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PAGANFAIRE



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7 P.M. SPRING EQUINOX RITUAL

AT SCANDIA

HALL

1125 S.E. MADISON, PORTLAND, OR (ONE BLOCK NORTH OF HAWTHORNE)

GENERAL ADMISSION IS \$8 CHILDREN 7-12, THE DISABLED, AND THE ELDERLY \$5 (WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE AND OPEN TO ALL)

SISTERSPIRIT (503)736-3297

a bunch of gay guys presents...

IT'S RAINING Men

"So many men... so few dates!"

a bunch of gay guys presents
a playful forum to help you find
your man in Puddle Town:

IT'S RAINING MEN

Hosted by POISON WATERS
& STEPHEN RONDELL

SATURDAY • 18 APRIL • 7PM
HAWTHORNE RHAPSODY HALL

(the old Masonic Temple)

S.E. 39th & Hawthorne

Portland, OR

Events include:

"Gay Dating Game,"
"Man on the Street" video
interviews, and
"Talk Show Follies"

\$2 Suggested Donation
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For more information,
call 223-5907, ext. 154

Let's celebrate Portland gay men
of all ages, colors, and flavors!

BROTHER TO BROTHER
PORTLAND

WILLAMETTE WEEK
personals

A BUNCH OF
GAY
GUYS

just out

GayPDX
http://www.gaypdx.com

SPREAD TO YOUR
MOMENT

SOMOS
ORGULLO
LATINO

Gai-Pied

MUSIC

So many voices, so many choices

Local ensembles toast the town with songs
of remembrance, reverence and revelry

BY FLORA SUSSELY

It's been a very choral month.

The Portland Baroque Orchestra presented Bach's Magnificat in D-Major—the first performance of the piece since 1786! The Portland Lesbian Choir offered Reach Across the Lines, and on March 13 and 14 the Portland Gay Men's Chorus delivered So Many Men, with guest choruses coro uomo and the satori men's chorus.

Undoubtedly, the sound of human voices raised in song is a profoundly moving experience. It has been used as an instrument of spiritual communion for centuries, from Gregorian chant to tribal folk music.

These recent concerts were particularly affecting because their themes were purposefully inclusive. Aside from the Bach work, which is encompassing in that it is a glorious celebration of the supernatural and divine, both the PLC and the PGMC concerts featured diverse, international music.

The Portland Lesbian Choir was hampered by a bad sound system but managed to effectively convey everything from humor, as in "Some of My Best Friends Are Straight," to social commentary, as in the 17th century

Pythagoras not only discovered the diatonic scale but also conceived of the universe as a vast musical instrument. His theory that all things, animate and inanimate, are constructed upon harmonic patterns explains why we respond to music viscerally, spiritually.

Whether it's Greek orphic mysticism, early 18th century dentists who used music to distract patients or the Chinese philosophy of Kung—the tone that is forever pressing upon man—history agrees that music is fundamental to our spiritual well-being.

So Many Men achieved its goals. It moved the audience, it conveyed peace and passion. Certainly that is due in large part to how well rehearsed the three choirs are.

In contrast to the Portland Baroque Orchestra's choir of 20, the Portland Gay Men's Chorus is comprised of over 75 voices. If they were not very well rehearsed and directed, they would undoubtedly have sounded sloppy—which they did not.

That is not to say the evening didn't have its sloppy moments. As Mensel announced the finale, in which all three choirs join together, he explained that he would keep his back to



The Portland Gay Men's Chorus in May 1997

Argentine song "Eres una Nina." They took listeners on a journey from Kenya to Beijing, sang Holly Near and Billie Holiday.

In the midst of what the program explains is a transitional time for the choir (it recently lost its director of seven years, Lynda Garner), the group did manage a united, happy evening. The highlights of the show were interpreters Sarazan Torelli and Piper Gallucci who combined acting and dance into their interpretation, making the most wonderful sign language performance I've ever encountered.

In So Many Men, the Portland Gay Men's Chorus joined with coro uomo and the satori men's chorus for a huge and exciting "festival concert." It was intended, as PGMC artistic director Bob Mensel wrote in the program, to show the contrast between "a society that is often perceived as aloof, aggressive and impersonal, [and] the idea of men of different backgrounds gathering to sing together."

Each of the three groups presented work that best represented their mission statement, creating a mood that was eclectic, unexpected and rich. While PGMC performed music that strengthens the gay identity, coro uomo delivered obscure and rarely heard choral work. The satori men's chorus sang of peace.

Satori is a Zen concept describing a fleeting yet transformational moment of enlightenment. Indeed, music itself is a fleeting art form, in that we cannot hold it the way we can a painting. But, in a sort of short cut to our soul, music also affects change within us.

In fact, the ancient Greek philosopher

the merger. (Mensel seems a perfectionist, an opinion that was backed up by the sound his choir produced.) Behind him, men wandered themselves into position.

In memory of those lost to AIDS, the PGMC sang "Requiem Aeternam" by David York and invited the audience to speak the names of loved ones lost to the disease at several points in the music.

As a result, the evening had a religious feeling. It seemed appropriate that it was held in a temple of worship.

This was not a lovely concert simply because it was about creating community. This was a concert that stood on its own as a good evening of music.

And excellence is a great step toward outreach.

Both the PORTLAND LESBIAN CHOIR and the PORTLAND GAY MEN'S CHORUS will be auditioning new members soon and are always accepting volunteers to help behind the scenes. For more information call PLC at 241-8994 and PGMC at 460-3689.

Upcoming concerts include Swellegant Elegance, the music of Cole Porter, in which the PGMC is joined by the Gay Men's Chorus of San Diego on April 25 and 26. Also, coming June 13, Expanding Our Horizons features PGMC, Bridges and the Portland Lesbian Choir as they welcome the Canberra Gay and Lesbian Quire from Australia. Tickets are available from all Fastixx outlets (charge by phone at 224-8499).