



Photo by Alan J. deLay

PGMC offers eighth-annual holiday concert

The festive sound of the Chorus accompanied by handbells will set the tone for the evening.

A gay community tradition moves downtown this year, as the Portland Gay Men's Chorus presents its holiday concert in the Intermediate Theatre of the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, at 7 p.m., Sunday, December 13.

Reserved seat tickets for "Ring Out the Bells" are now on sale at \$7, \$10 and \$12 in the box office of the new theater building. Credit-card orders are being accepted by telephone, 248-4496. All fees are included in the ticket price.

The festive sound of the Chorus accompanied by handbells will set the tone for the evening. Special guests, the Fallen Angel Choir, will add laughter, taking a hilarious look at some of the season's more tarnished tinsel.

A fanfare for double bell choir will open the concert. It will feature Chorus bell ringers, along with the bell choir of the First Unitarian Church.

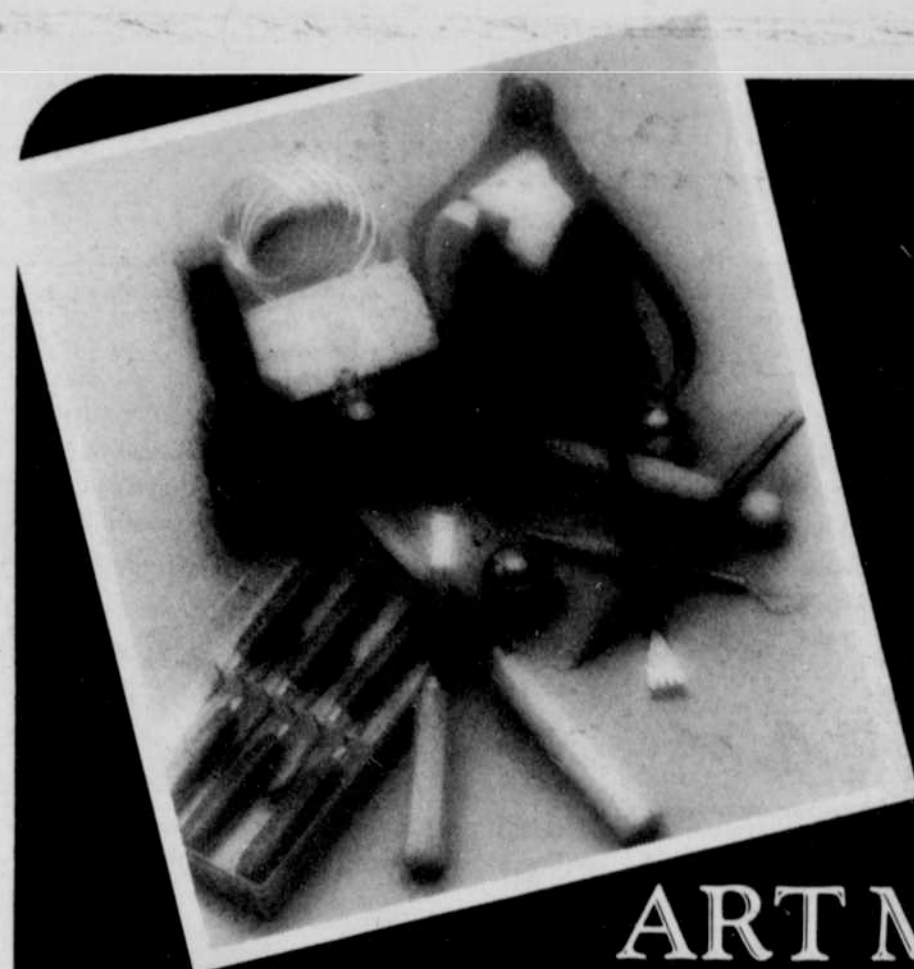
In addition to favorite Christmas songs, the Chorus will sing two American spirituals, two Hebrew hymns from the Renaissance, and the premiere of a new work for men's chorus and handbells by conductor David York.

The Fallen Angel Choir is a quartet of women whose musical mischief has delighted audiences throughout the Northwest and has been featured on National Public Radio. Among the songs they will sing are "We Wish You a Merry Business," "Jingle Coins," and "Don't Use Your Credit Card," (to the tune of "Stop in the Name of Love"). The Chorus will join them for "Christmas Wrap."

The December 13 event is the eighth-annual holiday concert by the Chorus. The first was at the Embers in 1980. In ensuing years it took place at a variety of halls, such as Northwest Service Center, Eastside Performance Center, and Benson High School auditorium. "Ring Out the Bells" will be the first regular subscription concert by the Chorus in its new home, the Intermediate Theatre, where it is one of seven companies designated as major tenants.

In early September the chorus was a major participant in the Opening Celebration of the new Performing Arts Center, singing a concert that was produced by the City of Portland. Of that event the *Oregonian's* critic, David Stabler, wrote, "for entertainment and high musical values, this was one of the most enjoyable concerts Portland has heard."

The Chorus management reports that season ticket sales have tripled this year, and that another sold-out house is likely for the holiday concert. Early ticket purchase is advised.



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