

GALA Choruses, Inc.
July 2006 eBlast

Please note that not all email software programs recognize the formatting of our communications. Please send any email updates to Al Baggett, Education and Membership Services Coordinator, at abaggett@galachoruses.org Included in this month's GALA Choruses eBlast is information regarding: Annual Conference; GALA Choruses sponsor, American Airlines; Festival 8; GALA's Communications Committee; GALA's On-line Resource Library; GALA Chorus Tour Story Highlight; San Francisco News; GALA's On-line Master Calendar; and Job Opportunities.

2006 Annual Conference, September 1-4, 2006; Miami, FL

The event will kick off with an opening reception on Thursday evening, August 31. Friday, September 1, will include a variety of breakout sessions of interest to administrative, board, and artistic leadership, as well as the tour of the Miami Performing Arts Center. Friday evening, the Opening Concert will be at the historic Gusman Center and feature the local choruses from Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, and West Palm Beach. All-day institutes will be held on Saturday, September 2 and will include sessions for board, administrative, and artistic leaders. Saturday evening you will have free time to explore the sites of Miami! Breakout sessions will continue on Sunday, September 3, as well as an expo during the lunch break.

Breakout session titles include: *Good to Great! Motivation that Works for Your Organization; A Success Story: Organizational Ideas for the First Five Years; Everything You Want to Know (that We Can Tell You) about Festival 8; CD Production/How to Succeed at Recording without Really Trying Your Patience; Member Retention Programs that Really Work; Fundraising Toolbox: Tools to Raise Money Effectively; How to Work the Media without Working Your Last Gay Nerve; Everything You've Ever Wanted to Know about Asking Foundations and Corporations for Money; So, You're the Treasurer? Tips to Manage Your Chorus's Finances without Eight Years of College; QuickBooks: A 'How To' Workshop; Staying Relevant: How Do You Do It Year after Year; Building your Online Community; Bridging the Gap between Database Management and Fundraising; Copyright and Mechanical Licenses; The Basics of Conducting.* SATB, TTBB, and SSAA Reading Sessions are also scheduled, as well as Board, Men's, Women's, and Mixed Roundtables.

Singers Weekend rehearsals will be held throughout the weekend. The conference will conclude Sunday evening with a banquet and performance by the Singers Weekend Chorus! Individual singers are invited to attend the conference and participate in the Singers Weekend Chorus, under the direction of Larry Lapin, Professor and Program Director of Studio and Vocal Jazz at the University of Miami. The Singers Weekend Chorus will rehearse an exciting and new vocal jazz program throughout the weekend and perform at the Banquet on Sunday night. **Early Registration has been extended until July 15, 2006, and registration materials are available on our website at: <http://www.galachoruses.org/forms/forms.html>.**

The host hotel for the conference is the Hyatt Regency Miami. To make reservations, please call 1-800-233-1234. Please remember to inform the reservation agent that you are part of GALA Choruses' Annual Conference. The cut off date for reservations under our room block is Monday, August 7, 2006. Room rates are \$119 for single or double occupancy.

Annual Conference Presenter Request

Has your chorus had some great coverage in the media? If so, Chip Alfred from Voices of Kentuckiana in Louisville wants to hear from you. Chip is leading a seminar at the GALA Choruses Annual Conference in Miami entitled, *How to Work the Media without Working Your Last Gay Nerve*. He's looking for success stories and visual examples of how choruses "worked the media" successfully and got results that benefited the chorus. You can e-mail Chip for more information at chipinlexky@insightbb.com or call (859) 806-8964. Please let him know if you're planning to go to Miami in September, and you can tell the story yourself at his session.

American Airlines

NOW BOOK YOUR AIRFARE DIRECTLY ON-LINE!

It's simple to take advantage of a 5% discount on AA, American Eagle, and AmericanConnections! After you have selected your flight(s) under the "Enter Passenger Details" tab, go to the "AA.com Discount Code" field and enter in A2486AV. This discount is valid for travel 08/29/06 – 09/07/06 for travel to Miami, Fort Lauderdale, or West Palm Beach area. Please note that fares in "Q" and "O" inventories are not eligible for a discount. Go directly to <http://www.aa.com/> to book your flights.

GALA Choruses Festival 8 Co-chairs Announced

Kevin Marvin, President of the Board of Directors of GALA Choruses, Inc. is pleased to announce the appointment of the Festival 8 Co-chairs Sue Coffee and Sonelius Kendrick-Smith. Sue Coffee is the founding Artistic Director of Sound Circle, a women's a cappella ensemble, and also founding Artistic Director of the 100-voice Resonance Women's Chorus of Boulder. She was also the Artistic Director of the Denver Gay Men's Chorus from 1999-2005. Sonelius Kendrick-Smith is currently serving as Treasurer of the Board of Directors for GALA Choruses, Inc. He is a member of the New York City Gay Men's Chorus and serves as Treasurer of the Big Apple Performing Arts Board of Directors. We are pleased to have such accomplished and talented members of the GALA family accept this very important role. Mark your calendars now for Festival 8, July 12-19, 2008 in Miami, FL.

Call for Communications Committee Members

The Communications Committee is looking for two new members to join them. The work of the Committee is focused on improving communications within GALA Choruses, its member choruses, donors, and affiliated organizations. Some of the work that the Committee is responsible for includes the monthly eBlasts, *GALAGram*, the association's new logo and website redesign, and the overall look and feel of the organization along with our key messages. Interested individuals should contact Brad

Ward at bward@galachoruses.org or Committee Chair, Ora Rhine at orajrhine@yahoo.com.

Call for Sample Documents for GALA's Online Resources

GALA Choruses continues to invite you to submit sample documents that you or your chorus uses in a variety of professional situations. Thank you to the choruses who have already submitted. We are creating an online resource library for member usage. If you have generic documents such as a job description or Human Resource documents that might be of use to another chorus, please send them to Al Baggett, Education and Membership Services Coordinator, at abaggett@galachoruses.org.

GALA Chorus Tour Story Highlight

The Seattle Men's Chorus and Seattle Women's Chorus will tour together to the Northern Rockies on July 1-9 visiting an area of the United States that is under-served by the GLBT choral movement. Conductor Dennis Coleman says that singers will work with local P Flag, Pride, Gay Youth and AIDS service organizations to make a powerful statement on behalf of the GLBT communities in Pocatello (July 2), Jackson Hole (July 3), Billings (July 5), Helena (July 6), Bozeman (July 6) and Salt Lake City (July 8). A highlight of the tour will be the performance of Fred Small's "Not in Our Town" which tells the story of the city of Billings' united response to the terrorizing of a Jewish family during Hanukkah several years ago. Members of the affected family and church leaders who led the response will be in the audience in Billings as the Seattle groups sing.

San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus Wins Out Music Award

At the awards ceremony yesterday (June 11, 2006) in New York City, the following was announced: WINNER: SFGMC for: *Home for the Holidays Live at the Castro Theatre* - Outstanding New Recording, Chorus or Choir (included recordings from holiday performances 2000 - 2004). This is the second year running that SFGMC has won this award. FINALIST: SFGMC for: *Divas' Revenge - Opera and Broadway Our Way*. Also a winner was Candye Kane for Outstanding Album Design for the CD, *White Trash Girl*. Candye Kane will appear in this year's Pride Concert. For more details about the Out Music Awards, go to: <http://www.outmusic.com/oma2006/recipients/index.html>

The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco announces the Chicago premiere of a musical comedy, *Group Therapy*, on Friday, July 14 at 8 pm, and Sunday, July 16 at 3 pm and 8 pm at the Raven Theatre, 6157 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL, 60660. Tickets are \$15, general admission, and can be purchased by calling (415) 861-7067, or online at <http://lgcsf.org/>. *Group Therapy*, written by June Bonacich, is a freshly twisted, wacky story of a sexually confused woman who is new to San Francisco, trying to find herself--and a mate--in a gay group therapy session in the city's own gay mecca, the Castro. Under the musical direction of Stephanie Lynne Smith and the stage direction and choreography of Michael Mohammed, *Group Therapy* promises to keep you on the edge of your seat with a variety of hilarious, touching, and thought-provoking songs that evoke the therapy and queer worlds. Come and enjoy outrageous numbers that spotlight dancing chickens, a waltzing Sigmund Freud, and polka-dancing male hairdressers. *Group Therapy* is sure to be a hit, and seating is limited, so reserve your tickets now!

GALA's Online Master Calendar

Check out the goings-on around the United States and internationally by visiting the association's Master Calendar at <http://www.galachoruses.org/events/calendar.html>. If your chorus has dates to submit, please send to info@galachoruses.org, and be sure to include: title of the event, date, start time, location (venue), name of chorus, phone contact, email contact, and website address.

Job Opportunities within Our Extended GALA Choruses Family

The following positions are currently open; contact information for each is included below.

Artistic Director & Conductor--VOICES of Kentuckiana

VOICES has been providing quality choral music to the Kentuckiana region since 1994. The chorus is fully-inclusive of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and heterosexual friends. VOICES is a non-auditioned, mixed chorus comprised of 60-70 volunteer singers, and a small, auditioned group of 8 – 12 voices. See <http://www.voicesky.org/> for more information. The Artistic Director will work with the Board to provide overall artistic leadership to the chorus. Specifically, he/she will: program, prepare, and conduct 2 - 3 full-length, major concerts per year; program, prepare, and conduct 2-5 outreach performances per year; prepare the chorus for GALA performance every 4th year; prepare the chorus for performances with other organizations as necessary; select and/or audition soloists from among the chorus or, as necessary and appropriate, from outside the chorus; select and/or audition instrumentalists as necessary and appropriate; and participate in public relations, marketing, and fundraising activities in conjunction with the Board as appropriate. Requirements include: professional training and experience in choral conducting; familiarity with a wide variety of musical styles and classical traditions; affinity for working with gays/lesbians; strong leadership, charisma, and interpersonal skills; and dedication to artistic achievement by amateur performers. Compensation will be commensurate with experience and availability. Position begins September 1, 2006. Annual time commitment: September 1 – June 30. Application materials: please send: cover letter, résumé and/or Curriculum Vitae, two letters of recommendation, contact information of three additional professional references, and videotape/DVD of representative work. Deadline for application: August 1, 2006. Selected applicants will be interviewed by the Board of Directors and subject to a live audition with the chorus. Applications/materials should be sent to: Steve Adams, Board Chair, 6206 Regal Springs Drive, Louisville, KY 40205. For more information call (502) 721-9786 or email sandmansta@aol.com.

Co-Director--New Mexico Women's Chorus

The New Mexico Women's Chorus is a non-auditioned feminist community chorus committed to improving our musical skill and welcoming women of all musical abilities and experience levels. We are seeking a co-director with choral directing experience who is familiar with women's voices, and who is able to coach and work respectfully with women of all musical abilities and comfort levels. You must be willing to work within the feminist and democratic structure of NMWC to help us meet our musical and

organizational goals. We are a small-budget chorus, so this is a part-time position with a modest salary. The ideal co-director would also sing with the chorus when not directing. Please send resume to PO Box 40703, Albuquerque, NM 87105, or contact Caroline Parks (cparks@mindspring.com, 505-286-4037) Job Description: As a non-auditioned feminist community chorus, New Mexico Women's Chorus welcomes all women without regard to musical ability or experience level, sexual orientation, or gender identity, and we are committed as a group to improving our musical skill. NMWC is run democratically by chorus members, with a 7-member Board of Directors who manage business matters and chorus operations. Oversight of artistic affairs is shared between chorus membership, the Board, and the choral director or co-directors. Co-Director's responsibilities include: conducting the musical portion of chorus rehearsals and performances, and organizing and assisting in the production of section-based rehearsal tapes; collaborating with, determining placement of, and providing musical direction to singers, including coaching in vocal and choral techniques; working respectfully with women at various levels of musical performance, comfort, experience, and skill; working respectfully with differently-abled and special-needs members; collaborating with and providing musical direction to accompanists, instrumentalists, section leaders, ensembles, and other musical guests; working with the Board of Directors and the chorus membership to establish and achieve musical goals through program development, repertoire selection, and maintenance and improvement of artistic standards; performing related work as mutually agreed upon with the Board of Directors and the chorus membership; and collaborating with other choruses and their directors as appropriate (such as the New Mexico Gay Men's Chorus). Co-directors will work together, with Board input, to determine how conducting duties will be shared.

Artistic Director—Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus

This is an interim position with permanent potential. Rehearse and prepare chorus for fall/holiday concert; time requirements and salary negotiable. Send introduction and resume to lvgmc@yahoo.com or by mail to LVGMC, Box 20712, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002. Additional information can be obtained by calling 610-366-3320.

Artistic Director—West Coast Singers, Chorus of the Lesbian/Gay Community of Los Angeles

West Coast Singers, Chorus of the Lesbian/Gay Community of Los Angeles, the 3rd oldest gay and lesbian chorus in the nation, invites qualified candidates to apply for the position of part-time Artistic Director. This well-established community chorus seeks the following: a minimum of five years of choral conducting experience; a commitment to community participation and outreach activities; ability to speak and write expressively about music; experience in fundraising and resource development; and expertise in teaching talented amateurs to achieve the highest possible musical standards. The current salary range for this part-time Artistic Director position is \$14,000 – \$16,000 per year. The application deadline is July 17, 2006. The position begins September 1, 2006. Please visit <http://westcoastsingers.org/> for application information.

