

Solar Invocation

Portland Lesbian Choir concert a celebration of the seasons

by Marti Staehle

In this season of celebrations, the Portland Lesbian Choir celebrated the winter solstice with their winter concert, "Solar Invocation," Saturday Dec. 15, 1990 at the Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The choir, under the direction of interim director Heidi Boenke, began the concert with "Invocation: Peace." Alice Parker composed the music and adapted the text from a chant of the Omaha Indians. It was sung antiphonally, with half of the choir in the choir loft up and behind the audience and the other half in front of the audience.

"This piece was most challenging," said Boenke. "I am an instrumentalist. I play the flute. I had one hand for the choir in the loft and the other hand for the choir on stage. The challenge was bringing in each choir at the right time."

The choir has continued to draw on a variety of sources for the music they perform, crossing cultural boundaries. They continued the concert with a Navajo round, "Now I Walk in Beauty."

With each performance the choir takes giant leaps forward in the quality of their singing. Director Boenke attributed this year's improvement, the choir's fourth season, to the 26 new members "who came to the choir with musical skills."

Interspersed among the choir's selections were a variety of groups. Bridges, a blend of members from both the Portland Gay Men's Chorus and the Portland Lesbian Choir, per-

formed two pieces: "Of Love" and Carly Simon's "Let the River Run."

Members within the choir performed "Namasté," a piece translated from Sanskrit. *Namasté* is a Hindu greeting. Though well performed, the drums sometimes covered the singers, making it difficult to hear the song.

Cathryn Heron, Chris Blount and Kim Horenstein performed "Try Peace," a prayer for peace that they wrote with C.J. Rachko. They asked the audience to join them in singing the simple but meaningful song.

Ending the first half, the choir was directed by Lynda Garner in "Choose Something Like a Star" and was accompanied by Cheyenne Chapman. For the text of this piece, a portion of Robert Frost's poem "Steeplebush" was used. The music was by Randall Thompson. A well-performed piece which exemplified the choir's improvement.

In the second half, for comic relief, Director Boenke, attired in chef's cap, apron and carrying a giant whisk, led the choir in the making of a "Fruitcake" which included something called a "crazilnut." A variety of props emphasized the various ingredients.

Following this number they held a drawing for a fruitcake! The prize also included two tickets to the spring concert and dinner for two at Hobo's.

The choir ended as they began, singing "This We Know." The text was taken from a speech by Chief Seattle when he signed the Point Elliot Treaty in 1855.

The next concert will be performed Saturday March 30, 1991, at 8 pm at the Northwest Service Center. The Choir will be joined by Soromundi, the Eugene lesbian choir.

MUSIC

Ferron to appear in concert

First time in Portland in five years

Ferron is a musician, performer and poet whose lyrics are rich with imagery and feelings. Her voice has been described as "crackling with the ache of experience." Her latest album *Phantom Center*, released on Chameleon Records maintains Ferron's vision of artistic truth and integrity while framing it in a contemporary pop-rock texture. *Phantom Center* is alternately moody, playful, stringent and sly while giving us new insight into Ferron's life. The oldest of seven children, Ferron was born in Toronto, her family later moved to a suburb of Vancouver, British Columbia. Growing up in a struggling working-class environment, Ferron left her home at 15, and began working in a factory. Her only release from the drudgery was through music.

Ferron recorded her first homemade album in 1977 and then in 1978 released another now-out-of-print album entitled *Ferron Backed Up. Testimony*, released in 1980 made several critics' top 10 lists, and Ferron began touring across the U.S. and Canada to a growing audience identifying with her personal, revelatory songs. *Shadows on a Dime*, recorded in 1984 provided a new musical breakthrough for Ferron and she began to tour even more extensively.

This concert will be Ferron's first Portland appearance in five years. If you need interpreting please call Girlfriend Productions at 281-4635. Ferron appears in concert Feb. 2, at 8 pm at Neighbors of Woodcraft Hall, 1410 SW Morrison. Tickets are \$13 in advance and available at Ladd's Editions and Music Millennium.

PHOENIX RISING PRESENTS...

2nd Annual

Friends BALL

MILLER
HALL
AT WORLD
FORESTRY
CENTER

SATURDAY
FEB 9th

8:30 pm-12:30 am

- Live Music
- Hors d'Oeuvres
- No Host Bar
- Silent Auction
- Lots More

All Ages Welcome, Black Tie Optional,
Costumes, Masks Encouraged.

TICKETS: \$20⁰⁰ ea. in advance \$25⁰⁰ at door
Proceeds to Benefit Phoenix Rising & Its Programs

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THESE LOCATIONS...
TWENTY-THIRD AVENUE BOOKS, LADD'S EDITIONS BOOKSTORE,
CATBIRD SEAT BOOKSTORE, DOWNEY INSURANCE AGENCY,
TICKET MASTER AND THE PHOENIX RISING OFFICE.