

DIVERSIONS

Don your gay apparel for this cabaret

Gay Portland musical treasures **Kregg Arntson** and **Richard Bower** make up half of the jazz ensemble **The HollyTones** with **Wendy Martel-Vilkin** and **Jennifer Niederloh**. The quartet lights up **Wilf's Restaurant and Bar** at 7:30 p.m. **Dec. 10 and 17** with a **Christmas Cabaret** featuring a variety of traditional and hip holiday tunes.

Audiences will get in the yuletide spirit with such songs as "We Need a Little Christmas," "Man with the Bag," "Cool Yule" and "My Simple Christmas Wish (I Wanna Be Rich, Famous and Powerful)."

Arntson promises "a variety of jazzy and traditional arrangements with a few surprises mixed in." The Lake Oswego resident also sings with the Oregon Symphony Pops, most recently playing the role of Harold Hill in its production of *The Music Man*.

Bower is a regular in the piano bar, sought after by a multitude of cabaret singers. From 1994 to 2000 he served as music director of the Musical Theater Company, where he won a 1999 Drammy Award for musical direction of *Funny Girl*.

This is the HollyTones' fourth year doing the cabaret, and, according to Arntson, "there's no better way to kick off the holidays than to enjoy live holiday music while throwing back a martini or two at Portland's cabaret hot spot."

Wilf's Restaurant is at 800 N.W. Sixth Ave. The cabaret is \$10; make reservations at 503-223-0070.

Ooh la la!

The **Portland Gay Men's Chorus** celebrates the season with traditional French flair in its holiday concert **Yule, La, La!** **Dec. 14 and 15** at Reed College's Kaul Auditorium.

This noteworthy holiday event is a tradition for Portland queers and straights alike, and executive director **Tony Stroh** promises we won't be disappointed. It will be "the best of the season," he says, with standards including "O Holy Night," "We Gather Together," "Winter Wonderland" and the perennial Nigerian favorite "Betelehemu." There will also be a memorable rendition of Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker 'Sweet'" as well as the much-anticipated sing-along.

As if the holiday concert isn't enough, the chorus has added what we hope will turn into an annual event—**Brunch with Beefcake Santa**. Don't miss this buff opportunity to sit in one of four gorgeous laps and tell him what you really want for Christmas at noon **Dec. 22** in the Grand Ballroom of the Governor Hotel.

This holiday fund-raiser for the chorus honors **Roy Melani** for his outstanding and tireless work in bringing the Gay Softball World Series (3,000 queer athletes and their families) to Portland last August. The event includes a silent auction and raffle with theater tickets, dinner and hotel packages, artwork, autographed sports memorabilia and a mink stole up for grabs.

Tickets for **Yule, La, La** are \$12-\$20 (spring for the better seats). **Brunch with Beefcake Santa** is \$25 or \$50 for VIP, which includes champagne and a gift. Tickets for both events can be purchased at 503-226-2588 or www.pdxgmc.org.

Lewis delights musical theatergoers again

Once upon a time in New York City, a man brought a fantastic show to the stage called *The Taffetas*. People loved it, cheered it and



The Portland Gay Men's Chorus has a busy December with *Yule, La, La* and *Brunch with Beefcake Santa*

performed it all over the world. So last year the man made *A Taffeta Christmas*, which delighted Portland audiences to no end and is now in production all over the country.

Hence, the **Broadway Rose Theatre Company** would be foolish not to present the new yuletide revue from local gay musical theater writer and director **Rick Lewis**, **G.I. Holiday Jukebox**. Lewis wrote and stars in this follow-up to 1997's *G.I. Jukebox*.

The new show is a salute to the Stage Door Canteen of the 1940s. Set during World War II, it features four fictitious Hollywood stars who've gathered a string of musical hits to entertain the troops. It's reminiscent of USO shows of days gone by, complete with a tribute to the Andrews Sisters. "How do we do that with a cast of two men and two women? Hmmm..." teases Lewis.

The show runs through **Dec. 22** at Tualatin High School Auditorium, 22300 S.W. Boones Ferry Road. Tickets are \$10-\$18 from 503-620-5262 or www.broadwayrose.com.

In addition to whipping out musical theater, Lewis works as entertainment director of the **Portland Spirit** and is tickled to introduce the boat's new cabaret concert series. "**River of Stars!**" will play host to some of Broadway's biggest names. Kicking off the set in January is **Jodi Benson**, the voice of Ariel in Disney's Oscar-winning *The Little Mermaid*.

Soon after comes *Les Miserables'* Tony-win-

ning **Michael Maguire**, *Beauty and the Beast* lead **Susan Egan** and **Debbie Shapiro Gravitte**, Tony winner for *Jerome Robbins' Broadway*.

For a complete schedule of the dinner shows, visit www.portlandspirit.com. (Suggestion: A package of all four would make a great gift.)

Romp through the Renaissance

Can you say *Madrigal*? Then say it again, honey, because on **Dec. 13 and 15** the **Skamania Arts Foundation** presents *A Madrigal Feast* that proudly romps you and yours through five courses of intrigue, mistaken identities, love potions, chase scenes and 17th century music.

Lesbian musician and performer **Lynn Thomas** directs the entire production and serves as choral mistress ("sounds a bit kinky," she admits). She also plays "The Lady of the Manor," and her partner, **Simone Brooks**, "runs rampant as 'the hunchback,'" she says.

The story is *much* too complicated to go into, but let's just say audiences at Skamania Lodge near Stevenson, Wash., won't be left out of it. "We include the guests in dances [and] songs," shares Thomas, "and the actors will come to your table and harass as needed."

The menu includes all sorts of yum-mies: candied filberts on your mixed field salad, forest mushroom mouseline, port beurre rouge, smoked salmon, Intermezzo and plum pudding with Chantilly vanilla creme. A children's choir opens the festivities, which, insists Thomas, will be "an awful lot of fun.... It's the perfect way to start the holiday season."

A Madrigal Feast is \$39.95-\$49.95 a person. Group rates are available for six or more, and the lodge is providing special overnight packages. Make reservations at 509-427-7047 or www.skamaniaarts.org.

And in shopping...

Wow, there's a lot of craft and gift sales out there, isn't there? Don't fret: Just go to these very queer-friendly ones right here. **Riches at Rimsky's** is a sale of artistic



Susan Detroy's colorful cards and prints are available at **Vivace Gallery's Knock Your Socks Off!** holiday sale

gifts and treasures from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Dec. 7 and 8** at **Rimsky-Korsakoff House**, 707 S.E. 12th Ave. Lesbian artist **Serena Barton** joins 10 other women artists with paintings, clothing, bags, hats, jewelry, pottery, soaps, journals and other sundry handmade objects. Plus you can have dessert afterward.

Lesbian **Sierra Lonepine Briano** invites you to **Sierra's Holiday Shop** from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays until Christmas Eve, with extended hours **Dec. 22 and 23**. The shop, located at 208 N.W. Couch St., features artwork by Briano as well as other artists.

The seventh annual **Holiday Bobble** is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Dec. 14 and 15** at the **Sapphire Hotel**, 5008 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. This artists co-operative event offers a wide range of wares for holiday gifting using the latest in recycling techniques.

Vivace Gallery, 207 E. Fifth Ave. in Eugene, which is owned in part by the lesbians who bring you **Sumiche Handwrought Jewelry**, present the gift show **Knock Your Socks Off!** through **Dec. 31**. The show focuses on gifts with "ARTitude and affordability" and features cards and matted prints by lesbian artist **Susan Detroy**. ☐

Compiled by **LISA BRADSHAW** and **MARIE FLEISCHMANN**



The Broadway Rose Theatre Company presents **Rick Lewis' G.I. Holiday Jukebox** through **Dec. 22**