

December 21, 2007

Dear GALA Mixed Choruses:

For over three years several GALA mixed chorus directors have been working on creative ways to increase the visibility of our mixed choruses at GALA Festivals, and this summer your chorus will have the opportunity to participate in this project.

On Wednesday afternoon, July 16 GALA Choruses is holding a special 25th Anniversary Celebration as part of Festival 8 in Miami. **A segment of this performance will feature music and stories highlighting the unique qualities of our mixed choruses.** Singers from any mixed chorus within GALA are invited to perform in this mass chorus which will include three songs including a new commission by Craig Carnahan composed especially for this event.

The mass choir will be composed of mixed choruses attending GALA but will also be available for individual singers representing their mixed choruses at GALA.

In planning this event we decided that one way to ensure the quality of our music was to ask each participating chorus to perform the three songs in their own community before arriving in Miami. Participating choruses are asked to:

- Perform the three songs below as a chorus before coming to the festival in Miami.
- Pay \$125-200 for the rights to reproduce the mixed chorus commission, *It is the Song*. Your chorus may choose the amount you contribute based on your size and resources.
- Participate in 2-3 rehearsals with the other mixed choruses at GALA Festival 2008 including a tech rehearsal before the Wednesday, July 16 performance.

Our commission, *It is the Song*, was composed by Craig Carnahan and is based on a poem by James Broughton, a Buddhist poet, filmmaker and playwright who won awards in his lifetime in all these areas. Broughton was a bi/gay man and part of the beat generation of San Francisco. The composition was completed a few weeks ago and is accessible for both small and large mixed choruses. It will require a strong keyboard player for the piano accompaniment. A PDF of the commission will be e-mailed to your chorus upon receipt of this application and your payment.

Additional songs for the concert may be ordered from any distributor:

Why we Sing by Greg Gilpin (Shawnee Press A 2239)

Distant Land by John Rutter (Hinshaw Music Inc HMC1908)

We are estimating that fifteen or more mixed choruses will participate in this project which could result in a mass chorus of 300-500 singers! If your chorus is interested in participating, fill out the attached Participation Form and return it with your payment by February 15, 2008.

Questions may be referred to:

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and Festivals

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See you in Miami!

