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The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, D.C.

December 3-5, 1992

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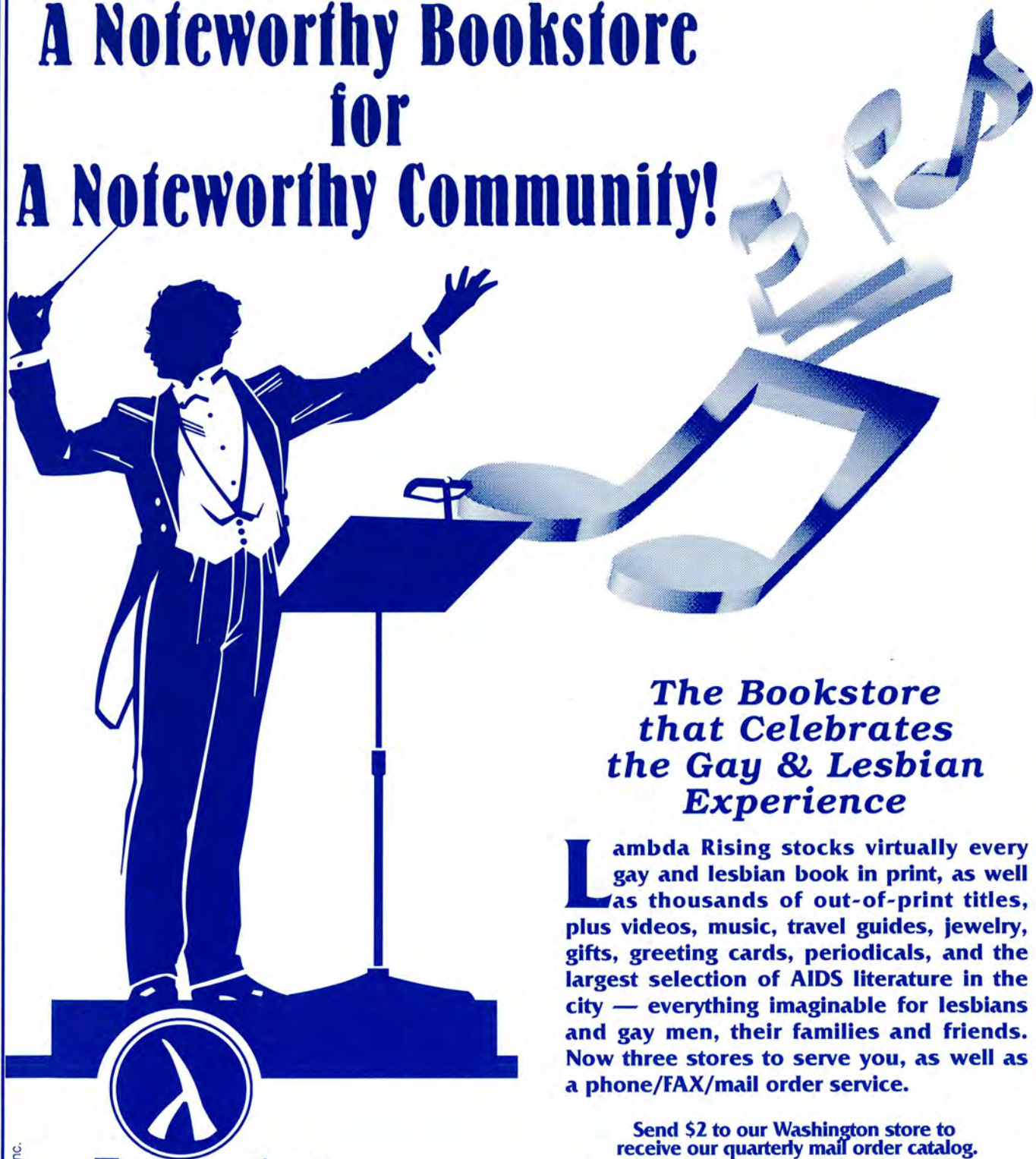

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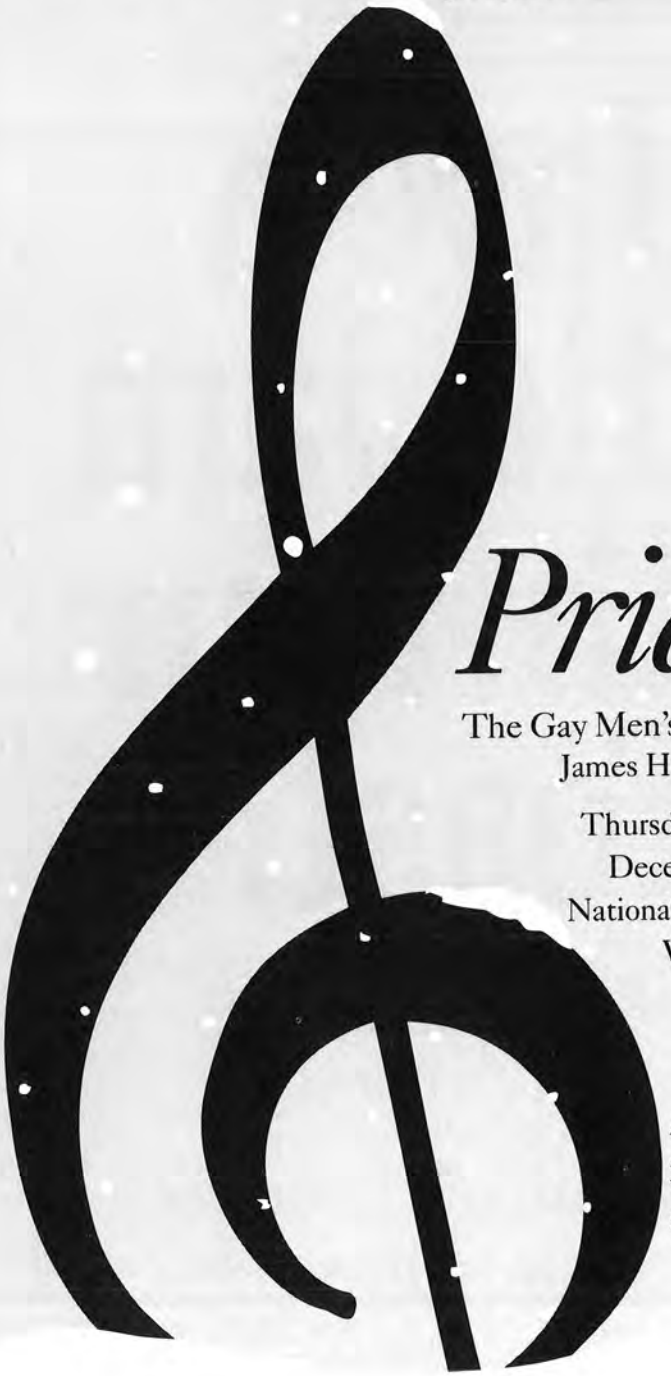

Pride & Joy

The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, D.C.
James Holloway, Music Director

Thursday, Friday & Saturday
December 3, 4 & 5, 1992
National City Christian Church
Washington, DC

Assistant Music Director.....Jeffrey Buhrman
Accompanist .....Theodore Guerrant
Vocal Coach .....Phil Rogerson
Stage Director/Choreographer ...Michael Rivard

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Pride & Joy

The GMCW Holiday Concert

HANUKKAH — Scott Henderson

CHICHESTER PSALMS — Leonard Bernstein

I Psalm 108, vs. 2
Psalm 100
II Psalm 23
Psalm 2, vs. 1-4
III Psalm 131
Psalm 133, vs. 1

Soloists: Van Neel, countertenor; Kevin Doss, tenor; Todd Payich, tenor; David Eberhardt, baritone; Ric Rosendall, bass

RIU, RIU, CHIU — 16th Century Spanish Carol
GMCW Chamber Choir

THREE VENEZUELAN CAROLS — Traditional Carols, arr. Bruce Trinkley
La Jornada
Como busca el tierno Infante
Cantemos

Soloist: Carl Baldwin tenor

HUSH! SOMBODY'S CALLIN' MY NAME — Traditional Spiritual, arr. Brazeal W. Dennard

Soloist: Mark Cobb, bass

BETELEHEMU (NIGERIAN CHRISTMAS SONG) — Via Olatunji, arr. Wendell Whalum

Featuring *GMCW Chamber Choir*; soloist Jim Moore, tenor; and *A Few Good Men*, Michael Rivard, Director

Intermission

A SEASON FOR LOVERS — John-Michael Albert

Soloists: Michael Milano, tenor; Fred Poggemeyer, tenor; Jeffrey Buhrman, baritone; Mark Cobb, bass

THE LONG CHRISTMAS DINNER — Words by Craig Sturgis; Music written, arranged,andotherwise enhanced by Larry Moore (apologies to J. S. Bach)

Soloists: David Sisson, tenor, as the Evangelist; Kevin Doss, tenor, as Steven; David Eberhardt, baritone, as Roger

FIRESIDE SING-ALONG — Audience

HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS — Hugh Martin–Ralph Blaine
Potomac Fever — arr. Gary Simmons

JINGLE BELLS — J. Pierpoint
Potomac Fever — arr. Gordon Langford

WHITE CHRISTMAS — Irving Berlin
Potomac Fever — arr. Clay Warnick

CHRISTMAS IS DELICIOUS — Debbie Greig and Scott Henderson

Soloists: Jim Murphy, bass; Michael Smith, baritone; Todd Payich, tenor; Doug Mitchell, tenor

THE VERY BEST TIME OF YEAR — John Rutter

CALYPSO BELLS — J. Pierpont, arr. Scott Henderson

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Program Notes

Holiday time is when traditions meet: when religious, ethnic and cultural differences merge into a feeling of "goodwill and peace on earth." In the spirit of celebration and regard for different cultures, we sing of traditions, some old and some new. Holiday traditions may grow from our ethnic heritage, our family patterns, or our individual tastes and creativity. Tonight, we share each other's cultures, each other's company, traditions and songs.

Hanukkah is the Jewish Feast of Dedication, also known as the Feast of Lights. Historically, it refers to the dedication of the purified Temple at Jerusalem over 2100 years ago; symbolically, the lighting of candles is a time of remembrance, renewal and hope. The text for Scott Henderson's "Hanukkah" was published in 1914 as a poem by Cecilia G. Gerson in *The Jewish Exponent*. Henderson composed this musical setting for the Los Angeles Gay Men's Chorus in 1989.

Leonard Bernstein composed the "Chichester Psalms" for the 1965 Three Choirs Festival in Sussex, England. His vital rhythms and haunting melodies, signatures of his uniquely American style, have made this one of the most loved and popular of choral works.

However diverse Hispanic cultures may be, they share many common threads of language and religious customs. The Christian liturgical calendar has greatly influenced the patterns of Latino life, and it is at Epiphany, after Christmas, when Latino families gather to feast and exchange gifts in honor of the Magi's presentation of gold, myrrh and frankincense to the infant Jesus. The "Three Venezuelan Carols" were arranged by GMCW's former Music Director, Bruce Trinkley.

"Betelehemu" is a Christmas song in the Yoruba dialect made famous in this country by Wendell Whalum's Moorehouse College Glee Club. Its tempo contrasts with the gentle "Hush! Somebody's Callin' My Name," but both share a strong sense of rhythm that underscores music of African heritage.

Gay culture has its own traditions of the season, and sharing the holidays with one's Significant Other is a special treat. This feeling is captured in John-Michael Albert's "A Season For Lovers," which was featured in GALA Choruses Festival IV in Denver this past summer as a competition winner. Bringing the S.O. home to meet the folks is an experience shared with trepidation by many, and "The Long Christmas Dinner" describes via music borrowed from J.S. Bach the anxiety of not knowing for sure how the "in-laws" will take "the news."

For all the talk of family values, who has them and who doesn't, Gays and Lesbians have created a sense of "family" where there often was none; and our gatherings at holiday-time are like gatherings of families everywhere: times of visiting, singing together, cooking and feasting. In the final section of our program, we offer these familiar things as Gay traditions: singing happy songs, sharing the kitchen duties and just enjoying each other's company. We're glad you're here with us. Sing along!

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Grants and Associations

The Federal City Performing Arts Association (FCPAA) and the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, D.C. (GMCW), are supported in part by grants from the District of Columbia Commission on the Arts and Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, D.C. is a member of GALA Choruses (the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses), an international alliance of over 100 men's, women's, and mixed choruses with the mission of providing leadership and inspiration to the Lesbian and Gay movement through excellence in the choral arts. GALA Choruses produces a choral festival every three years, with the next in Denver in 1992. GALA Choruses also plans annual conferences for directors and managers, addresses problems of mutual concern, and assists with the sharing of music holdings.

In the United States, there are GALA Choruses in Albuquerque, Asheville, Atlanta (2 choruses), Austin, Baltimore, Boston (2), Buffalo, Charlotte, Chicago (2), Cincinnati (2), Cleveland, Columbus, Dallas (2), Denver (3), Des Moines, Detroit (2), Green Bay, Harrisburg, Honolulu, Houston, Indianapolis (3), Kansas City (2), Lansing (2), Lexington, Little Rock, Long Beach (2), Los Angeles (2), Memphis, Miami/Ft. Lauderdale (2), Milwaukee (2), Minneapolis/St. Paul (3), New Haven (2), New Orleans, New York City (2), Oklahoma City, Omaha, Orlando, Philadelphia (3), Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland (3), Princeton, Richmond, Rochester (3), Sacramento (3), San Antonio, San Diego (2), San Francisco (4), San Jose, Santa Cruz, Santa Fe, Seattle (3), St. Louis (2), Syracuse, Tacoma, Tampa (2), Tucson, Washington (2),and West Hollywood.

GALA Canadian Choruses are in Calgary, Ottawa (2), Toronto, Saskatoon, and Vancouver (3), and there are GALA Choruses in Berlin, Germany, and London, England.

GALA Choruses is a non-profit, tax exempt corporation with offices at 1617 East 22nd Avenue, Denver, CO 80205.

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Notes from The President

By David Streit

Welcome! It's great to be back together for another holiday season. These concerts have become our own family gathering. This evening is our gift to you for all your love and support. Make yourself at home and enjoy a night of "Pride and Joy."

It's been a long, nerve-wracking year for the gay community, but one that is filled with hope. We have shown our profound impact in the political field and look forward to the effects it should have in improving the quality of life in this country. However, there are still forces that would seek to silence us. This makes it important for us to continue to fight for social justice in the year ahead. The Chorus will do its part and we hope you will join us.

There have already been some very special moments for the chorus in the past few months. The AIDS Candlelight March on the Quilt Weekend was a tremendous tribute to the loved ones we have lost and the massive crowd was a clear sign that we care. The Chorus was honored to be able to provide the send-off to the marchers. We also participated in the AIDS Healing Service at the National Cathedral. The service was truly inspiring and uplifting. I am amazed at the changes that our chorus has fostered at the gathering. Just four short years ago, we were nearly barred from participating. This year, not only were we invited, but we also heard from a self-proclaimed gay minister and several other openly gay speakers. All us left with uplifted spirits – it was truly a healing service.

The year ahead is filled with more excitement. We will have an important role in the National March on Washington. The Chorus will be hosting many of our sisters and brothers from other choruses around the country. In our performances over the weekend, we will be joined by them and other gay entertainers in a celebration of our many achievements in the arts. We look forward to joining you at the March. We are also very excited about hosting our first international guest chorus at the Pride Concert in June. The gay men's chorus of Amsterdam, Noot Aan de Man, will make it a very special "Dutch treat."

The next year will be busy indeed, but the central point will always be the joy we have in sharing it with you. You are the ones who make all the work worthwhile. Please know you are more than an audience – you are an important part of our Chorus family. Have a great year with us.

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First Tenor
Rich Blevins
Brad Boekeloo[3]
Fred Boykin[2]
Peter Brayton[3]
Joe Cannon[2]
Kevin W. Doss[3]
Gary M. Durnan
Raymond A. Hall
Bill Himelright[3]
Scott Horton
John Larkin
G. Michael Milano
Doug Mitchell
Jim Moore
Van L. Neel[1]
Robert Perkins
Gary M. Regan
Robb Rexroth
Ric Thomas Rice
George Rogers
Philip M. Rogerson
David Sisson
John Sorbo
Jim Stanko
Glenn Stover
David F. Streit[1]
Jeffrey C. Van Luyn
Arie B. Venema[3]
Robert G. Wicks[2]
James W. Williams[3]
Joseph Wolfe
Bob Wonneberger[2]

Second Tenor
Carl Baldwin
Tom Bell
Matt Berenger
Roger C. Bergstrom
D. Gordon Braun, Jr.
Jerry Carpenter
Daniel Coombs
Steve Crutchfield
Jeff Davis
Stanley D. Drake[3]
Daniel J. Duch C.
Roger Edens[1]
Roland Emenheiser[2]
Rod Fiorito[2]
A. Wade Hancock, Jr.
Scott Herring
Ray Hoffman
David W. Holmes[3]
Alex C. Klebenow[3]
Steven Kopstein
James P. Madigan III[3]
Tom McRoberts[2]
Jim Meany
Martin G. Murray
Darrell L. Netherton
Ron O'Leary
Len Padgett
Todd Payich[1]
Stan Piotroski
Fred Poggemeyer[1]
Michael R. Quasebarth
Steve Reed
David Robinson
John Rutkowski
Jeffrey Shaw
Paul Siegel
Dennis C. Swick[1]
Richard P. Tringale
Keith Wall
Juan Washington
Barry T. White

Baritone
Ken Aaron
Barry Baltzley
Steve Bishop
Jeffrey Buhrman[1]
Bo Bullock
Skip Coburn
Larry Cohen
Craig R. Cowden
Chip Crews
James F. DeRoma
David M. Dolecki[1]
F. William Dommel, Jr.
Ronald Downing
Richard D. Dupler[3]
David Frederick Eberhardt[3]
Thom Gibb
Christopher M. Grieder[2]
Johnny Henderson
Stephen K. Horn
Howard Jaffe
Darrell L. Lewis
Michael Lewis[2,3]
Bill Lipsett
Tom LoConte
Wayne Longest
Michael D. McElvaine
Scott Mezistrano
Falle Nelson
James Peterson[2]
Don Poe
Harry B. Powers
Michael S. Resnick
Alan Christopher Roberts
L. Wayne Rogers
Michael B. Smith[3]
Casper E. Uldriks
Bob Williams
Bob Yeargan

Bass
C. Michael Baker[1]
Jim Carey
Mark H. Cobb[3]
David Cooper[3]
Michael DiPaula[2]
Richard Dorr
Bob Dragoset[3]
Damon Hou
Dan Kaufman
Conrad Lee
Jim Lopresti
Charles A. McClelland
Charles F. Merk
James Murphy[1]
Steve Pflasterer[1,3]
Dickie Popp
Kevin M. Quigley
R. Thomas Rodriguez
Rick Rosendall
Peter E. Scott[3]
Ernie Smith
John L. Weslowski

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J. Harvey Lang
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Carl Schwarrtz
Robert Winter
Mike Ziskind

---

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

Text Translations

Chichester Psalms

I

Awake, psaltery and harp!
I will rouse the dawn!

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before His presence with singing.
Know ye that the Lord, He is God.
It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves.
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
Enter into His gates with thanksgiving
And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful unto Him and bless His name.

For the Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting
And his truth endureth to all generations.

II

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures,
He leadeth me beside the still waters,
He restoreth my soul,
He Leadeth me in the paths of righteousness,
For His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through
The valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
For thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff,
They comfort me.

Why do the nations rage
And the people imagine a vain thing?
The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together
Against the Lord and against His anointed.
Saying, let us break their bands asunder
And cast away their cords from us.
He that sitteth in the heavens
Shall laugh, and the Lord
Shall have them in derision!

Thou preparest a table before me
In the presence of mine enemies;
Thou anointest my head with oil,
My cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy
Shall follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever.

III

Lord, My heart is not haughty,
Nor mine eyes lofty,
Neither do I exercise myself
In great matters or in things
Too wonderful for me.
Surely I have calmed
And quieted myself.
As a child that is weaned of his mother,
My soul is even as a weaned child.
Let Israel hope in the Lord
From henceforth and forever.

Behold how good
And how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell
Together in unity.

Amen.

Venezuelan Carols

Riu, Riu, Chiu: El lobo rabioso

Riu, riu, chiu
Watch over your sheep by the bank.
God protected our lamb from the wolf.
God protected our lamb from the wolf.

The enraged world wanted to bite her,
But almighty God kept her form harm.
He made her so that she could be sinless,
This Virgin was unspotted even by the original sin.

This newborn infant is the invincible King,
Christ the patriarch taken human flesh,
He saved us all by making himself small,

(continued on page 12)

Welcome
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Two U.S. Presidents, James A. Garfield and Lyndon B. Johnson, were active participants in the local congregation.

This national church is open to all people as a house of worship and prayer. The very fiber of the church is ecumenical. Its oneness is declared not only in worship and fellowship, but in action as this church ministers and witnesses to people of all walks of life in our nation's capital.

Please know that you are invited and welcome to return to National City for our 11:00 a.m. Sunday services and to become part of the life of this congregation. For more information, please feel free to call members Steve Bishop at 202/364-8677 or Paul Rosstead at 202/646-1218.

Thomas W. Dudley Memorial Fund

Established in 1986, the Dudley Fund honors one of GMCW's founding members. Tom was a member of the Board, fund-raising chairman extraordinaire, and friend of all. In his will he left GMCW a significant sum of money. This bequest provided the seed money for what became the fund that bears his name.

The Dudley Fund is an interest-bearing account, with two basic goals: to assist needy Chorus members in participating in Chorus events; and to permit the Chorus to provide increased outreach to the Gay and Lesbian community, as well as to the general local community. Since the Fund was established, it has grown four-fold through donations in memory of deceased members of the community. You can help keep the fund growing with your tax-deductible gift, or by including GMCW in your will.

Please send donations to: The Thomas W. Dudley Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 57043, Washington, DC 20037. Make checks payable to FCPAA. Your gift will keep Tom's dream alive.

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(continued from page 10)

Although He was infinite, He became finite.

La Jornada

Din, din, din, we must be on our way,
Din, din, din, before the break of day.
Lengthy is the journey to reach Bethlehem.

Dearest Virgin Mary, shy and ordinary,
You bring greatest hope and joy to Paradise!
Wishing God's protection, friends were gathered 'round them,
Clasping hands in blessing, watching them depart.

Daylight's rays were dying e'er they were arriving,
But they found no lodging in night's growing cold.
Trudging through a meadow, stumbling on a grotto,
Joseph led poor Mary inside for the night.

Como Busca el Tierno Infante

As the frightened baby Jesus,
Shiv'ring from the cold and hunger,
Sought repose and consolation
On the Virgin Mother's breast;
So would I, as day in dawning,
Come to Thee, O Holy Mary,
Seeking Thy blest consolation,
And to pray for heavenly rest.

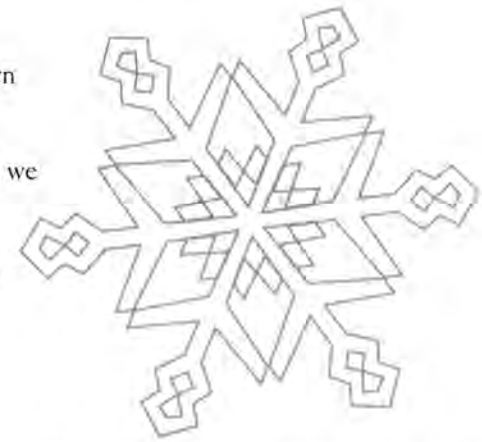
Cantemos

Singing, we are singing! Loving praise we bring:
Happy Eve of Christmas to Thee, Infant King.

All our expectation, all our charity,
All our consolation, Baby dear, in Thee.

Betelehemu

We are glad that we have a Father to trust.
We are glad that we have a Father to rely upon.
Where was Jesus born? Where was He born?
Bethlehem, the city of wonder.
That is where the Father was born for sure.
Praise, praise, praise be to Him.
We thank Thee, we thank Thee, we thank Thee for this day,
Gracious Father.
Praise, praise, praise be to Thee,
Merciful Father.



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The Chorus

photo by Jim Marks

The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, D.C. at the Church of the Epiphany, December, 1990.

Twelve years and still singing strong! After a dozen years, the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington has taken its rightful place as a highly-respected musical and cultural institution in the Nation's Capital. Under the masterful direction of Jim Holloway and his staff, the Chorus has received critical acclaim in the press from coast to coast.

By now our regular audience can practically recite from memory the many achievements GMCW has recorded in our first decade: recipient of the 1989 Mayor's Arts Award for Excellence in an Artistic Discipline, active participation in numerous local community events such as the Washington Cathedral's Episcopal Caring Response for AIDS service, the annual AIDS Walkathon, political fundraising events, the 1987 March on Washington Concert at Constitution Hall, the Kennedy Center Open House, Monday Night At The National Theater, Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday celebrations, benefit concerts for Wolf Trap Farm Park and the Whitman-Walker Clinic, and active participation with the international GALA Choruses organization including special performances with over a dozen GALA member choruses across the United States and Canada. And the list continues to grow.

In addition to the full chorus, GMCW has a family of small ensembles. The Chamber Choir made its debut at our holiday concert in December, 1991, under Jim Holloway's direction. They join Potomac Fever and A Few Good Men as specialty ensembles that provide Chorus members additional opportunities to explore the variety and diversity of musical repertoire.

For the third consecutive year, the Gay Men's Chorus has been named a recipient of funds from Brother Help Thyself to support the "Tickets for PWAs" program. Since 1982 this program has provided free admission to GMCW concerts for persons with AIDS and their caregivers. This program is supported annually by membership dues and public contributions. BHT's recognition of the significance of this program through their generous contribution will now help us maintain this project directly. The men of the Chorus extend their sincere gratitude to BHT for its continued support of this and other Gay community service projects.

Human Rights
CAMPAIGN FUND

The nation's largest lesbian and gay political group salutes the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington.

(continued on page 16)

Who's Who

James Holloway, Music Director

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

"A flexible sense of community will enable us to find common ground with *every* audience: a community of gay and lesbian people, a community of friends and family, a community of Washingtonians, and the wider community of music lovers."

"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 fourth 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 are 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 currently serves as Vice-President of GALA Choruses, the organizational network serving more than one hundred gay and lesbian choral organizations in the United States, Canada, Europe, and around the world. He successfully led fund-raising efforts at GALA's last Leadership Conference. Jim works for the Library of Congress as a copyright examiner for the performing arts and has been listed in *Outstanding Young Men in America.*

(continued on page 16)

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Who's Who

(continued from page 14)

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 and 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."

Jeffrey Buhrman, Assistant Director

Jeff joined GMCW in September 1986 and has since been director of Potomac Fever, our close harmony ensemble, as well as a featured soloist in several GMCW concerts. Jeff received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Montclair College where he studied voice with Marden Bate and conducting with David Randolph. He spent several years singing in New York City with several professional choruses while studying with Walter Blazer at the Manhattan School of Music. An interest in madrigal singing led him to found and direct a five-voice early music ensemble, "Friends and Aires," performing in the New York metropolitan area.

(continued on Page 18

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Who's Who

(continued from page 16)

Jeff has been a music educator for the past 17 years and is presently Dean of Students at a private school in the Maryland.

Theodore Guerrant, Principal Accompanist

Born in Atlanta in 1950, the nephew of a concert pianist, Theodore Guerrant was first seen on local television at the age of four reciting "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" and playing Christmas carols on his child-size piano (which was altered to include pedals like his Aunt Eliza's.) By his senior year at a prestigious Southern military prep school, he was playing for, among other things, five church services every Sunday.

Now, four degrees in music later, he is entering his ninth season as a principal GMCW accompanist. During the remainder of the week he is director of music and organist at one church, associate organist at a second church, assisting organist at a third church, and accompanist for two community choruses. He is also a half-time secretary in the music office at a local university. When he can find a few moments between weddings, he manages to appear as a keyboard soloist.

"Dr. Teddy" remains in demand as a noted authority and lecturer on performance practices in traditional Southern Baptist hymn-playing ("a full-diminished seventh chord is worth money in the plate"). His long association with Maestro Holloway dates from 1976 as a late night connoisseur of "Mister Jim's homecooked fried chicken and biscuits." An unlikely duo since before Jim's "coming out," they have planned dozens of concerts, played a few and, along the way, raided churches, music stores, thrift shops, cheap eateries, and once slept in Waterloo Station, London...

(continued on page 22)

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Who's Who

(continued from page 18

Philip M. 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 bachelors and master's degrees in music education.

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

Michael L. Rivard, Stage Director/Choreographer

Michael has directed and choreographed for A Few Good Men, the chorus' song-and-dance ensemble, for seven years now, and has served as stage director for GMCW's "theatrical productions" the past three. It has been said, among other things, "Michael's credentials include a warped sense of humor, a twisted mind, and an imagination out of control."

Michael moved to the Washington, D.C. area in 1976 and began his association with the chorus in the spring of 1985. While living in this area, he has studied jazz, tap, ballet and modern dance, as well as piano and voice. He has been a featured soloist with the Great Falls Dance Company, and has performed at the Sylvan Theater, the Renaissance Arts Festival, the Old Post Office Pavilion, Glen Echo Park and Wolf Trap Farm Park. His first love in dance is tap dancing and he has studied with two of this area's best teachers, Nancy Newell and Toni Lombre. Michael is a member of the International Tap Association which, since its founding in 1987, has served the needs of the tap community by promoting a greater understanding of the art of tap throughout the world.

As a member of the Atlantic States Gay Rodeo Association (ASGRA), Michael performs with the Capital Cloggers, has studied clogging with the Sugarfoot Cloggers in Springfield, Virginia, and is a member of the DC Lambda Squares, the gay square dance club in the District.

Michael extends heartfelt thanks to *A Few Good Men's* talented, dedicated costumers: Debi Tesser, with Michael Platt, Roland Emenheiser, and of course, himself.

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In real life he is a financial systems analyst for Navy accounting operations. He comes from a family of Polish master craftsmen and would rather do anything that involves using his hands. He has restored two townhouses and most recently designed the set for *Faces of Hope* and built the set for *Puttin' on the Ritz*.

In his free time he tries to see how the "other half" lives by studying voice and piano. He uses rollerblades and does cross training to keep running young.

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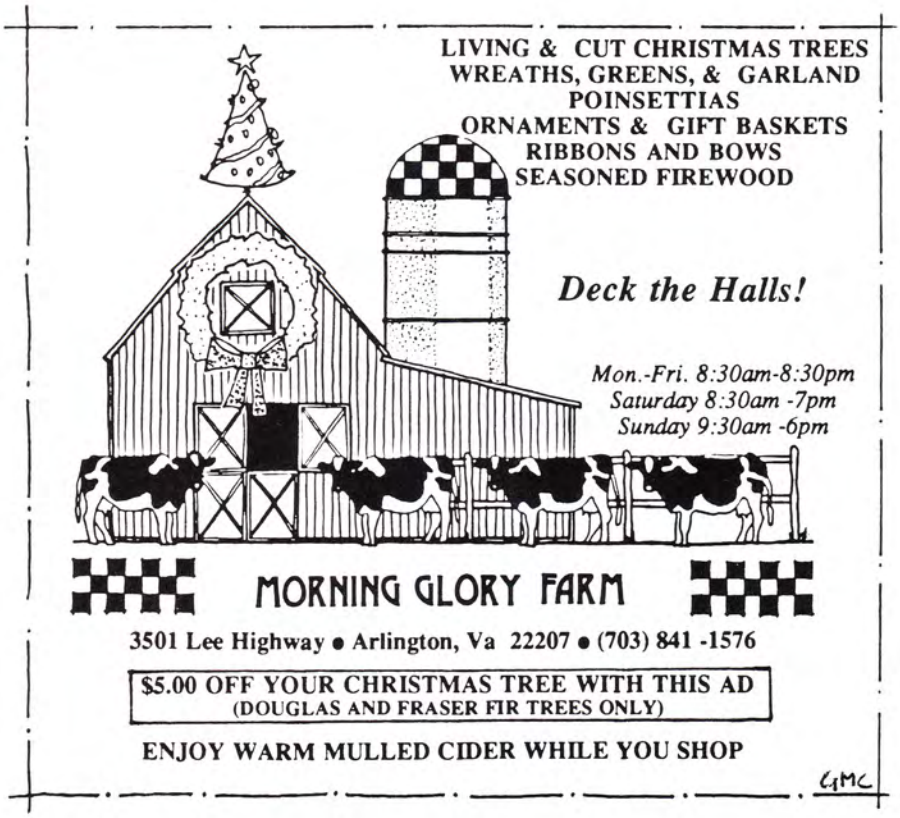

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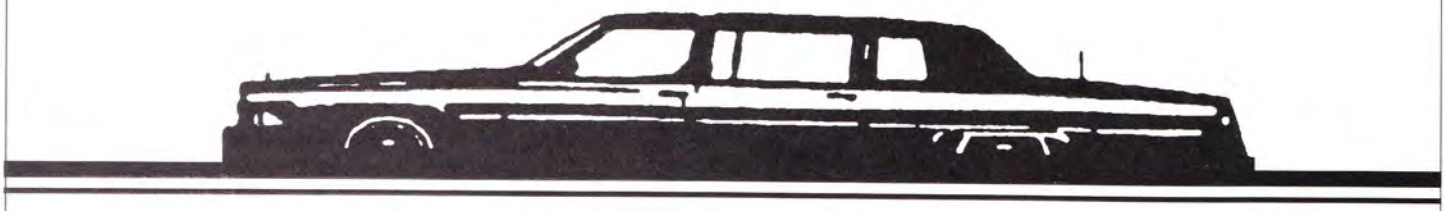

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