



The Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington

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

Our 26th Season

The Rag

May 18, 2010

May: Sopranos 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. 5/18, at CHAW (7:15-9:15 PM)
 • 7:00-7:15 – Set-up by Sopranos
 • 7:15-7:25 - Stretching, breathing exercises, vocal warm-ups
 • 7:25-7:45 – "We Can Be Kind" **FROM MEMORY** + run-through of "We Shall Be Free"
 • 7:45-8:15 – "Baby Bear's Lament"
 • 8:15-8:30 – "Fare Well"
 • 8:30-9:00 – Review of "First Kiss," "Frog..." "Life is Happiness..." "Up Where..." and "Everything Possible"
 • 9:00-9:15 – photos
 • 9:15 – all assist with clean-up

NEXT REHEARSAL...

Tue. 5/25, at CHAW (7:15-9:15 PM)
 • 7:00-7:15 – Set-up by Sopranos
 • 7:15-7:25 - Stretching, breathing exercises, vocal warm-ups
 • 7:25-7:45 – "Wanting Memories"
 • 7:45-8:30 – *Wicked*, including "For Good" duet
 • 8:30-9:00 – "The Best of Times"
 • 9:00-9:15 – review, sing-through
 • 9:15 – all assist with clean-up

* Rehearsal Plan is subject to change if we are able to schedule a rehearsal with Janne & Miako.

NEWS...

Soprano and Alto Sectionals Planned

Many thanks to Jean Godwin and Josette Desfayes for arranging the Soprano and Alto sectionals, which will take place at the home of Paul Heins. Paul's complex (Beekman Place) is at the corner of 16th & Belmont Sts., NW – just west of Meridian Hill Park. The S2 and S4 buses run up and down 16th St. and it is about a 15-minute walk from DuPont Circle Metro. Please see the online roster for the exact address and for Paul's home phone number. (Press 252 at the gate to be buzzed in.) The Soprano sectional will take place Monday, May 24, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. The Alto sectional will take place Thursday, June 3, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

Thursday: Deadline for Bio and Questionnaire Responses

Please remember to submit (via e-mail) your bio and questionnaire responses to Paul by Thursday, May 20. Details (including the questionnaire questions) are in the 4/27 edition of *The Rag* and were e-mailed to you last week.

From the Mail Bag

Mark Bowman, LGCW Music Director (1985-1992) sent his regrets; he won't be able to attend the last concert. He was very sad to read the news and writes: "But I will always think of the years with LGCW as probably the most artistically creative in my life. ... We created some powerful musical experiences together and touched many persons' lives. Again what a gift!"

Planning for Final Concert

To keep everyone in the loop about what has been going on behind the scenes (and what needs to be done) in preparation for our spring performances at Hillwood (June 12) and at CHPC (June 20):

- **"Baby Bear's Lament"**: Paul has contacted composer Robert Convery about the "definitive" version of "Baby Bear's Lament," since we have encountered discrepancies in the various scores we have been using.
 - **Follow-up / To Do**: Bob sent Paul a definitive version, which has been copied and is available for your pick-up this evening. We will rehearse and perform from the scores distributed this evening. Also: Bob is coming to the concert!
- **Suede**: Suede has been contacted regarding (1) the proposed division of "We Can Be Kind" and "We Shall Be Free" into solo and chorus parts; (2) her need for amplification; and (3) her interest in performing a solo set.
 - **Follow-up / To Do**: (1) Anne Collins is making a digital recording tonight of "We Can Be Kind" and "We Shall be Free," which we will send to Suede so that she has a good sense of how this particular arrangement is performed by our ensemble. (2) If Suede indicates she will need amplification, we will need to arrange for this (and for the funding of it). (3) If Suede is interested in performing a solo set, we will need to arrange for her accompaniment and will need to get copies of her music to our ASL interpreters.
- **ASL**: Mindy Lanie, our regular interpreter for the last few seasons, has been contacted about interpreting the June 20 concert. We very humbly asked her if she would be willing to interpret the concert for a reduced fee in light of the winding down of our budget.
 - **Follow-up / To Do**: Mindy graciously responded that she will interpret the concert for a reduced fee. We need to send Mindy an approximate timing of the program (Paul can work on this) and we need to send her copies of all the pieces to be performed, including music that will be sung by Nuance and NWYT. We need a volunteer to collect this music and mail it to Mindy. (Jill can provide you with the address.)
- **Performing "We Can Be Kind" with ASL**: Janne Harrelson, of NWYT, has graciously agreed to co-teach us ASL for the refrains of "We Can Be Kind." Tonight's goal is to have the piece memorized so that we are ready to incorporate ASL gestures when Janne is available to join us at a rehearsal.
 - **Follow-up / To Do**: Janne is working with her colleague Miako Villaneuva to develop an artistic interpretation of the refrain of this song. Janne will be in touch with Paul soon about a Tuesday rehearsal when she and/or Miako can join us to teach us the gestures. Please stay connected with the lyrics and your part so that you will be ready to go.
- **Performing *Wicked* with Additional Instruments**: Paul has contacted Ginger Starling and her band Wicked Jezabel to see if they would perform with us (i.e., adding bass, drums, electronic piano to our interpretation).

- Follow-up / To Do: Ginger responded positively, but indicated that she would need to check with fellow band members (re: their availability), since June 20 is also the day of Baltimore Pride, and the band usually performs at that event. If Wicked Jezabel is not available, it would be great to pursue another group of instrumentalists to add to this particular piece. Please see Paul if you have suggestions.
- Performing "The Arrow and the Song" with Flute: Paul has contacted flutist Nan Raphael about playing flute on this piece.
 - Follow-up / To Do: Nan has agreed to play, and will pick up the music from CHAW tonight between 7:00 and 7:15. We will need to plan a rehearsal or two with Nan.
- Hillwood vs. CHPC: We will need to modify "We Can Be Kind" and "We Shall Be Free" for our June 12 program at Hillwood, because we will not have Suede to sing the solos for these songs.
 - Follow-up / To Do: We need volunteer(s) to sing the solos for these two pieces. Please connect with Paul if you are interested.
- Press Release, Comp Ticket Letters, and Flyer: Jill and Rick have created the press release, comp ticket letters, and flyer for the concert.
 - Follow-up / To Do: It is up to us to heavily promote this important concert. Please print out the flyer Rick e-mailed you and post it at places you frequent, such as: the gym, hair salon, grocery store, house of worship, community center, coffee shop, etc. If you have a success story to share about selling tickets, please contact Paul so he can include it in *The Rag* and inspire others with it. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door and are available at www.lgcw.org and by calling (202) 546-1549. All tickets will be held at the door. There is a post-concert reception for singers and audience members.

Mass Practice vs. Distributed Practice

Have you ever heard of "Mass Practice" versus "Distributed Practice"? Another word for "Mass Practice" is *cramming*. Most of us probably experienced Mass Practice in college, the night before a big exam that we procrastinated studying for. In contrast, "Distributed Practice" is the acquisition of knowledge and skills over time (i.e., studying 2 hours every night for the week leading up to the big exam). Mass Practice can work when you are memorizing dates and information, but it does not work in the development of *skills* such as choral singing. To develop your voice so that you contribute positively and reliably to the ensemble sound, you need to plan a regimen of Distributed Practice. Practicing a little bit every day is the most efficient and effective way to train your mind, eyes, ear, and vocal folds to work together to create beautiful music.

We are in a unique and honored position to offer the final series of concerts of a venerable and life-changing institution, the Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington. It is important for our concerts to be artistically outstanding, so that our music-making continues to ring joyfully in the ears of our audience long after we are gone from the stage. Please consider committing to a regimen of Distributed Practice this last month of rehearsals, for (as Lincoln would say) "ourselves and our posterity."

LGCW Soprano Published!

LGCW Soprano Dia Michels, who runs Science, Naturally, just published her first math books. These books are designed to make math fun and accessible for kids 10-14. In *One Minute Mysteries: 65 Short Mysteries You Solve with Math!* readers solve short word problems using nothing but a few clues and their critical thinking skills. Our very own Alvin Mayes is quoted on page 1 saying, "As a former high school math teacher, I love that this book carries mathematics out of the world of the elite and translates it into a language we can all understand." Also, hot off the press is *101 Things Everyone Should Know About Math*, which uses a question-answer format to show kids how math connects to everyday life. These are both sequels to the award-winning first books in each series on science. Each book retails for \$9.95. Chorus members can get any of them for half price. Pick them up from Dia or order at www.ScienceNaturally.com using the coupon code AB5.

CHAW Paint Bucket Campaign Underway

The Capitol Hill Arts Workshop is currently engaged in its annual Paint Bucket Campaign -- CHAW is raising \$40,000 in 40 days (through June 15) in support of its tuition assistance program. Last year, CHAW was able to provide \$60,000 in tuition assistance; 93% went to children who could not otherwise access the arts. CHAW is proud to say that we have never turned a child away for inability to pay. Children who engage in the arts learn many important life skills, including the ability to problem-solve, to negotiate, and to complete a project. This path leads to self-confidence and positive engagement with society.

To make a donation, click on www.chaw.org/paintbucket, which will take you to Network for Good. In a manner of a few minutes, you can make a secure, tax-deductible contribution and receive a tax receipt.

REMINDERS...

- Pick up new versions of "Baby Bear's Lament" and "The Best of Times" tonight.
- May 20: Bio and questionnaire responses due for the printed program. (See 4/27 *Rag* for details.)
- Print out the Concert Flyer e-mailed to you from Rick. Post it around your community. Sell tickets!
- Practice your music to the fullest extent you can in between rehearsals. Your efforts between rehearsals will maximize our efforts in rehearsal and will facilitate an outstanding series of performances.

THE FULL CALENDAR was last posted in the 5/11 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 ***

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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