



**Musica Femina members Kristan Aspen (left) and Janna MacAuslan performed classical music by women composers from 1984 to 1996.**

handmade from a parachute. He wears it proudly, for it represents how PGMC touches those who come to its concerts. The chorus was performing in Florida, and in the audience was a man who had recently returned from Iraq, where six of his friends had died. After the concert, he spoke to Coleman and said he was so moved by the music that he was going to make a bracelet for each member of the chorus. He made 120.

"It's all about the power of music," says Coleman of PGMC's longevity.

Fulmer adds, "Making a difference through music—it may sound trite, but that is exactly what it is, and it is done on many levels simultaneously."

Fulmer explains that the chorus continues to do today what it has always done. It has been a place for people to come out, to find boyfriends, to create social networks. A place to belong.

"People join the chorus for all those reasons, but the ones who stay for their second anniversary stay for the music," Fulmer says. "And once that happens, you just can't let go. It endures."

PGMC's music also has a healing effect. It helped the men get through the difficult years of the AIDS crisis, when its membership dropped from 100 singers to 35. Most of those members

died. Others stopped coming to rehearsal because it was becoming too difficult to be around so much grieving.

"Every week it was, 'Who was going to be announced this week' and 'Whose funeral are we going to sing for this week.' It was just too much," says Fulmer.

Since the AIDS crisis, the chorus slowly built itself back up. It is taking on other issues such as aging, youth and spirituality. Recently it took on the issue of war and peace with the program *BraveSouls and Dreamers*.

"There are a lot of groups singing about peace," says Fulmer, "but when the gay men's chorus does it, it brings extra attention because we are preidentified as being progressive." Its music and ability to touch people is almost like a secret weapon, he notes.

PGMC has performed at numerous events, including the 1984 inauguration of future Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts as secretary of state, making it the first member of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses to sing at the inauguration of a statewide elected official. "We have this huge tie with her," says Coleman. "She loves us, and we love her."

The chorus has a rich history, but it is the future that excites Fulmer.

"It is much more important for us to keep the spirit alive for the new than to sit in rocking chairs and remember the old days," he says. "And most of the excitement, even for those of us who have been around since Day One, is now. It is the new days that matter." **jo**

PORTLAND LESBIAN CHOIR presents *This Glorious Night* 7 p.m. Dec. 14 at Bridgeport United Church of Christ, 641 N.E. 76th Ave. Tickets are \$12 at the door or \$10 in advance from Touchstone Coffee House.

PORTLAND GAY MEN'S CHORUS presents *Heavenly Holidays* 8 p.m. Dec. 19 and 20 and 2 p.m. Dec. 21 at Reed College's Kaul Auditorium, 3203 S.E. Woodstock Blvd. Tickets are \$16-\$28 from [www.pdxgmc.org](http://www.pdxgmc.org).



**From left, Izquierda Ensemble members Robin Chilstrom, Kristan Aspen, Izetta Smith and Naomi Littlebear Morena run down North Russell Street by what used to be Storefront Theatre and is now Widmer Brothers Brewery, circa 1977.**

Where you meet  
...to connect

911 NW 14<sup>th</sup> & Keamey  
2214 NE Oregon & 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Virgo & Pisces**  
Restaurant and Bar

**NOW AVAILABLE: Gluten-Free Pizza & Fish-n-Chips!**

Located One Block South of Cinema 21 in Old Zefiro's Spot  
500 NW 21st Ave.  
503-517-8855

Mon-Fri 11AM-CLOSE  
Sat & Sun 9AM-CLOSE

WWW.VIRGOANDPISCES.COM

Organic Mexican & Vegetarian Cuisine

Sunday - Thursday 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Brunch Sundays  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Happy Hour Daily  
5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. & 9 p.m. to close.

**Trébol**

4835 N Albina Ave Portland, OR 97217  
503.517.9347

**Genies café**

Breakfast Lunch Brunch  
Full bar - bloody marys  
- house infused vodkas  
- mimosas

Corner of 11th & Division  
8am - 3pm daily  
503 445 9777

**ROUX**

Private Dining Now Available  
503.285.1200

1700 North Killingsworth Street  
One block from MAX in North Portland • [www.rouxrestaurant.us](http://www.rouxrestaurant.us)

Open for Holiday Lunches Monday-Friday, 11:30-3:00 Starting Nov. 11th  
Dinner Seven Nights

**WEST CAFE**

503.227.8189  
sw 12th & jefferson st

New Year's Champagne Toast - Midnight  
New Year's Day Brunch - 10am-2pm

reservations accepted dine in or take away  
evening & weekend parking available

www.westcafepdx.com

cheers.