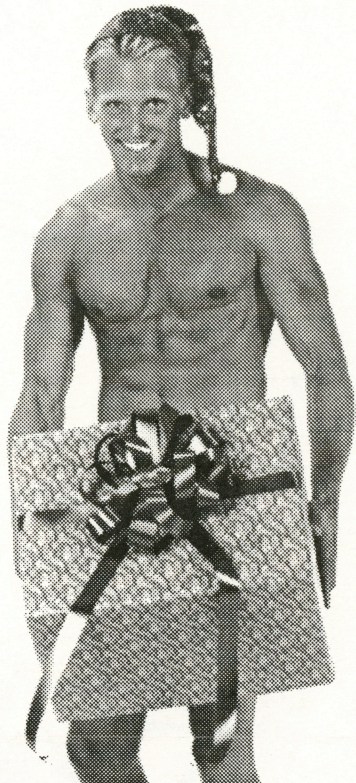


Christmas in the Sun



with the
Orlando Gay Chorus

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Welcome



reetings,

On behalf of every member of the Orlando Gay Chorus, I am honored to be able to welcome you to our annual holiday concert. The holiday season is a wonderful time of year to celebrate all of those things that are special to us. I am happy that you have chosen to share this special evening with us.

We are very fortunate to be blessed ...with so many superb voices in the Chorus; with the beautiful art work produced especially for the Chorus by Gary Gessford and Windon S. Newton; and with you, our loyal audience members.

Art is a wonderful expression of love and joy. Help keep the love felt here tonight alive! I hope our presentation brightens your holiday season

David Schuler
President



ood evening family and friends!

Welcome to *Christmas in the Sun*. You'll find tonight's show something of a departure from previous holiday concerts. The most obvious difference is the word Christmas in the concert's title. With December 25th only a few days away, we decided to focus part of our show on the beauty, peace, and mystery of the story of Christmas. Of course, we will include some favorite tunes from past concerts, as well as some "warm fuzzies" that will make you want to cuddle up (and maybe puddle up). We also have a *Christmas in the Sun* surprise or two.

Tonight marks my one year anniversary as artistic director of the Orlando Gay Chorus. It has been an amazing year that included OGC's first AIDS benefit concert, GALA Festival V, and our premier concert at the Bob Carr Theatre. I have watched OGC grow and meet new challenges like choreography, costuming, and story telling during all of our shows. And, I have seen the chorus become more accessible to the community while increasing the musicality and entertainment value of each show. I am proud to be with this wonderful group of men and women, and I would like to thank the many talents of Christopher Fecteau, Kathy Slage, PJ Finster, André Provencher, Joel Strack, Dan Grell, and countless others who have made this first year such a success. So here's a toast to one year down and many more to come!

Enjoy the show and have a very Merry Christmas.

Aubrey Connelly
Director



Seasons Greetings!
from Orlando's premier gay nightclub.



Tuesday Dec 31

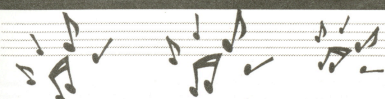
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Artistic Staff

Aubrey Connelly, Director

A native of Ohio, Aubrey moved to Florida in 1990. He is a graduate of Ohio State University, with degrees in music education, vocal performance, and music education for the exceptional learner. He was a recipient of a Presidential Award for Musical Excellence. Aubrey has performed with, and directed the Columbus Light Opera Company, the Columbus Symphony, the Darmstadt and Frankfurt Opera Companies, the Cleveland Orchestra and the Kinley Players. He has worked with several local theaters including the Ice House Theater, the Civic Theater and the Winter Garden Players. Aubrey owns and directs the Academy of Music & Theater in Winter Garden and regularly conducts seminars in vocal technique and vocal health for music groups in the Orlando area including the Catholic Diocese and the Orange, Seminole, and Osceola school systems.

Kathy Slage, Accompanist

Kathy studied music at the University of Northern Colorado. She has worked with the Wekiva Players theater troupe, is a freelance singer and instrumentalist, and a performer with the Dickens Carolers. She teaches piano and flute in her home and at the Academy of Music & Theater in Winter Garden. She owns her own entertainment company, appropriately named Take Out Entertainment. She has played piano and keyboard for various OGC performances since 1995. She has a husband, Dan, and a daughter, Anna.

Instrumentalists

Mark Anderson Keyboard

John Holysz Percussion

John Gonzalez Flute

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Ensembles

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Russell Macomber
Robb Noll
Steven Queen
Tommy Robinson
Joel Strack
Tim Verwey

Don We Now

Greg Bowman
Paul Driver
Dennis Enos
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Russell Macomber
Stephen Miller
André Provencher
Steven Queen
Tommy Robinson
Anna Rocca
Jennifer Rossi
Joe Schmerler
Joel Strack
Mark A. Welch

Etcetera

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The Christmas Story uses the music and lyrics of:

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Guest Narrators—Saturday

Patty Sheehan

Patty was the first openly gay candidate to run for an Orlando City Council seat. Ms. Sheehan's narrow miss of the run-off by only seventy-five votes shows the growing support of the LesBiGay and progressive political community in Orlando. A long-time political activist, she is currently on the Board of Directors of the Rainbow Democratic Club, the Colonialtown Neighborhood Association, and serves on the Diversity Committee of the Healthy Community Initiative. She was a founding Board Member of Orlando Regional Pride (the Parade People) and was recently honored by the Community with a Spectrum Award for Outstanding Community Activism. Patty's interests include gardening, restoring her downtown bungalow, and jewelry making. She shares her life with a canine companion, Amber, and her very supportive and accepting family.

Tom Dyer

Tom is about as native to Central Florida as it gets; he moved here with his family in 1967 and attended Winter Park High School. His first exposure to local "gay color" occurred while working a summer job in the character department at Walt Disney World. (Tom adds, "Probably one of the gayest places on the planet in 1972.") He obtained his law degree from the University of Florida, and is currently a practicing attorney, specializing in estate planning and probate. A former officer of the Metropolitan Business Association, Tom currently sits on the board of the Delta Youth Alliance. He is founder, publisher, and editor of *Watermark*, Central Florida's bi-weekly lesbian and gay periodical, for which he has interviewed such diverse personalities as Orange County Chairman Linda Chapin, the fabulous "Miss P", Lily Tomlin, and Phyllis Diller. Tom is the recipient of two Spectrum Awards, one for Journalistic Excellence, and another as Outstanding Male Role Model.

Guest Narrators—Sunday

Reverend Dr. Marni Harmony

Marni received her B.A. from Tufts University, a Th.M. from Boston's University School of Theology, and a D.Min. from Columbia. She was ordained in 1974 and served churches in both Milwaukee and Pennsylvania before coming to Central Florida. She has served as both hospital and college chaplain, a psychotherapist, as well as a VISTA volunteer. She lives with her partner Nancy and two feline children, Molly and Lucy. She has a full grown son, plays the flute, and eats lots and lots of vegetables. Marni has been minister of the First Unitarian Church of Orlando since 1988, and is very proud of the welcoming attitude of her congregation to all types of diversity.

Jack Harrell

Born in Jacksonville, Florida, Jack is a man of many talents. He was an actor, top-rated disc jockey, weatherman, and host for a television variety show. He then moved to New York City, where he choreographed night club acts. Jack placed second in a "talent contest" that was Barbra Streisand's very first public appearance. (Guess who won?) After touring with *Camelot* from 1963 to 1964, he finally settled in Los Angeles, where he worked in practically every position available with George Schlatter, producer of *Laugh-In*. He was an announcer on *Cher* (where he was also a performer), *Real People*, and Barbara Walters' specials; he also introduced the litigants on *The People's Court*. While in L.A., Jack worked frequently in television and on stage, until a 1994 earthquake sent him scrambling home to Florida. Since moving to Orlando, he has been busy appearing in several commercials, a play: *You Should Be So Lucky*, and featured roles in both *SeaQuest* and *Walker, Texas Ranger*.



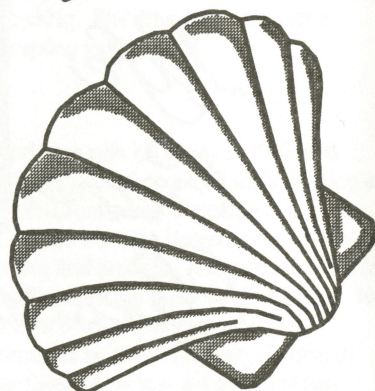
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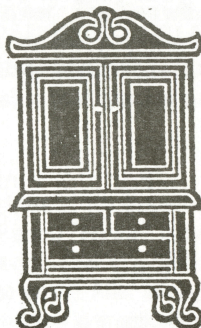
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Karen R. Rabinowitz
Anna Rocca ♪
Jennifer Rossi
Bob Smedley ♦
Tim Verwey
Jay Webster-Jones

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Kenny Hartman
Bobby G. Martin
Tim Murphy
André Provencher

Steven Queen ♪
David C. Rice
Todd Simon
Bob Spears

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♪ = Section Leader

♦ = Leave of Absence

Christmas in the Sun

December 21 and 22, 1996 7:35 p.m.

Knowles Chapel, Rollins College

Aubrey Connelly, Director

Banana Boat Song Traditional
Stephen Miller, Soloist

Mary's Little Boy Child Traditional
André Provencher, Soloist Arr. K. Slage & A. Connelly

*To our loved ones and friends with peace and joy in all our hearts.
Allene and Art Baus*

Whisper, Whisper Jay Althouse
David Almeida, Barbara Gibson
Steven Queen, Daniel R. Grell
Fred Berliner, Jay Hoff, Soloists

Bethlehemu Nigerian Christmas Song
in the Yoruba dialect by Via Olatunji
Arr. Whalum

Feliz Navidad Jose Feliciano, Arr. Roger Emerson

The Christmas Story

presented by the Orlando Gay Chorus with text by Wm. André Provencher

Saturday Narrators Patty Sheehan and Tom Dyer

Sunday Narrators Rev. Dr. Marni Harmony and Jack Harrell

Don We Now

The Women of OGC

Stephen Brooks, Soloist

Russell Macomber, Soloist

Michael Gamber, Soloist

Don Dennis, Soloist

INTERMISSION

Frostiana Randall Thompson
OUTLOUD!

For Steve...from Jerry Shepp

Sleigh Ride M. Parish, L. Anderson
OUTLOUD! Arr. H. Ades

*In honor of my mother Anita O. Lewandowski
for her understanding dedication
and love...Barry P. Lewandowski*

Coming Out on Christmas C. Sturgis, Dean X. Johnson
OUTLOUD!

In Our Lifetime Gary Simmons
Keith Baker, Soloist

Billy, Thank you for three wonderful years. Happy Anniversary. Tim

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year E. Pola, G. Wyle
Arr. H. Ades

Joyous Holidays...Herbert Baird

32 Feet and 8 Little Tails of White Traditional American
Fred Berliner, Keith Baker, Soloists Santa Medley

Season for Lovers John-Michael Albert
Robb Noll, Dennis Enos
Steve Brooks, Greg Bowman, Quartet

White Christmas Irving Berlin
Arr. Roy Ringwald

To Daddy, my own "Bing Crosby". I miss you...#4

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The Orlando Gay Chorus is an equal-opportunity organization. OGC welcomes singers, supporters, and audience members of all genders, affectional preferences, races and ethnic origins.

For more information about the Orlando Gay Chorus, write:

Orlando Gay Chorus
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Paul R. Ericson Memorial Fund

Established in 1991, the Ericson fund honors one of OGC's founding members. Paul was a charter member, second tenor section leader extraordinaire and friend of all.

The Ericson Fund has two basic goals: to ensure no Chorus member is prevented from participating in any Chorus event due to health-related financial constraints; and to permit the Chorus to assist local AIDS support groups and individuals challenged by this disease.

Please send donations to: The Orlando Gay Chorus, Paul R. Ericson Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 3103, Orlando, FL 32802. Your gift will keep Paul's dreams alive and be part of the powerful traditions born of our community's response to AIDS.

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GALA Choruses produces several annual educational events for the lesbian and gay choral community: the Leadership Conference & Singers Weekend, a Small Ensemble Festival, a Music Directors Weekend, and an Administrators Weekend. Every four years, GALA Choruses produces an eight-day choral festival, which ranks among the world's premier performing arts festivals.

In addition to producing festivals and educational conferences GALA publishes a quarterly newsletter, *GALAGram*, as well as numerous reference materials. To support its commitment to the creation of new music, GALA Choruses established the Commission Matching Grants Program in 1993.

GALA Choruses is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation. For more information, please call or write: GALA Choruses, P.O. Box 65084, Washington, DC 20035; (202) 467-5830; e-mail: galachorus@aol.com.

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An association of professional and community choruses. OGC has been a member since 1992.

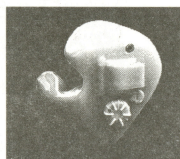
Arts Services Council

United Arts supports the Arts Services Council, which funds individuals and smaller organizations involved in the arts, sciences and humanities through special grants. It also promotes cultural activities and serves as a resource to its member organizations. Visual art for the Orlando Gay Chorus season was funded, in part, by a grant from the Art Services Council.

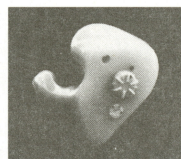


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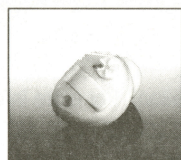
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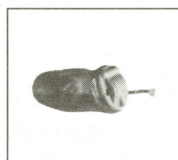
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1. If you insist on arriving late, refrain from traipsing down the middle aisle. This is not a wedding and you are not the bride. Go sit someplace and be discreet. For a change.
2. Please remove all severe hats. The gentleman behind you may be searching for a husband, and we wouldn't want him to overlook the chorus.
3. Don't try to settle up who-owes-who while the chorus is performing. Honestly, you'd carp about "Who had the tuna fish?" in the middle of Do You Hear What I Hear?
4. Don't betray your lack of breeding. Keep your shoes on.
5. Do not snap your purse open and shut during a musical selection. This is tacky.
6. Stifle all sneezes, eructation, and flatulence. Even if it pops out your ears.
7. The experienced concertgoer will sorta preview the event by looking at his program and discovering what pieces are "grouped together." (This is a very technical concept.) If you have the slightest doubt as to whether a piece is finished, refrain from applause. You should be able to figure this out by the conductor lowering his hands and a visible look of relief sweeping across the baritones.
8. Eventually (believe it or not) you'll hear a song you recognize. You may even know the words. You may want to sing. Please don't! (The basses only learned their Fa-la-las last week and they're so easily swayed.)
9. When the chorus sings piano (i.e. softly), this is an achievement. This is not your opportunity to cough, murmur lovingly in your escort's ear, shuffle in your seat, or rearrange your coiff. (We do tape these events.)
10. Noise abatement is even more crucial when the chorus sings pianissimo (very softly) and pianissi-issimo (soft to the max). Our elegantly trained and demandingly precise music staff has spent countless hours of time perfecting OGC's goosepimpling piani, but alas, our recordings sound like we're doing a benefit at The Old Sinus Home.
11. Use the intermission for reviving your social calendar. Don't over commit yourself. Arrange no more than five "must-get-togethers" for after the concert. Avoid scheduling perennial no-shows. Above all, don't dump your date.
12. At the end of the evening, don't bruise people in your haste to get to your parking place. I thought only Uncle Elmer was that crass.

After the concert, warmly invite a favored performer to meet you for drinks. Introduce the performer to all eligible singles present (including yourself). Bug out when necessary. Should you not have a keenly developed social sense, one of your mutual friends should smile warmly and say, "It has been so nice of you to introduce us."



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