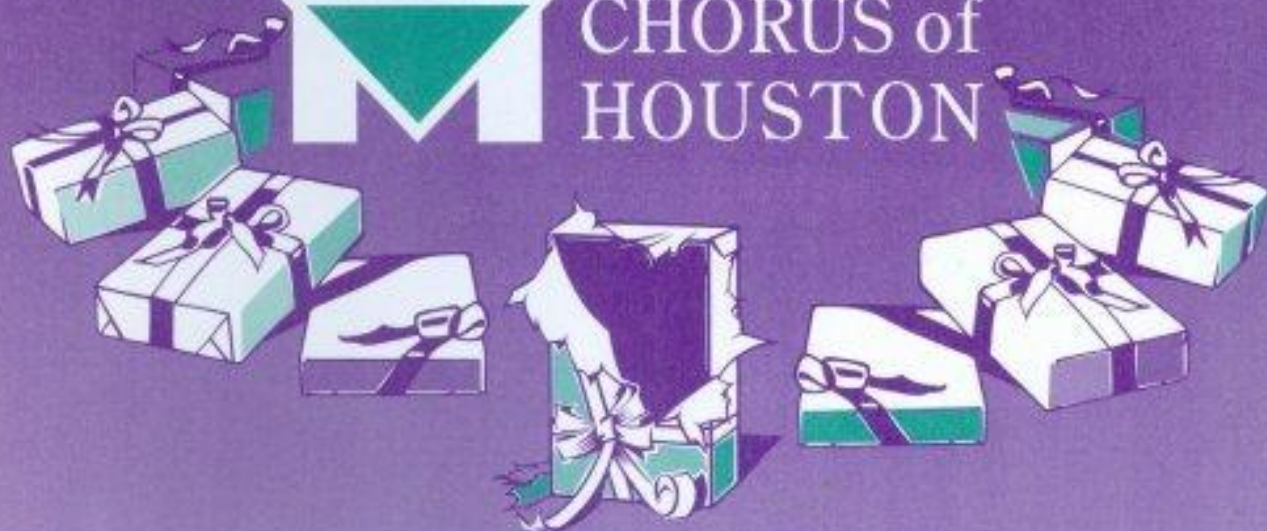




A Season For Us All '93



GAY MEN'S
CHORUS of
HOUSTON



with

HeartSong: Houston's Women's Chorus

New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus

Tapestry Singers: The Austin Women's Chorus



Wortham Center Cullen Theater
Saturday, December 11, 1993, 7 P.M.

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston

The recent success of Houston's gay chorus has been a hard-fought battle. The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston was founded as the Montrose Singers in November of 1979—the year following the murder of Harvey Milk and the forming of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. The Houston ensemble was at first quite successful. Early concerts included lavish productions at the Tower Theatre, with as many as 80 singing members.

The early 1980s were not kind to Houston, as the city suffered from AIDS, the Oil Bust, and the repeal of the anti-discrimination ordinance. While San Francisco's 1981 national tour had encouraged the flourishing of a new gay and lesbian choral movement, the Montrose Singers were in decline. By 1989 there were only six singers.

Boosted a little by the national tour of Heartstrings and held together by such stalwart members as Jeff Cothran and Jason Cabot, the Montrose Singers began to rebound in 1990. The group reincorporated, grew to more than 15 members, staged concerts at the University of St. Thomas, and traveled to Vancouver for the Gay Games III and Cultural Festival.

During the summer of 1992 the chorus experienced an epiphany during the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses Festival in Denver. The group re-evaluated its structure, operations, and mission with regard to the needs of its community, and determined that Houston must have one of the top gay men's choruses. Reorganized as the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, the ensemble set out to provide excellent performances of carefully selected music in order to provide positive visibility for the lesbian and gay community.

GMCH enters its fifteenth season with 60 singing members and has established a tradition of filling the house for high-quality performances at Hamman Hall and the Wortham Center. The chorus is helping to fill Houston's need for institutions which provide a source of pride for lesbian and gay people and which command the respect of the general community.

JOHN-MICHAEL ALBERT, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

John-Michael Albert has devoted himself to the study and performance of music for more than 20 years. He has demonstrated his musical skills as a scholar, singer, instrumentalist, composer, arranger, and director.

Founder of three musical groups, Mr. Albert has performed—on two continents—a wide range of music, from Renaissance motets to Romanovsky and Phillips. As well as noted solo work, he has performed with numerous ensembles, including The Cecilian Trio, Sewanee's University Choir, Colloquium Canticum, St. Phillip's Episcopal Cathedral Choir in Atlanta, First Unitarian-Universalist Church Choir in Houston, the Bach Vesper Society, and the *Mike and Kathy Show* with partner Kathy Biehl.

Mr. Albert has composed nearly 30 original pieces for voice and instrument and arranged numerous other works. Four of his compositions have been commissioned choral works, which are gaining a national reputation for the long-time Houstonian.

He graduated with honors from the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee, where he studied music theory and history. In addition to master's classes in choral conducting at the University of Houston, he has had private instruction in piano and recorder.

Appointed artistic director of GMCH in October 1992, Mr. Albert has seen the chorus triple in size while its concert audience has quadrupled. He is leading the chorus, now in its fifteenth season, to take its place among the finest gay men's choruses in North America.

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LAWRENCE JACKSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The board of directors appointed Lawrence Jackson as GMCH's first executive director in July 1993. He had previously served the chorus in volunteer positions as treasurer, vice president for membership, and president. He is also a former president of the Houston Outdoor Group and former board member of Mishpachah Alizim.

Mr. Jackson holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of South Carolina and a bachelor of arts degree in government from the University of Texas. He has worked for Texas Commerce Bank, University of Texas-M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, and Delta Upsilon International Fraternity.

A singer for nearly 20 years, Mr. Jackson sang with five choral groups while in high school and performed with the University of Texas Longhorn Singers as an undergraduate. He has been a member of GMCH since 1990.

ROB SIEGEL, ACCOMPANIST

Rob Siegel was born on Long Island, New York, and was raised in New Orleans. He attended school in New Orleans and at Oberlin College. He received his master's degree in music from the University of Houston. Mr. Siegel has appeared several times as soloist with the New Orleans Symphony and has accompanied the New Orleans Opera. He was a concerto winner with the University Orchestra at Interlochen, Michigan. During his ten years in Houston, Mr. Siegel has worked as a piano instructor, music therapist, and chamber music accompanist. He currently teaches English for H.I.S.D. and continues work as a freelance pianist. The *Out (Together!) and Proud* concert in June 1993 marked his debut with GMCH.

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston Administration

Executive Committee, 1993-94

Rex Gillit, President
Thomas Chelena, Vice President for Membership
Richard Spierito, Vice President for Performance
Ken Hayes, Vice President for Public Relations
Ken Hansen, Secretary
Michael Hunter, Treasurer

Board of Directors, 1993-94

Suzanne Anderson
Mario Ballesteros
Rex Gillit
Wayne Gray
Robert Harris
David Moorhead
Jim Richardson
Robert Seiler
Richard Spierito

Staff

John-Michael Albert, Artistic Director
Lawrence Jackson, Executive Director
Rob Siegel, Accompanist

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Gay Men's Chorus of Houston Singing Members

First Tenors

Bob Carrington
Thomas Chelena
Bob Dieker
David Gebo
Edward F. Gumnick
Ken Hansen
Michael Hunter
Tony LaCorte
Donley Matthew
Larry Powlesland
Zachary Steele

Baritones

Jean-Louis Amand
Jack Bell
Glenn Edwards
Rex Gillit
Javier I. Gutierrez
John Kemp
Daniel J. Kriley
David Leatham
Henry Lopez
Daniel Malachowski
Robert Martinez
Mike Nelson
Russell Sanders
Robert Schaeffer
Richard Spierto
Charles Trussell
Bob Wilcox

Second Tenors

Marlon Bourque
Jason Cabot
George Calbillo
David Collins
Mark Collins
Bob Earleywine
Stephen Julien
Bill Keller
Robert Seiler
Michael Springer
Jeffrey Wade
Larry White
Paul Zoch

Basses

B. J. Almond
Tim Baker
Ray Cologna
Mike DeMastry
Kenneth Hayes
Lawrence Jackson
Carlton Kielman
Mike McNamara
David Neu
John Sandstrom
Richard J. Sarno
David Weber
Clint Young
Chuck Zickerman

Sign Interpreters

David Haynes
Victor Valderas

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston is a member of GALA Choruses and
the Cultural Arts Council of Houston.

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In loving memory of these Gay Men's Chorus
of Houston members who are no
longer with us:

First Tenors

Jeff Baty
Dennis Dunwoody
Tom Gough
Dan Jones
Terry Jones
Vic Morrison
Kent Naas
Carl Sibley

Baritones

Michael Cowie
Michael Cox
Dayna Lynn
Harry Mietelka
Don May
Tom Moore
Nate Sebastian
Ron Tompkins

Second Tenors

David Allen
Frank Allen
Michael Frye
Allan Hall
Frankie Harbison
Steve Larkin
Scott Miller
Joe Singer
Ralph Terry
Terry Ulrey

Basses

Jeff Cothran
David Fields
Leif Lippert

*"Though much is taken,
much abides."*

—Tennyson

Tapestry Singers: The Austin Women's Chorus

Tapestry Singers: The Austin Women's Chorus is a group of women singers woven from all walks of life. Originally meeting for fun and friendship, Tapestry has grown as we performed together in Houston, San Antonio, and at community events such as *Texas Sing Out!*, *Let Freedom Sing*, and the *Annual Chamber Music Marathon*.

Inspired by our participation in the 1991 National Women's Choral Festival, we presented our first full-length concert in July of 1992. Our 1992-93 season saw an influx of new members and new experiences, capped by a trip to Houston to perform at *Out (Together!) and Proud*. Coming home to Austin we began a flurry of activity in preparation for our second annual concert, *A Celebration of Our Lives*, which drew a sellout crowd and featured works by Laurie Anderson, Holly Near, and our own composers-in-residence. Other recent events include radio and television performances, participation in Austin's Gay Pride Festival, a joint benefit for Waterloo Counseling Center and AIDS Services of Austin, and an evening of entertainment for Affirmation, a Gay and Lesbian Methodist organization. Now members of both GALA and Sister Singers Network, we look forward to many more exciting events as we fulfill our common purpose:

- ◆ to sing songs by and/or about women
- ◆ to sing songs which offer a vision of a just and peaceful world
- ◆ to bring the joy and healing which come with singing
- ◆ to encourage all women, regardless of race, color, sexual identity, or vocal confidence to explore their singing abilities, realizing that many of us who are regular members were initially afraid that we could not sing
- ◆ to gain through mutual support the skills required to perform confidently and successfully
- ◆ to entertain and inspire a larger community by performing our music.

RUTH HUBER, CO-DIRECTOR

Ruth Huber, founder and co-director of Tapestry Singers, has been writing music for women's voices for more than ten years. Originally from Maryland, she came to Austin in 1973 to pursue a master's degree in piano at the University of Texas. Something in the water transformed her into that native Texan species, the singer-songwriter, and she has been performing ever since. Winner of several awards in the Austin Music Umbrella Songwriter's Competition, she has also been recognized by the Kerrville New Folk Songwriters Contest. Both as a soloist and with singer-songwriter Kate McLennan, she writes and performs music of special interest to people in recovery from alcoholic or dysfunctional homes. The duo has released a tape, *Trailblazers*, and is working on a second recording. Ms. Huber has also composed music for dance and recorded an instrumental tape, *Color Wheel*. She teaches piano and voice in Austin.

VIKI SCHMIDT, CO-DIRECTOR

Viki Schmidt has been co-director of Tapestry Singers for more than four years. She grew up in Florida and earned a bachelor of music degree from Carlton College in Minnesota. She moved to Austin in 1975 and received a master's degree in piano pedagogy in 1980. Over the years she has become a successful Suzuki piano teacher and an accomplished accompanist, and together with soprano Norma Faison and flautist Richard Mayer she is a member of Oracle, an Austin-based ensemble.

Tapestry Singers: The Austin Women's Chorus

Co-directors: Ruth Huber, Viki Schmidt

Treasurer: Anne Zabolio

Librarian: Diane Walters

Telephone tree: Mary Jude Peterson

First Sopranos

Jacki Chapman
Peggy Gough
Tasha Harmon
Ruth Huber
Suzann Kale
Patricia Klaras
Nell Manycats
Anne Zabolio

First Altos

Julie Bellquist
Linda Epps
Tracy Ferlet
Liz Goodson
Carol Ann Moen
Anita Pickinpaugh
Susan Pinsonneault
Joanna Sullivan
Barbara Wilson

Second Sopranos

Janice Bech
Cindy Cogden
Yvonne Dailey
Marie Edwards
Mary Jude Peterson
Viki Schmidt
Susan Wieland
Janet Williams
Jean Wyllys

Second Altos

Sally Jo Hahn
Marilyn Macbeth
Terry H. Medley
Liz Parker
Lisette Schmidli
Joyce T. Snodgrass
Diane Walters
Eva Wardlow
Mandy Woods

Weavers (non-singing members)

Sherilyn Brandenstein
Wendy Wolfner

New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus

The New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus was organized by Jerry Zachary, a native Louisianian who spent 14 years as a vocalist with the Chicago Symphony Chorus under the direction of Margaret Hillis. His inspiration for forming NOGMC came from the Windy City Gay Men's Chorus of Chicago.

The chorus's first public appearance was at the Emporium in Baton Rouge in December 1982. In September 1983, the chorus performed at New York's Lincoln Center with ten other choruses in the first national gay choral festival, which evolved into the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA), of which NOGMC was a founding member.

NOGMC meets the challenge of bringing new styles and sounds to its community. In 1988 the chorus hosted Applause, Company LA, Emerald City Volunteers, Madison Gay Men's Chorus, Philandros Singers, and Potomac Fever at Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carre. In 1989 it performed with the New Orleans Opera Chorus in *Aida*. In 1990 and 1991, NOGMC hosted concerts with the St. Louis Gay Men's Chorus and the Spruce Street Singers from Philadelphia.

To prepare for its future, the New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus has created an Endowment Fund that provides for the chorus's continued health and maintenance. Over the past three years the chorus has received grants for the Fund and for the operating budget from the Arts Council of New Orleans. NOGMC has also started its own Music Scholarship Fund for outstanding choral music students at the University of New Orleans.

The New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus is supported, in part, by a grant from the Metropolitan Arts Fund/Arts Council of New Orleans (METRO/ACNO) Grants Program. Its Endowment Fund is administered by the Greater New Orleans Foundation.

JAMES HAMMANN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

A native of Sidney, Ohio, James Hammann holds degrees in music from Ohio Wesleyan University and the University of Michigan. He has appeared in recitals throughout the United States as an organist and during the summer of 1987 was harpsichord soloist with the Lawton Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra on its tour of Germany. He has given more than 75 performances of his one-man show, *Old Bach*, a presentation in which he dons costume and wig, plays the organ and harpsichord, and recreates moments in the composer's life.

As a conductor, Dr. Hammann has been music director of the Allen Park Symphony Orchestra, the Southeastern Michigan Choral Society, and the Tecumseh Pops Orchestra and Chorus. He has served churches in Ohio and Michigan as music director. He is currently organist for the St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church.

He has recorded on the Quadrapheonoma, AFKA, and Raven labels. His most recent recording, the organ music of Alexandre Guilmant, is in its second pressing and is available from the Organ Historical Society.

He is proud that he is considered one of the founding members of the Gay Liberation Front in Ann Arbor, and that he has served on the board of the Personal Rights Organization in Toledo, Ohio, and as fundraising chairman for the Wellness Networks, Huron Valley.

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New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus

James Hammann, Music Director

First Tenors

Jimmy Bennazar
Michael F. Dewhirst

Second Tenors

Michael Baldwin
Michael Brocato
Danny Gamble
John Giraud
Michael Joseph Hoard
Joseph Johnson

Baritones

Jay Allen
Chris Cefalu
Greg Clemens
Kelly Kerr
Henri J. Roca, III

Basses

Bill Coble
I. Decker
Andre J. Dosogne
Rusty Downing
Bobby Hall

Board of Directors

Chris Cefalu, President
Michael Baldwin, Secretary
Jay Singerman, Treasurer

Section Leaders:

John Giraud, Second Tenor
Greg Clemens, Baritone
Rusty Downing, Bass
I. Decker, Accompanist



A Season For Us All '93



Emcee: Katy Caldwell, Harris County Treasurer

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston

JOHN-MICHAEL ALBERT, CONDUCTOR

The Star-Spangled Banner Words by Francis Scott Key
Traditional drinking tune, *To Anacreon in Heaven*
Arranged by John-Michael Albert

Tapestry Singers: The Austin Women's Chorus

RUTH HUBER AND VIKI SCHMIDT, CO-DIRECTORS

Let Peace Fill the Earth/Vine and Fig Tree *Let Peace Fill the Earth*—music by Ray Mackeever
Based on a prayer by Rabbi Nachman
Vine and Fig Tree—traditional music
Arranged by Diane Benjamin, Calliope Women's Chorus

Wise Mother Words and music by Nell Manycats

Sacred Circle Words and music by Ruth Huber

New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus

JAMES HAMMANN, CONDUCTOR

IRVIN DECKER, ACCOMPANIST

The Echo Carol Words and music by Paul Royer

O Harken Ye Words and music by Alfred Burt

Ave Maria Traditional words
Music by Tomás Luis de Victoria

Sleigh Ride Words and music by Leroy Anderson

Carol of the Malls Words by Michael Brocato
Music by Leon Tovish

Shop Till You Drop Words and music by Michael Brendan Smith

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston

JOHN-MICHAEL ALBERT, CONDUCTOR

ROB SIEGEL, ACCOMPANIST

The Fight Before Christmas Words by Debbie Greig
Music by Scott Henderson

DIRECTED BY JOE WATTS

Cast

Bruce	David M. Dukes
Bill	Andrew Dawson
Esther	Marianne Pendino

Intermission

HeartSong: Houston's Women's Chorus

DENISE BULLOCK, JUDI MESSINA, AND RAWSLYN RUFFIN, DIRECTOR COMMITTEE

JUDI MESSINA, ACCOMPANIST

Hanukkah Shalom (A Hebrew Greeting) Arranged by Dan Schwartz

Bring a Torch Jeannette, Isabella Words from *Songs for the Winter Solstice*
Based on music by Eugenie Rocherolle
Arranged by Rawslyn Ruffin

Music in My Mother's House Composed by Stuart Stotts
Arranged by J. David Moore

HeartSong: Houston's Women's Chorus and Gay Men's Chorus of Houston

Gaelic Blessing Words adapted from an old Gaelic rune
Music by John Rutter

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston

JOHN-MICHAEL ALBERT, CONDUCTOR

ROB SIEGEL, ACCOMPANIST

Stille Nacht/Silent Night/Noche de Paz Words and music by Franz Grüber
Arranged by John-Michael Albert

Light One Candle Words and music by Peter Yarrow
Arranged by J. Rex Gillir

Mary Had a Baby Traditional Negro spiritual
Arranged by Malcolm Sargent

De Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy Traditional West Indian spiritual
Arranged by Malcolm Sargent

A Season for Lovers Words and music by John-Michael Albert

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston and New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus

JIM HAMMANN, CONDUCTOR

IRVIN DECKER, ACCOMPANIST

Life Doesn't Frighten Me Words by Maya Angelou
Music by Jay Kawarsky
Commissioned jointly by the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston and the New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus

Combined Choruses

JOHN-MICHAEL ALBERT, CONDUCTOR

ROB SIEGEL, ACCOMPANIST

O Magnum Mysterium Words from the fourth responsory of Matins for the Feast of the Nativity
Music by Tomás Luis de Victoria

The Great Peace March Words and music by Holly Near
Arranged by Dennis Coleman

This project is supported, in part, by a grant from the City of Houston through the Cultural Arts Council.

HeartSong: Houston's Women's Chorus
Board of Directors

T. W. Curry, President
Marian Newman, Vice President
Debra Hunt, Secretary
Valarie Stinson, Treasurer
Margaret Hale, board member
Lois Kemp, board member
Ava Roberts, board member

HeartSong: Houston's Women's Chorus

First Sopranos

Charlene Baize
Melissa Blankenship
Jamie Block
Joanne Lank
Kathy Scaman

First Altos

Denise Bullock
Susan Burt
T. W. Curry
Margaret Hale
Debbie Hunt
Cielo Perdomo
Ava Roberts
Jill Short

Second Sopranos

Gail Berkowitz
Kim Jordan
Judi Messina
Marian Newman
Anne Rhodes

Second Altos

M. M. Hall
Mary Helen Merzbacher
Marte Parham
Rawslyn Ruffin
Valarie Stinson

Sign Interpreter

Nancy Busch