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Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC

In a Festive Time & Place

The Holiday Concert

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Jeffrey Buhrman ..... Assistant Music Director
Theodore Guerrant ..... Principal Accompanist
Michael Rivard ..... Choreographer
Phil Rogerson ..... Vocal Coach
Gary Turner & Joe Vignali ..... Co-Executive Producers
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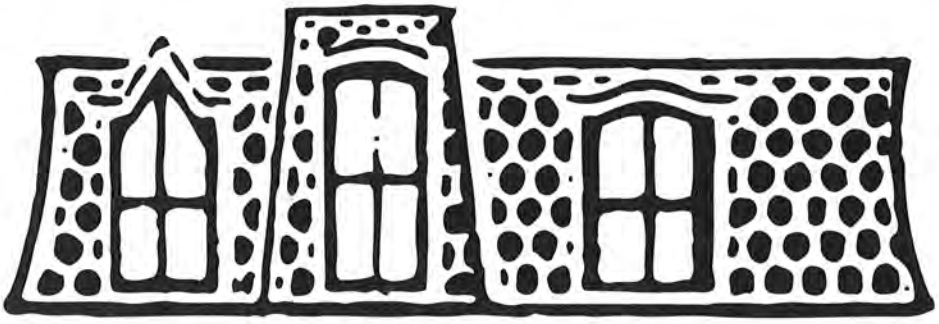

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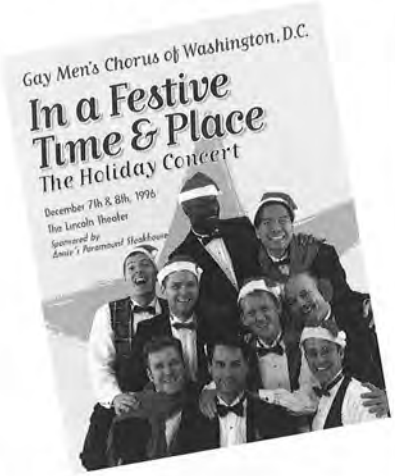

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President's Message

Fred Boykin

Welcome to the sixteenth season of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC! We sincerely hope that you enjoy tonight's gift of song that we present to you—our loving companions, friends and family members.

Our theme this year is: "Many Voices, One Heart." This phrase speaks to me in many ways. We have a wide range of talent in the chorus, yet both those who have many years of vocal and solo experience, and those who have only sung in high school or church choirs, have found a home in GMCW. The support section of our chorus, that works so hard every week to ensure the smooth operation of the chorus as a whole, has a loud and strong voice in GMCW. The people who take care of us financially by their gifts to the chorus, such as the members of the Capital Club, contribute another unique voice to the chorus. Finally, our music staff and executive director, through their tireless efforts, commit themselves to our mission of musical excellence, community outreach and fiscal stability.

We are a diverse group of men: young, middle aged, and older; HIV-negative, HIV-positive, and AIDS diagnosed; African American, Caucasian, Asian-American, Latino; newly out and even those who were present at the Stonewall rebellion. "Many voices" indeed.

Our diversity is our strength. Learning about each other as individuals through our rehearsals, our friendships, and our love for music strengthens the entire group. It was a special privilege to announce the creation of the James Richardson Recording Endowment Fund, named for our founding director and dear friend, at our concert with Holly Near in October. Jim was on our first board of directors, and carried the chorus musically through its first years and growing pains. And he did all this while maintaining a full time job as a physician! We who remember Jim's efforts during those years are honored to continue this legacy through this Fund. Please refer to the article on Jim and the Endowment Fund located elsewhere in the program.

And speaking of recordings, our second CD *Pride and Joy: The Holiday Album* was released in early November! This is GMCW's best of the last few years of holiday favorites. We feature not only the chorus, but two of our small ensembles, the Chamber Choir and Potomac Fever. We hope you can take one home with you tonight to enjoy during this holiday season! (And of course, they make excellent Holiday gifts!)

For the next few hours we get to show you our "One Heart." As we sing, listen beyond the words and music and feel the love that we send to you. Carry it with you in your heart and become a voice for love, peace and tolerance in the world.

Happy holidays to you all!

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by Bill Eadie

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Walk in on a Friday night at the end of a long week, and you'll find the tables and bar full of people who gather week after week to enjoy the sizzling steaks, the company of good friends, and the views of the passing parade on 17th Street. In fact, Annie's is probably the one area restaurant where people sit willingly in the smoking section where they can see the street!

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Over the years, Annie's Paramount Steakhouse has been one of the most loyal supporters of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington and has often, as they have this year, sponsored our holiday concert. And the Chorus members have returned the favor. Each holiday season, the Chorus stages "GMCW Night" at Annie's, and the upstairs area fills with two shifts of singers eating (and sometimes giving impromptu concerts). Chorus members have even been known to leave the Chorus' own after-concert parties early so they could head for Annie's. After one concert, where the food failed to arrive for the Chorus' private, catered party at the Lincoln Theatre, it seemed as though the entire Chorus jammed Annie's, delightedly eating and socializing.

GMCW wants to take this opportunity to thank Annie's for their continuing support and to invite our audiences to head on over to 17th Street, ask for Annie, and give her a personal word of gratitude for sponsoring the fine music you're hearing at this concert. Besides, if you were quite taken with that cute second tenor in the third row, you're likely to run into him at Annie's, too!

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In a Festive Time & Place

Storytelling in a Holiday Mode
Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC

James Holloway, Music Director
Jeffrey Buhrman, Assistant Music Director
Theodore Guerrant, Accompanist

Welcome Yule — Libby Larsen

Good King Winceslas — Traditional, arr. Channing LeFevre
The GMCW Chamber Choir

Ave Maria — Camille Saint-Saëns

O Holy Night — Adolph Adam, arr. Sam Lancaster
Bruce Emery, soloist

Flute starts, soloist

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day — Jean Baptist Calkin, arr. Brian C. Robinson
Poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Angel Band — Traditional Appalachian Carol, arr. Sam Lancaster
featuring A Few Good Men
Michael Rivard , Director

Alegría — Tradiitonal Puerto Rican carol, arr. Conrad Susa
Paul Thomasson and Rich Aldret, soloists

My Gift — John Chorbajian
Poem by Christina Rosetti

The Three Kings — Healey Willan
Phil Rogerson, Ted Spencer, and Mario Champagne, soloists

The Quiet of a Candle — David York
Karen Moses, oboe

Gabriel's Oboe (from "The Mission") — Ennio Morricone

Light One Candle — Peter Yarrow, arr. Pete Schmutte

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Evening in December — Patricia Ann Walker, arr. David Maddux

A Medley from *Pride & Joy: The Holiday Album* — Various Artists
Potomac Fever
Jeffrey Buhrman, Director

A Season for Lovers — John Michael Albert
Dan Patton, Rich Stevens, Chris Cochran, and Mario Champagne, soloists

A Cup of Christmas Tea — Poem by Tom Hegg, arr. Anne Albritton
Andrew Sullivan, guest narrator

Our guest reads A Story

Audience Sing (see program insert)

The Twelve Days After Christmas — Frederick Silver

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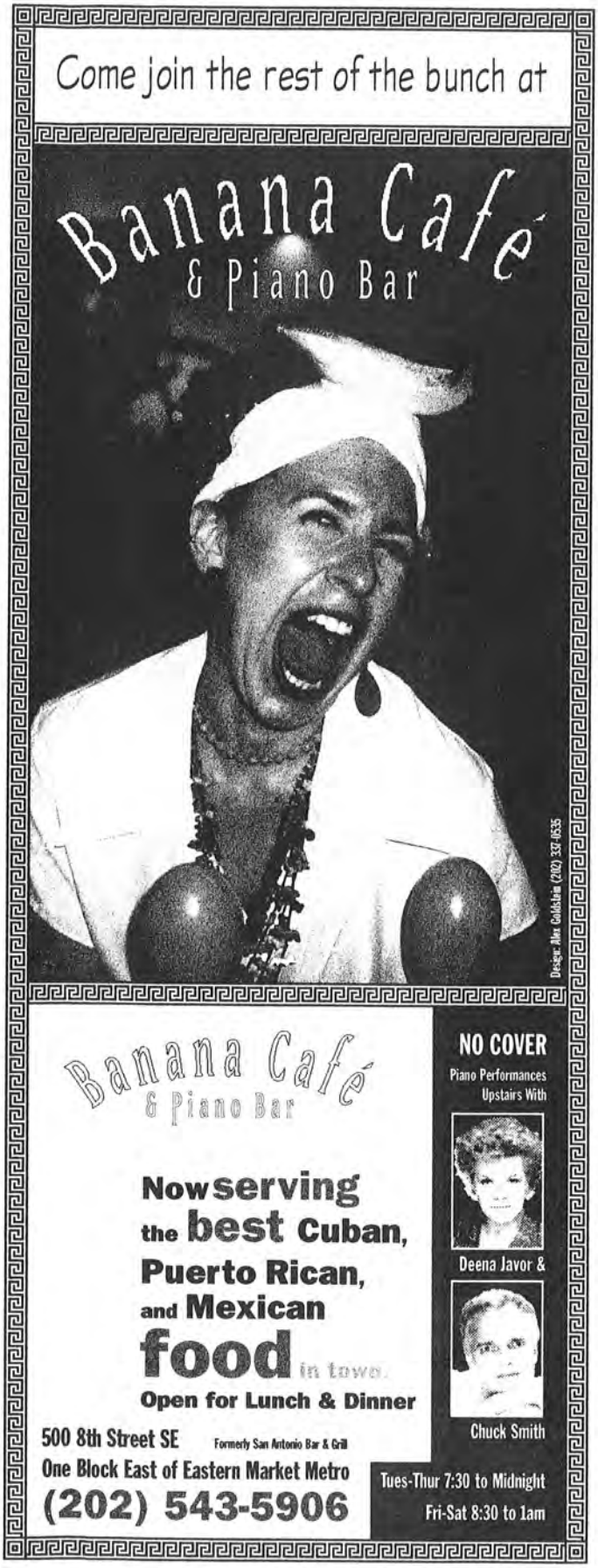

Program Notes

Tell me a story...

Holiday traditions are passed on in stories both told and sung. Whether it be the Christmas story or a tale of a fanciful elf with flying reindeer, a story takes on special significance when it becomes a song. Our program includes many stories: some old, some new, some from other cultures, and some personal.

Some stories are told in the song lyrics such as the medieval English text of *Welcome Yule* and *Good King Wenceslas*. The good king showed his kindness to a hungry peasant and thus become a model of charity. The Puerto Rican carol *Alegría* describes the journey of Joseph and Mary to find shelter and, today, Hispanics commemorate this journey each Christmas Eve in a movable feast called "las posadas." The songs *My Gift* and *The Three Kings* are both about offering a gift of devotion.

Personal stories often ring with a unique truth. *The Quiet of a Candle* is one of those stories of a personal journey of the spirit. The candle, represented by an oboe, is the focal point of this meditation where resolution comes from the journey itself, from the act of looking inward. Conversely, the candle mentioned in *Light One Candle* is a public act, a remembrance of the sacrifice of the Maccabee children. This song has a certain resonance for Gay people and the loss of so many to AIDS.

Gabriel's Oboe comes from the movie "The Mission," a film about Christian missionaries to South America. The song's two contrasting textures—one in the oboe and one in the chorus—could be said to illustrate the tension between idealism (or perhaps theology) and the punchy, angry reality of life locked in a contest for one's faith.

Our *a cappella* group, Potomac Fever, will offer a medley of excerpts from our new recording, *Pride & Joy: the Holiday Album*. This CD is the newest story in our GMCW history, and it features Potomac Fever, our Chamber Choir, and the full chorus in many favorite selections of the season. Pick it up in the lobby and make it a part of your holiday story!

Gay people often have a "coming out" story and we frequently refer to it as "telling one's story." We have a Gay story here, too, in a song about lovers spending holidays together, *A Season for Lovers*.

We have a special story, too, in a sentimental poem called *A Cup of Christmas Tea* by Tom Hegg. Since its first publication twenty-five years ago, it has become a popularclassic due to the theme of reconnecting to one's family. At a time when old people and sick people are warehoused and forgotten, this poem talks about visiting an elderly relative and how a chore turned into joy.

Holidays are for laughing, too, and the story of *The Twelve Days After Christmas* gives an exasperated twist to the partridge-in-a-pear-tree. After all, what does one do with all those birds and maids and drummers?

—*Jim Holloway*

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Tidings of Comfort & Joy

Nathan Monell, Executive Director

"I thought I was the only lesbian in the world." —Dorothy Allison

The first Christmas at the folks after I came out, my elementary-school nephews and I retreated to the attic with a video camera to create a holiday newscast for the family. The boys were hysterical — making up commercials for fast cars and kleenexes "with a special lotion in it so your nose wouldn't be sore," forecasting the weather, and anchoring the desk with news from their perspective. But I was really annoyed that their mother (my sister) and my mother kept barging in on us to "get something" they needed. It wasn't until months later that I found out that they were afraid to leave me alone with the boys and a camera because they assumed "gay" equaled "pedophile." I was furious.

Fear is common in their world where they white-knuckle the past and fight progress. They needn't fear me. But they do have reason to be afraid. My nieces and nephews number six now. They are growing up in a world where lesbians and gays either hide or are banished. Is one of them wrestling today with the instinctive alienation that comes from being different? What kind of course will his/her life take with the absence of positive gay role models? Do they have any idea how prevalent suicide is among gay teenagers growing up in that environment?

The very things my family fears may save them. The proliferation of gays on TV and in public life. The liberal-minded teacher at school who is gay friendly. A youth minister who knew someone gay at college who was really a decent guy. The availability of literature at the library. The Uncle Nathan who is never far out of the family picture.

I can only hope that my nieces and nephews will be exposed to gays like the ones in the Chorus. Then they could say, "I'd like to have a relationship like Brad and Stan's when I grow up, a career like Michael's, and the sense of family I see all round me."

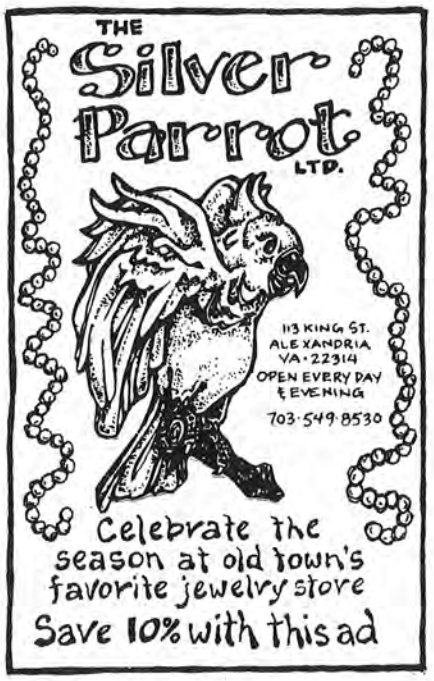
That would bring me tidings of comfort and joy. If my family could but know, it would also comfort them.

Nathan Monell is celebrating his first full year with the Chorus asGMCW's first executive director and full-time employee. A native of upstate New York, he received his Masters degree from the University of Michigan specializing in organizational communication and behavior.

Mr. Monell is a marketing, public relations and human resources professional with 16 years of experience in senior-level nonprofit management, most recently serving as the Director of Marketing for the Knoxville Museum of Art in Knoxville, TN. He has served on the Board of Directors for AIDS Response Knoxville, Metropolitan Community Churches in Knoxville and Boston, and several personnel and public relations professional associations.

Nathan's advocacy and promotional materials have been awarded over 30 national, regional and local awards of excellence. Additionally, he was awarded inclusion in the Men of Achievement, Who's Who in the South, Outstanding Young Men in America *and* International Youth In Achievement.

Mr. Monell resides in Shirlington with his two dogs, Chadwick and Charlie.



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Who's Who

James Holloway, Music Director

"We recognize a responsibility to the words 'community,' 'artistry,' 'excellence,' 'entertainment,' 'inclusiveness.'

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"Somewhere around a 'C,' baritones, if you please!" "This 'ah' vowel is not up for a vote, tenors." "Love this phrase; it'll love you back." "Starting with the last page and working forward..." "...and the new words are..."

— spoken in GMCW rehearsal

James Holloway, now in his eighth season as Music Director, brings to the podium a varied musical background and a passion for the gay and lesbian choral movement. His work as a pianist and accompanist is well known in the Washington area, and he has performed throughout the United States and in England.

His background has included substantial experience in instrumental music, orchestral music, and chamber music as well as many years of experience in vocal coaching including opera, music theater, and choral music. He holds music degrees with honors from the University of South Carolina and the University of Maryland where he studied with Stewart Gordon, Nelita True, and noted vocal coach and accompanist Martin Katz. He has also studied extensively in England with the venerated pianist Denise Lassimonne, who for almost fifty years has been the living link to the great piano pedagogue Tobias Matthay.

Jim retired from the Board of Directors of GALA Choruses in 1995 after six years of service, which included instituting a highly successful fundraising auction at the organization's annual conferences. GALA Choruses is an association serving a network of more than 150 gay and lesbian choruses in the United States, Canada, Europe, and around the world. Jim is employed by the Library of Congress as a copyright examiner for the performing arts, and has been listed in Outstanding Young Men in America.

Of gay choruses he says, "There are no blueprints for us to follow; we are constantly inventing ourselves. Sometimes the press and the arts funding establishment don't know how to deal with us, but that's because we will not be so easily categorized or pigeonholed. We are free to develop a style and choral personality all our own which let us choose from the widest possible array of musical entertainment styles. In our music we may soothe or confront, we may even laugh at the humor of our own lives, but we must not be boring."

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Jeffrey Buhrman,
Assistant Music Director

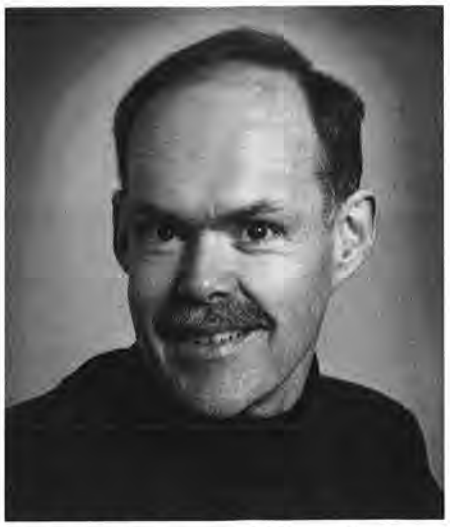
This is Jeff's eighth year as Assistant Director. He joined GMCW in September, 1986 and has been Director of Potomac Fever for ten years. Jeff has also been a featured soloist in many GMCW concerts.

Jeff received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Montclair University where he studied voice with Marden Bate and conducting with David Randolph. He spent several years singing in New York City with professional choruses, including a five-voice early music ensemble "Friends and Aires," which he founded.

Jeff has been a music educator and a school administrator for over 20 years. He has diligently pursued his Master of Arts degree in Counseling from George Washington University. Recently he began his new career as a secondary school counselor.

This is Jeff's final season with GMCW. In July, 1997 he will join Robert, his partner of 6 years, in New York City where Robert begins his new career as a lawyer.

Michael L. Rivard,
Director/Choreographer ⇒



Michael has been directing and choreographing for **A Few Good Men,** the Chorus' song-and-dance ensemble, for eleven years now, and serving as stage director for GMCW's "theatrical productions" for the past six seasons. It has been said, among other things, that "Michael's credentials include a warped sense of humor, a twisted mind, and an imagination out of control."

Moving to the D.C. area in 1976, he began his association with the Chorus in the Spring of 1985. While living in this area, he has studied jazz, ballet, modern dance, and his favorite, tap, as well as piano and voice. Michael is a member of the International Tap Association which, since its founding in 1987, serves the needs of the tap community and promotes a greater understanding of the art of tap throughout the world.

As a member of the Atlantic States Gay Rodeo Association, Michael has choreographed and performed with the Capital Cloggers, and danced with the DC Lambda Squares, the gay square dance club in the District.

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Theodore Guerrant, Principal Accompanist

Known to GMCW members and audiences alike for fourteen years (and still infamous for his outrageous impersonation of Liberace in *Our Show of Shows*), "Dr. Teddy" first came to us as Jim Holloway's sidekick on the piano bench, where he and Jim quickly established their reputations as innovative interpreters of Leonard Bernstein's "Wrong Note Rag."

A native of Georgia (although he claims no allegiance to certain small semi-aquatic salamander-like political characters), Ted holds three college degrees in piano performance-literature, one in harpsichord, and is presently pursuing a diploma in organ at a nearby conservatory. In addition to GMCW, he has seven other part-time jobs as Director of Music and Organist at one church, Associate Organist at a second church, Assisting Organist at a third church, Accompanist/Rehearsal Assistant for three other area choral groups, and Administrative Staff member in the music department of a local university.

His hobbies, as unusual as he is, have ranged from rebuilding Victorian reed organs to operating a sometimes "finishing school" for straight boys (who provide cautious albeit curious audiences for his expostulations in metaphysics, psychology, and philosophy). Two previous GMCW conductors have survived him, and he is now working on (or under, as it were) the third.

Phil Rogerson, Vocal Coach

A native of West Virginia and a private teacher of voice and piano in the Washington area, Phil has been an active member of the Chorus since it was founded in 1981. He is a graduate of West Virginia University with bachelor's and master's degrees in music education.

Phil, along with the other members of the music staff, listens to the auditions of

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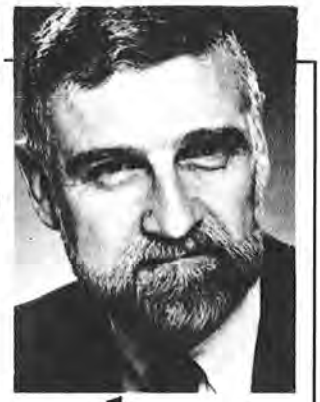
-Voices for the City



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prospective new chorus singers as well as to the "vocal reviews" that all GMCW singing members must pass each fall. For members who have never had formal vocal instruction, he teaches a class in vocal technique each Sunday for an hour before regular rehearsal. Phil conducts vocal warm-ups and sectional rehearsals and assists soloists and individual singers with vocal problems.

He is active in many local music organizations, and has served as president of the Southern Maryland Choral Society, the Choristers' Guild, and the Prince George's Music Teachers Association.

Gary Turner, Co-Executive Producer ⇒

Gary became involved with GMCW support activities and fund raising when his Life Partner and Best Friend for 13 years, Carl Baldwin, joined the chorus in 1990. His family grew from 3 to 125 that year. Since that time, he has flipped burgers, sold advertisements, solicited donations, driven trucks, built props, and created costumes.

He claims if he is not GMCW's biggest fan, he is the proudest. He is thankful that he can rely on the many friends and family of chorus members who volunteer to accomplish the huge task of coordinating the production of all of GMCW's performances.

In real life, Gary manages training and technology transfer projects for the federal government. Other volunteer activities include conducting training courses for employees and managers on AIDS in the federal workplace.

Claiming there is even a place for a "blare-a-tone" like himself in the chorus, Gary invites music lovers and the theatrically inclined to join the support section and share the fun.

Joe Vignali, Co-Executive Producer ⇒

Joe is a native of the metropolitan Washington area and currently lives with his partner of 5 years, Jerry Lee, in Springfield, VA. (Yes, there *is* gay life outside the Beltway.) He joined the Chorus in

1995 after 3 years of being a "chorus widow" on Sunday nights. He has been the section leader of the Support Section and is currently serving on the FCPAA Board of Directors.

When not being a terror with a clipboard, Joe works as an engineer for the Federal Government.

He would like to thank all the members of the Support Section and backstage crew for their tireless efforts and the singing members of the Chorus for the opportunity to work with such a great group of performers.

Along with Gary, Joe hopes that you enjoy the performance today and have the happiest of holidays.

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Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC

The 130-voice Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC, recently celebrated its fifteenth anniversary with performances of a newly commissioned work, Mark Adamo's *The Poet Speaks of Praising*, and the release of its second CD, *Pride and Joy*, a collection of holiday music. GMCW has been in the forefront of the gay and lesbian chorus movement.

Founded in 1981, GMCW quickly became a staple of the Washington choral music scene. Over the years, GMCW has performed at the Kennedy Center, the National Theater, the Warner Theater, Constitution Hall, the Lincoln Theater, and Lisner Auditorium on the George Washington University campus, along with a number of venues in and around the District. In addition, GMCW has toured to many of the major cities in the United States, and a European tour is under consideration for 1998.

Under the direction of James Holloway, GMCW performs three subscription concerts annually: a holiday concert; a spring concert that alternates between a serious music theme and a comic revue (e.g., 1996's *Campaign Crazy*, the national convention of the Cocktail Party, featuring Joan Cushing as Mrs. Foggybottom); and a summer concert that often features appearances by guest choruses. GMCW also appears at a number of community events, including the annual interfaith AIDS service at Washington's National Cathedral.

GMCW sponsors three small ensembles: Potomac Fever, a 12-person close harmony group that has been invited to sing at the European Gay and Lesbian Chorus festival in 1997; A Few Good Men, a 16-person song-and-dance troupe; and the Chamber Choir, a 20-voice serious music ensemble. The Chamber Choir presents a fall concert, and Potomac Fever and A Few Good Men are featured in a small ensembles concert each February.

GMCW has won a number of awards, including the Mayor's Arts Award for artistic excellence in 1989, and the Washington Area Music Association's WAMMIE award in 1995 for outstanding gospel performance (for "Live at the Lincoln," featuring New Art Six). In addition to *Pride and Joy*, GMCW can be heard on the CD *Singing Free*.

GMCW Presents made its debut in 1996 by producing its first celebrity concert, *Forever, For Love and For Life: Holly Near* immediately preceding the National AIDS Candlelight March that accompanied the showing of the NAMES Project's AIDS Memorial Quilt.

GMCW's choruses are an activity of the Federal City Performing Arts Association, which also sponsors the Capital Club, its fundraising arm. Corporate sponsorship to GMCW has been provided by companies such as AT&T and Eastman Kodak.

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James Richardson Recording Endowment Fund

With loving gratitude to our Founding Director, Dr. Jim Richardson, GMCW has established an endowment fund for future CD recordings made by the Chorus. Jim's vision is directly responsible for the chorus we are today, and has left a lasting imprint on the GMCW family. His leadership sustained us through our first exciting and sometimes turbulent years, including our performance in New York City at the first-ever GALA Festival of Choruses in 1983. Although he moved to Houston in 1985, where he now resides with his life partner, Bruce Woolley, Jim has remained one of our most loyal and avid supporters. We are extremely proud to honor his legacy.

The following contributors have provided the initial seed money for this fund, which will become a revolving endowment used for our future recording projects. You may make a tax-deductible contribution to this fund by designating it to the "James Richardson Recording Endowment Fund." Checks, made payable to FCPAA, Inc., may be mailed to: GMCW, 2801 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20007, or credit card authorizations may be phoned to 202-338-SING. We hope you will join us in saluting Dr. Jim Richardson!

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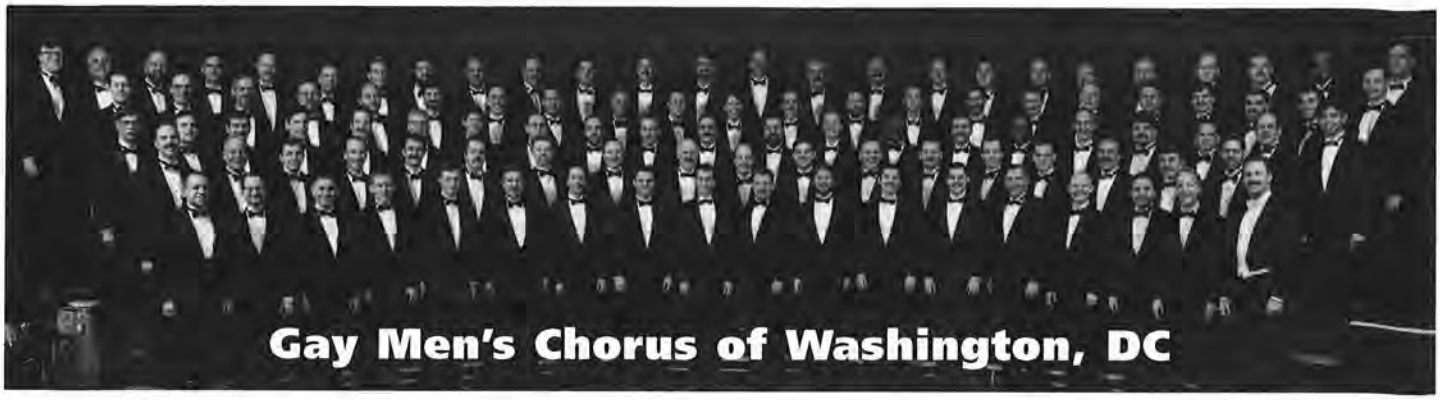

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Michael T. Hodge
Timothy Juday
Nicholas Kyrus
g. Michael Milano
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Philip M. Rogerson
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David F. Streit[1]
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Kevin Webster[2]
Robert K. Wonneberger

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Tom Bell[3]
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---

[1]Potomac Fever
[2]A Few Good Men
[3]Chamber Choir

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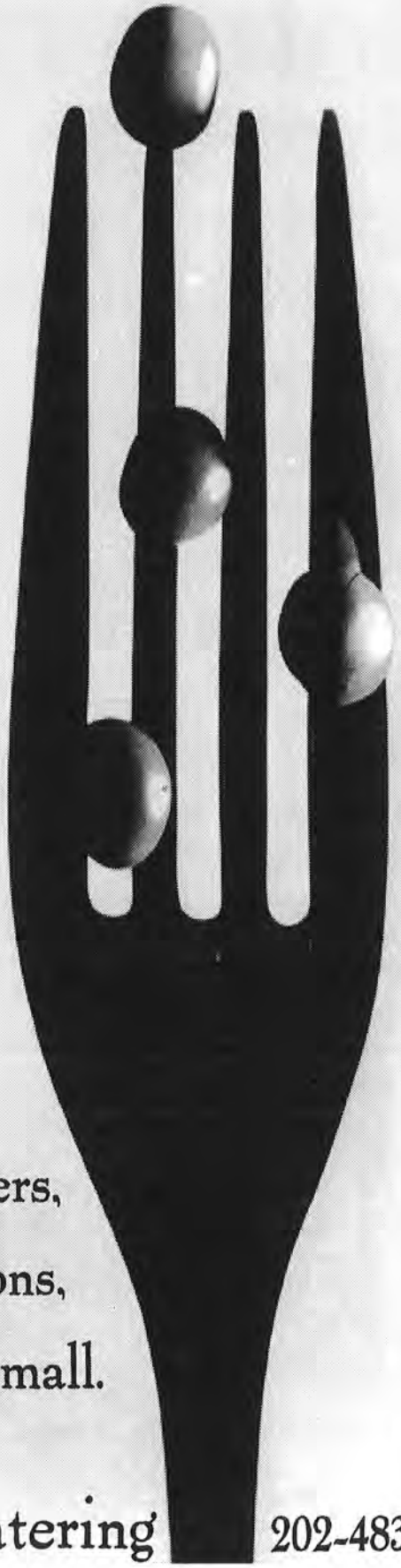

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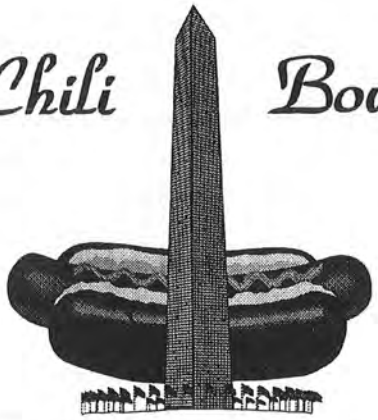

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington DC is to develop a musical legacy, to affirm the role of the Gay community in the life of the nation and humanity, to educate others about the gay experience, and to inspire through music.

We seek to achieve these goals by:

- commissioning new music
- participating in the international Gay and Lesbian choral movement
- maintaining fiscal stability
- performing community outreach

We recognize the need for diversity and support the rights of individual expression while sharing common values:

- developing as a family
- fostering individual growth
- encouraging team work
- breaking new ground
- achieving musical excellence
- promoting Gay pride

GMCW Goals

I. MUSIC

In the area of music, the GMCW is committed to:

- enriching the music education of singing members
- striving toward musical excellence
- continuing our musical legacy by breaking new ground and making a permanent musical imprint on the international Gay & Lesbian Choral movement that will reflect the diversity of the Chorus and the community

II. FINANCE

The GMCW is committed to fulfilling its financial responsibilities by:

- increasing revenues while maintaining short- and long-term fiscal stability in order to further GMCW mission
- reducing expenses for individual members
- educating members on fiscal matters
- diversifying our revenue base

III. VISIBILITY/OUTREACH

The GMCW is committed to reaching out to others by:

- communicating more effectively with our supporters, the Les/Bi/Gay community, and the Washington D.C. metropolitan community
- developing relationships with other organizations and others in our community such that our sense of community is expanded
- fostering and improving our relationship with the media

IV. MEMBERSHIP

The GMCW is committed to creating an environment that fosters musical and personal growth for its members by:

- recruiting singing and non-singing members with talents and abilities that forward our mission and goals
- encouraging family/group cohesion and support
- encouraging member participation in Chorus activities
- encouraging open, active, and timely communication among all FCPAA members, including singing and non-singing GMCW members, Capital Club, and FCPAA Board
- encouraging greater diversity within GMCW

V. ORGANIZATION AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The GMCW is dedicated to:

- supporting, sustaining, and increasing GMCW growth through establishment of paid professional administrative staff
- developing Board and non-paid staff skills & growth (volunteers)
- reviewing and assessing the organizational structure and its component parts on an ongoing basis and making adaptations as needed

VI. DIVERSITY

GMCW is committed to diversity in:

- musical programming
- membership
- audience
- community outreach

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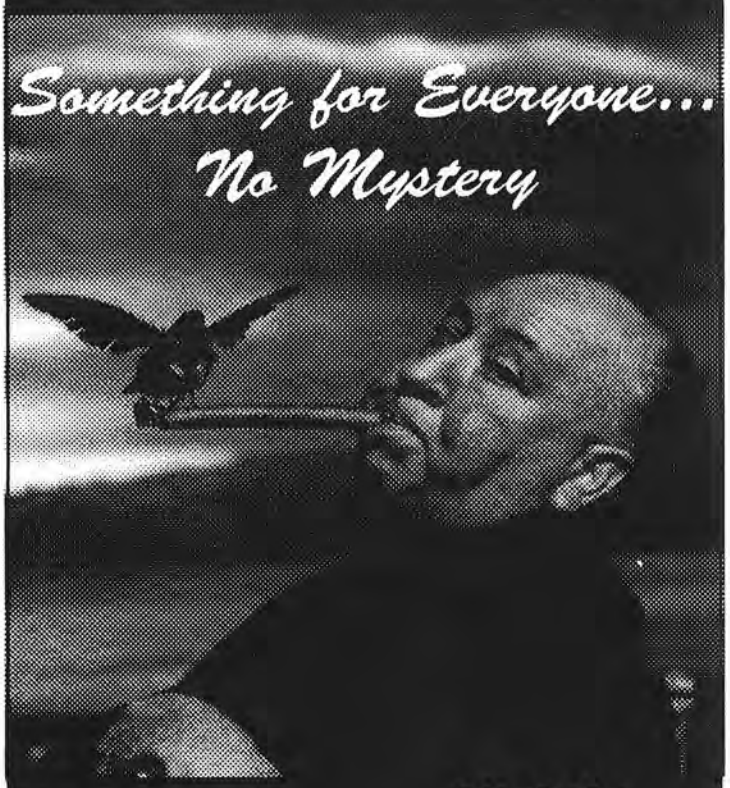

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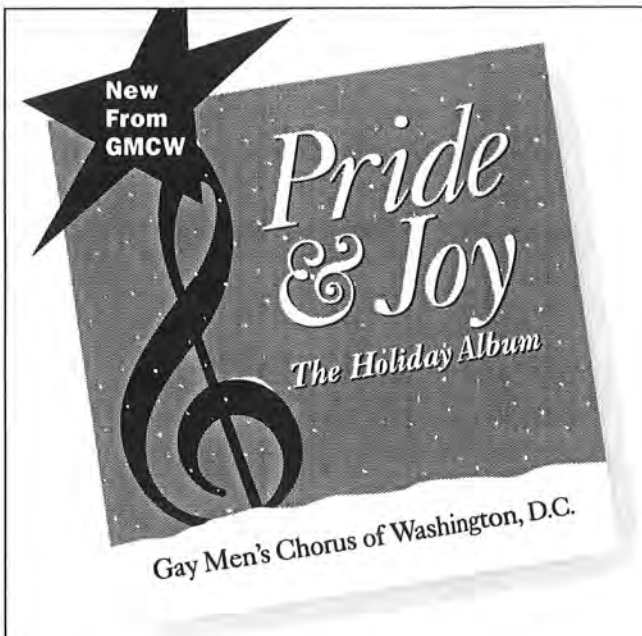

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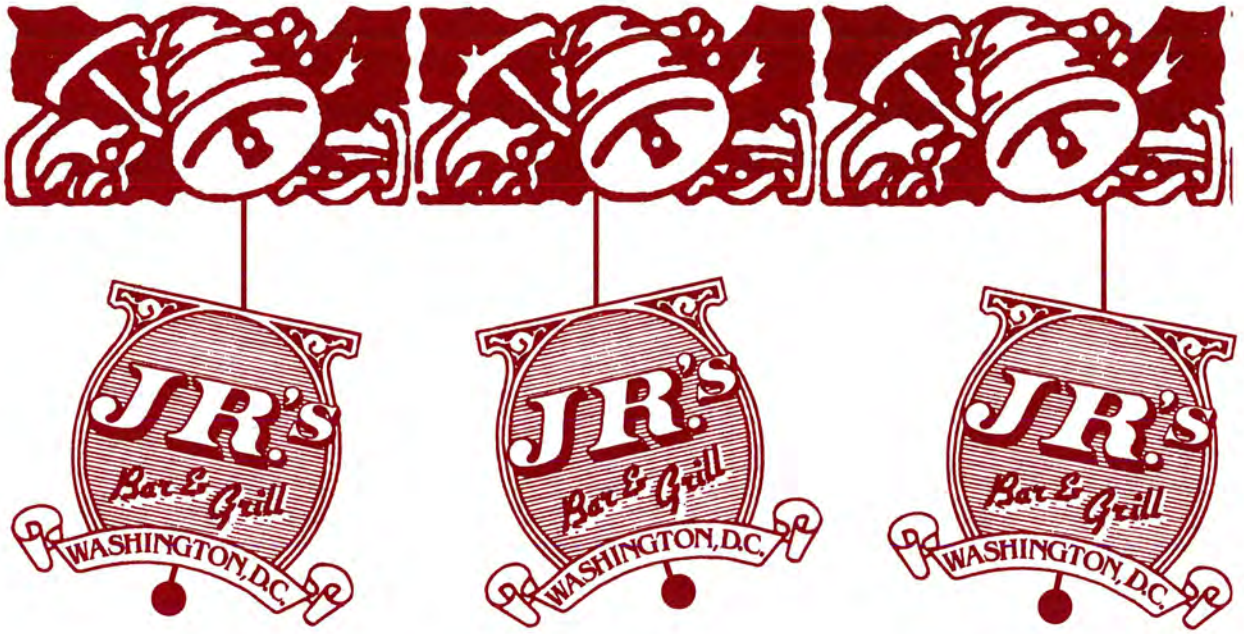
A very special thanks to our Advertising Sales Team: Roger Bergstrom, Micheal DiPaula, Jack Gerard, Bill Lipsett, Andre Marcial, Nathan Monell, Jack Pryor, Gary Regan, Henry Salevsky, Charles Walker, Robert York, and most of all, Jack Gerard & Gary Regan, our Ad Sales Team Leaders.

Special recognition this year goes to Rod Fiorito, who designed the computer database for our advertisers, donors, mailing list, and our annual Capital Club Auction!

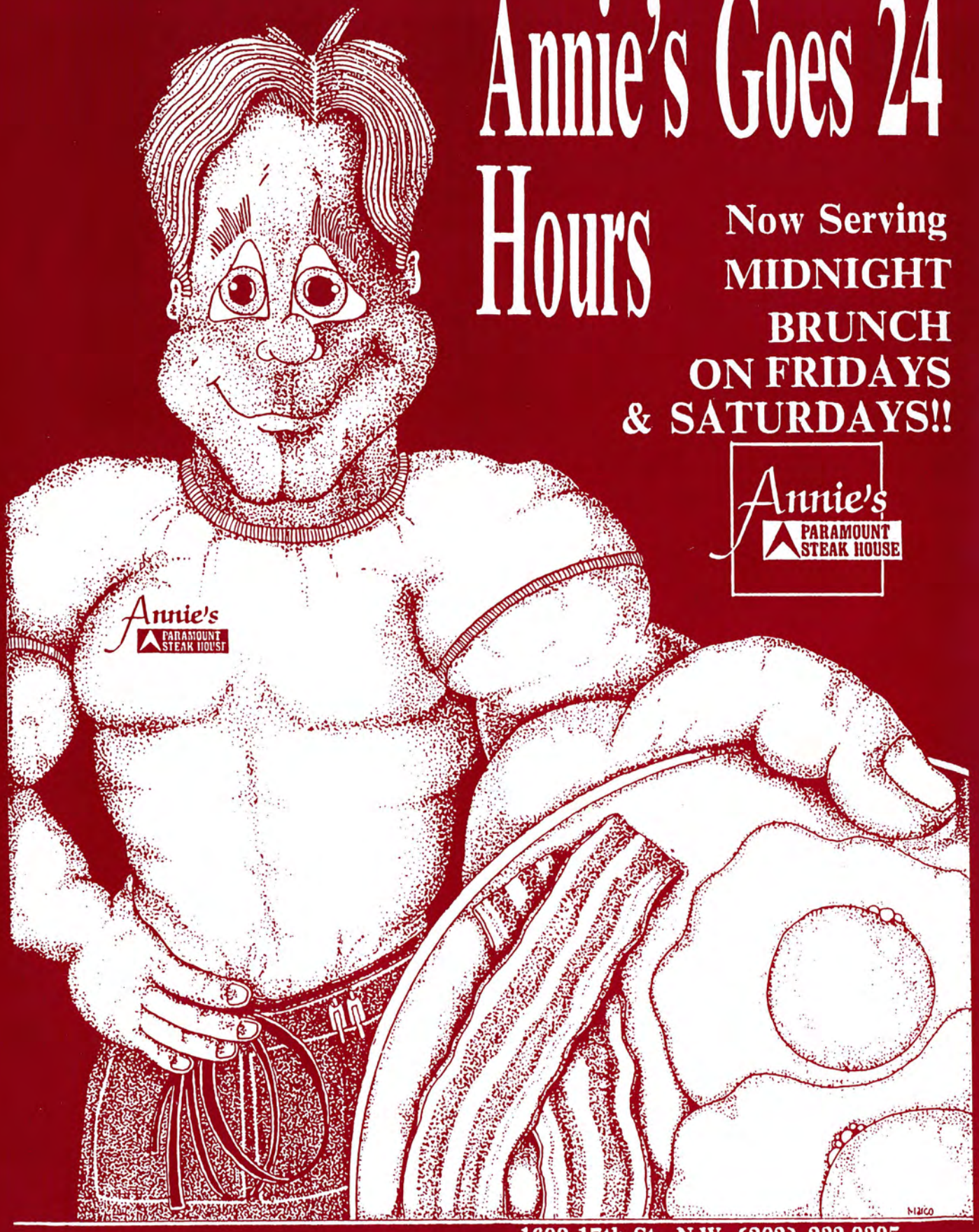


Seasons Greetings

Annie's Goes 24 Hours

Now Serving
MIDNIGHT
BRUNCH
ON FRIDAYS
& SATURDAYS!!

Annie's
PARAMOUNT STEAK HOUSE



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