



February 5, 2008

Festival Sneak Preview

Over the coming weeks we will include sidebar articles with sneak previews related to Festival. Choruses are invited to "leak" info about their Festival set to help build momentum towards July. Our first sneak peek comes from the Boston Gay Men's Chorus.

Boston Gay Men's Chorus will be performing a commissioned work by Lowell Liebermann, one of America's most commissioned and performed young composers.

The work is titled "O Democracy: A Whitman Oratorio" and is for men's chorus and chamber orchestra. Liebermann has adapted a wide range of Whitman texts in a modern context, using Whitman's words to comment on the current state of American democracy. Whitman's fiery words of protest against the presidency, written in the pre-Civil War days of the failed Buchanan administration take on new life today as the U.S. debates issues of war, leadership, and civil liberties. BGMC will be performing excerpts of the 40 minute oratorio with full orchestration at Festival.

Festival Closing

There are several important Festival updates herein so please read all the way through. Remember that registration at the \$235 fee level closes at the end of February. Late registration is \$275.

Sincerely,

GALA Choruses

Festival Mixed Chorus Plans

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 2008 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 join in this mass chorus which will perform 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.

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, [click here](#) for further information and to fill out the Participation Form. Return the form with your payment by February 29, 2008.

There will also be men's, women's and youth festival choruses. Further details on conductors, rehearsal schedules and music will be available soon.

Ceremony

Note for your travel planning that the Festival Closing Ceremony is scheduled for 8:15 PM on July 19 so return travel would need to be booked for July 20. Should you need to amend your housing reservation you can do so by fax to the Convention & Visitors Bureau at 305-539-3106 or via email at housing@gmcb.org.

M&D Meeting Photos



[Click here](#) for a link to photos from January's Managers & Directors Meeting.

Festival Exhibit Booths Available

Choruses are welcome to sell CDs, etc at Festival either by renting a booth in the Expo or by consigning goods to the GALA store. [Click here](#) for information regarding exhibit booths (\$750 for member choruses). Details and paperwork for consignment of goods to the GALA store will be available shortly.

No Talent Show Info



The World's Greatest No-Talent Show, scheduled for Wednesday, July 16, 2008, will take place at the special event at Jungle Island in the Parrot Bowl. The program will run twice during the evening. We invite you to celebrate the glory and glamour of Queer Culture with acts ranging from the sublime to the outrageous.

Each member chorus of GALA Choruses may nominate one act. Examples of No-Talent Show acts include comedy routines, baton-twirling, impersonations of beloved and/or bygone stars, modern dance send-ups, poetry slams: whatever! Acts do not have to be musical. Creative or unusual acts are especially encouraged. Participation is open to soloists and groups, but not full choruses. Grab the spotlight and take this opportunity to share some of your chorus' special talent with the world!

More details and forms are available on the GALA web site at http://www.galachoruses.org/events/festival/no_talent_show.html

Housing Updates

1. If you have booked online or via fax and have received an acknowledgment number, your reservation is secure. We have recently been updated by the housing bureau that it may take up to the middle of March to receive your confirmation number from the hotel. The timing is up to the hotels and how long it takes them to put the information into their system. It is peak season right now in Miami so this may take a little while. As long as you have an acknowledgment number, please just sit tight and wait until your confirmation number is sent.
2. If you need to make changes to your reservation please do so ONLY in writing through the housing bureau so that the

inventory remains correct in their system. Please do NOT request any changes or new reservations directly through the hotels.

3. If you have not yet made a reservation you can book through the online system. If you don't find what you are looking for, please fax your reservation form to the housing bureau at 305-539-3106 as they may be able to help. For example, sometimes there might be one night during your stay that isn't available in the system, but it may be possible for the bureau to ask the hotel to release an additional room on that night.
4. If you have faxed your reservation to the bureau and haven't received an acknowledgement number you can write to them at housing@gmcbv.org and request that they send your number.

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