

From: Tim Seelig - Artistic Director in Residence <tgseelig@aol.com>

Subject: Artistic Director Updates

Reply: tgseelig@aol.com



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Festival Flyer

At the recent Managers & Directors meeting, we had several requests for a flyer providing some of the highlights of Festival week (beyond the chorus blocks) that could be printed out and distributed at rehearsals.

[Click here](#) to download the flyer. As guest performers for the opening and closing ceremonies and the special events are confirmed, we will continue to send eBlasts with that information.

The flyer pdf is included in the All Forms tab on the Festival section of the GALA website if you want to attach it to an email to your chorus members.

Dear Artistic Directors,

I have not had the opportunity to address many of you since taking the role of Artistic Director in Residence for GALA on January 1. It is an absolute thrill for me to be able to help GALA Choruses further its musical mission in any way I can.

This position is one that has been under discussion by the Board of Directors for many years. The specific duties that might be included have been discussed for at least the last year and a half by the board, various committees and many of you! I am honored to be spending the next 12 months helping establish this important position that hopefully will last for many years.

One of the important aspects will be the on site workshops giving me a chance to work with a variety of choruses across the U.S. and Canada. You have already heard about this one.

Of course there are many, many ideas. All of them obviously can't be accomplished in one year. But the groundwork can be laid and that is what we are working toward.

THIS JOB WILL ONLY BE USEFUL WITH YOUR HELP AND INPUT!

There are three that we are working on immediately. Here is an overview.

Tim

Dr. Timothy G. Seelig, GALA Artistic Director-in-Residence

Festival Programming Webinar Coming Up on

Monday, January 28

Because we are not all able to travel to events such as the Leadership Conferences or Managers and Directors Meeting, we are coming to you. These are designed to discuss issues that are important to you and that you may not have appropriate people in your organization with whom to discuss them.

The first of these is coming up this Monday. While in Miami at the recent Managers & Directors meeting, we had some great discussions about how to program your set for GALA. The things we will discuss on the webinar were things that the A.D.'s discussed in that session. This is truly a give and take format for everyone to have a say and ask questions.

The topic is programming. There are plenty of other opportunities for you or your representatives to discuss other things such as housing, travel, money, etc. This is just about how to choose what to sing.

I hope you will join us this Tuesday.

[Click here](#) to review the details of logging on to the webinar. There is no charge to attend GALA Choruses webinars.

GALA Choruses Song Book

We found out at the Leadership Conference that not everyone knows the GALA "standards" when we attempted to sing some songs we assumed everyone knew. So, we have begun to work on a GALA Song Book. And we need your help! We are hoping to actually publish a book that includes many of the songs that have been the musical backbone of the GLBT choral music movement, but that sometimes do not make their way to all of the choruses.

I have had the following that have offered to help: Cathy Roma, Willie Zwozdesky, Dennis Coleman, Sue Coffee and Patrick Coyle. We need all of you to help. If you would like to be on the committee, please just let me know.

This will require a lot of work and help from everyone. It will include several different groups of songs eventually. First of all, we are trying to gather the simple "choruses" that we have sung through the years. If you have thoughts, please let me know. And I need the music along with your suggestions. We are hoping to have these books in time for Festival so we can all sing them together throughout the week.

Music Resource Center

Finally, and perhaps most important, is the long awaited and much anticipated MUSICRESOURCECENTER. All too often, we as Artistic Directors are forced to recreate the wheel in our own city because we do not have access to the vast resources of all of the GALA choruses. With your help, we have begun to remedy that. There will be an entire portion of the GALA web site devoted to music for you to

peruse, browse and use!!

We have begun this with 200 selections from my own experience including 54 SSAA, 24 SATB and 106 TTBB. The database will shortly be located in the members only section of the GALA web site. In the interim you can preview it at www.roberthuneke.com/galamusic/galamusic.php. You will find both the music and an MP3 so you can listen. You will also find the information you need about the composer, arranger, publisher, etc. The music is divided into different voicings. You can search by a variety of key words or categories.

Now, it is time for you to start thinking about what you are going to send in. We will let you know ASAP exactly how to get the music to us. If every chorus in GALA sent only 10 selections, we would have 1,000 pieces to draw upon! Many can send many, many more than that! We are also working on gathering all of the commissioned pieces that have been created specifically by GALA choruses over the last 25 years.

So, you see, we are quite busy. We are hopefully doing things that will really make a difference for you in your own community and with your own chorus. We want to know what you think. We want to know how we can help you. Don't be shy.

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