



Peterson Toscano performs in Metropolitan Community Church of Portland's holiday show Dec. 8.

The HollyTones offer another great option for family-friendly holiday fun with shows 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11, 18 and 19 at Wilf's Restaurant and Bar, 800 N.W. Sixth Ave. The trio—Wendy Martel-Vilkin, Gregg Arntson and Laurie Campbell-Leslie—formed in 1999 and have been ringing in the season together every year since then.

"It's not Christmas caroling; it's a cabaret show," said Arntson. "The style is very jazzy, a little bit musical theater. We hunt and we search for songs that are a parody or something kind of clever, and then we also try to mix in some sentimental stuff." Arntson will perform a song called "I Don't Remember Christmas," which fits into the

sentimental category, and the ladies will follow up with something a little sillier called "All I Want for Christmas Is a Nip and Tuck."

The show is billed as *The HollyTones...on Ice!*, but Wilf's is not going to be installing a skating rink. The ice refers to the cubes that will be clinking in cocktails mixed onstage by The HollyTones.

Arntson says the show is going to be fun and also personal to the performers. "The show reflects who we are and kind of draws people into that," he said. He's going to be singing a particularly significant number called "Daddy's Little Girl," in honor of the daughter he and his partner, Ted Fettig, had this year with the help of a surrogate mom. "Her name is Olivia Jane. It was a long haul getting there, but she's incredible. We're pinching ourselves," gushed the new dad. "I'm hoping she can come to the one of the shows."

Tickets are \$15. Arntson reminds folks to call ahead for reservations, as The HollyTones performances tend to sell out.

Metropolitan Community Church of Portland is putting on a holiday show of its own with help from comedian and character actor Peterson Toscano at 7 p.m. Dec. 8. He is the creator of *Doin' Time in the Homo Nomo Halfway House*, which was inspired by his experience with the "ex-gay" movement. This event is sure to please those who enjoy a little holiday humor. According to MCC's Web site: "Get stirred up by a sexy Federico Garcia Lorca, challenged by Eartheil Forester, a lesbian with a mission, and discover transgender people hiding out in the Bible. The evening promises to be hilarious, moving and something completely out of the ordinary."

MCC will host a potluck meal before the event at 6. The show is free, but donations are encouraged.

MCC is also hosting a more traditional show—a reading of *A Christmas Carol* by actors and church members at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 15. The \$10 ticket price goes toward MCC's medical fund, which helps pay for prescriptions and other medical needs for people without insurance.

"I grew up in a military family. My dad was in the Navy. My best Christmas memory was when my dad had been away on a ship for six months. You kind of adjust, and we had our little family rhythm. We weren't expecting him back for Christmas and my mother held it as a surprise for us and he was our big Christmas present. He crept into the house late Christmas Eve when we were sleeping. When we woke up that morning, he was sleeping underneath the tree with a little ribbon on him."

KENDALL CLAWSON
Q Center executive director

"My parents were always wonderful about making sure each of us kids had that one very special gift under the Christmas tree every year. The one gift I remember most is the year I received the Six Million Dollar Man 12-inch-high doll, complete with bionic eye you could look through and his own rocket ship that converted into a medical lab. I thought it was the coolest thing ever!"

TINA KOTEK
Democratic state representative, North and Northeast Portland



Continued on Page 28

Continued on Page 28

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