has certainly played an important role in supporting and promoting those advances during its impressive 26-year (over a quarter of a century!) history. We also look forward to your return to Hillwood this June, and we are honored to be a part of the LGCW's farewell tour.

From Alex Tang, former LGCW accompanist:

I will check my schedule and hope I can attend at least one of the closing concerts. Best wishes to you and the rest of LGCW.

From Mark Vogel, former LGCW accompanist:

So sorry to hear the news. LGCW has been an amazing organization, and can be proud of its history. I'm proud to have been a small part. I've put the June 20 concert in my book - I'll be there!

From Denise Woods, who facilitated discussions about our organizational changes last year:

I want you to know I am imagining how emotional this must be though I am not sure of all the emotions you are having! I can picture all of you talking about this and how good and hard it was. I think the positive that you highlighted speaks volumes about the organization. I hope to come to your April 23rd [concert] as it sounds fab! Peace and hugs.

Paul also received replies from Nevin Bender (former LGCW accompanist), Cory Davis (staffer at Chorus America), and supporter Doree Huneven, and the chorus received a reply from former alto Anna Ravegum and an offer from former alto Nan Raphael to play flute at one of our final concerts if needed.

We also heard back from web site manager Greg Bolling that he can create a blog for the posting of LGCW memories.

NWYT Offers to Sing on Final Concert

Not What You Think, which just performed a program entitled "Let Us Rise in Love" at CHAW (last weekend), has offered to contribute a set of songs to our June 20 final concert.

Keyboard Resource

As a follow-up to the suggestion last week to make use of online keyboards to help you in your at-home rehearsal, Jeff Sherwood located the following resources that may be of interest to you:

- http://www.bgfl.org/bgfl/custom/resources_ftp/client ftp/ks2/music/piano/index.htm (a 1.5 octave keyboard, uses the keyboard or the mouse)
- <http://www.virtualpiano.net/> (5 octave keyboard, uses the mouse)

TRANSITIONS...

- Bob Powers, a former LGCW singer, contacted the LGCW to inform us that **Mischelle McCray**, a former chorus member, passed away Monday, March 15, at Alexandria Hospital. Arrangements are pending notification of next of kin. Bob will keep the chorus posted, and in the mean time, please keep the family and friends of Mischelle in your thoughts.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- Fri. March 26 (5:30-7:30 PM) - Choral Workshop by the GU Concert Choir, at Georgetown University. (See 3/16 *Rag*)
- Fri. March 26 & Sat. March 27 (8:00 PM) - "CHAWbaret 7," featuring Barbara Schelstrate & Rick Mauery, at CHAW. (See 3/2 *Rag*)
- Sat. April 10 & Mon. April 12 - auditions for *The Mikado*, at CHAW. (See 3/16 *Rag*)

THE FULL CALENDAR was last posted in the 2/23 edition of *The Rag*. It is always available online at www.lgcw.org.

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