

191

# SIMPLE GIFTS



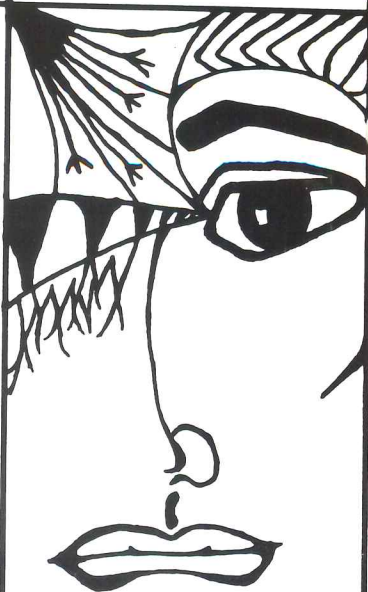
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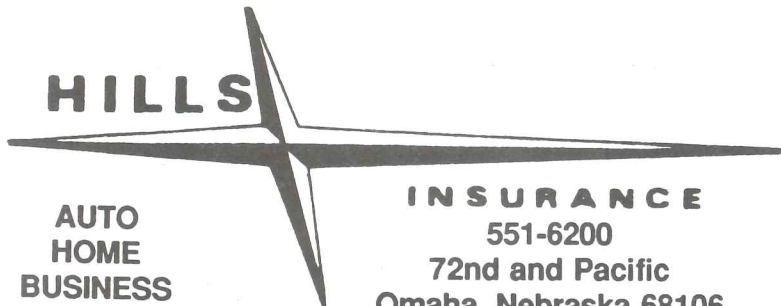
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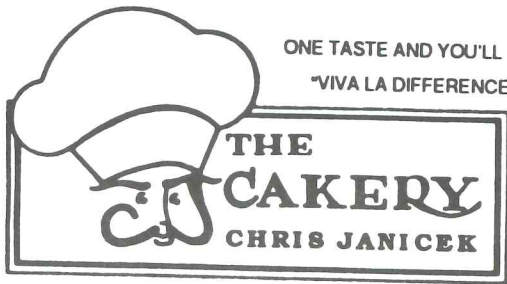
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## SIMPLE GIFTS

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The voice is an amazing thing. Its ownership, like its characteristics, is personal and private. When used it can exhort, lament, console, praise or assault. It can combine with other voices or remain singular. It is a simple gift that is both profound and powerful.

Over the past year we have heard voices raised across the world many times. Voices raised in hope and joy over some events, in anguish and despair over others. We have heard voices in lament over the passing of great American figures such as Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein and heartfelt sadness for so many, unknown, who have lost the future to AIDS. As I write this I am watching news clips of national demonstrations against war in the Persian Gulf, and am wondering if by the time this is printed and read those voices will have turned from outrage to grief.

However, tonight we raise our voice in perhaps its most noble exercise...singing. We raise our voices in the joy of music, the joy of singing and in our freedom to sing. Walt Whitman once said that "to hear America sing was to hear each singing what belongs to him, or her, and no one else."

Tonight the members of the River City Mixed Chorus offer to you music we consider "ours." Music that belongs to all of us, music that belongs to you. We raise our voices to you, for you and for ourselves. Tonight in concert, we present our SIMPLE GIFTS.

Jonathan D. Cole,  
Director

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## JONATHAN DAVID COLE—DIRECTOR

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Jonathan Cole serves as an Associate Artist for the Omaha Playhouse. . . graduate of New England Conservatory of Music in Boston he is a composer, conductor, vocal arranger, musical director and pianist. His original scores include JULIUS CAESAR for the Playhouse and MACBETH produced by The Nebraska Shakespeare Festival. Other original scores for theatre include CONESTOGA STORIES, ALICE; A CURIOUS ADVENTURE and SPA. He has been musical director for two off-broadway productions, most recently, the Equity Library Theatre's revival of TAKE ME ALONG in New York City. His work as a conductor has taken him up and down the east coast including two summer theatre seasons conducting the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. Having been raised in Philadelphia he now considers Omaha home and is "truly enjoying my new mid-western surroundings and friends."



## AUDITIONS & MEMBERSHIP

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"For many people, the thought of an audition for River City Mixed Chorus brings trembling to the heart and quaking to the knees! Rumors of having to sing before the entire Chorus have been whispered about, while some have said that one must sing an Italian aria from memory!"

We want to set the record straight in the hope that many of you will be interested in joining the Chorus. Auditions are between the singer, our friendly director and one supportive board member. The audition involves: a short warm-up exercise to determine your vocal range; listening to a short melody and singing it back; and singing a short familiar song picked by the director.

Most of our singers have sung in high school, college, or church choir and want to continue their choral involvement. Members join for a variety of reasons: they love to sing, they enjoy the nurturing social environment, or they want to work toward a common goal of "musical excellence" with other women and men.

If you are interested in joining us, please attend a private audition between 6:30-7:30 on either Monday, February 4 or February 11. Plan to stay for our meeting or rehearsal on either evening. We rehearse at Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1023 No. 40th Street each Monday from 7-9:30. For more information, contact Bill Wilwerding at 733-1703.

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## THE RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS™

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The River City Mixed Chorus is a member of the GALA Choruses, an international alliance of over 75 men's, women's and mixed choruses. GALA Choruses produces a chorus 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.

Member choruses are in Albuquerque, Atlanta (2 choruses), Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, Calgary, Champaign-Urbana, Charlotte, Chicago (2), Cincinnati, Dallas (2), Dayton, Denver (2), Des Moines, Detroit (2), Harrisburg, Honolulu, Houston, Kansas City (2), Lansing, Long Beach (2), Los Angeles (3), Madison, Miami/Ft. Lauderdale, Milwaukee (2), Minneapolis/St. Paul (3), New Haven (2), New Orleans, New York City (2), Omaha, Orlando, Ottawa, Philadelphia (3), Pittsburgh, Portland (2), Rochester (3), Sacramento (2), St. Louis (2), San Antonio, San Diego (2), San Francisco (4), San Jose, Santa Cruz, Seattle (3), Tacoma, Tampa, Toronto, Tucson, Vancouver, Washington, D.C. (2), and West Hollywood.

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



## ASSISTANT DIRECTOR—JOHN COE

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Since youth, John Coe has been involved in music. Sometime in elementary school, he started composing. In college, he majored in music. Upon graduation, he joined the Peace Corps and went to Ethiopia where he taught high school music for two years and directed an orchestra for another two.

While there and since, he has written four musicals, several works for children's theatre, a number of songs and many pieces for piano. RCMC has performed his "Omaha," "Zenab," "Billy Jean's Restaurant," set to a poem by Raymond Hoffman, and most recently, "October Gold," lyrics by Dick Sabol. Two years ago, the Baltimore Men's Chorus recorded "The Baltimore Song" (formerly "Omaha") which became a hit on the airwaves in that city.

A New Englander by birth, John is a founder of the RCMC and has lived in Omaha since 1983.

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## ACCOMPANIST—NICK F. BEHRENS

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Accompanist Nick F. Behrens was born in Clinton, Iowa and was transported to North Omaha at an early age. He graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha with a Bachelor of Music degree. Mr. Behrens was a voice student of Patricia Price and has studied organ with Marilyn Musick. He has served as organist and/or choral director at St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic, St. John's Episcopal and is currently organist at Pearl Memorial Methodist Church and an assistant organist at St. Cecilia's Cathedral. Nick Behrens has been a part of a number of musical groups, including singer in the Kobzari Folk Ensemble, pianist for the Florentine Players, singer in the Clarion Chamber Chorale and both a singer and interim director with the River City Mixed Chorus.





# RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS

<b>Director</b>	<b>Jonathan D. Cole</b>
<b>Assistant Director</b>	<b>John Coe</b>
<b>Accompanist</b>	<b>Nick F. Behrens</b>

## Soprano

<b>Karen Jensen—Vice President</b>	<b>Toni Pastory—Board</b>
<b>Kathryn F. Pratt **</b>	

## Alto

<b>Kathy England</b>	<b>KD Jones</b>
<b>Kayla Quist *</b>	

## Tenor

<b>Roger Bennett—Board**</b>	<b>Douglas B. Borgelt</b>
<b>Gary A. Emenitove</b>	<b>Cleve Evans</b>
<b>Richard Ketter—Secretary</b>	<b>Vance Waddell</b>

## Bass

<b>Stan Brown—Board</b>	<b>Donald A. Carlson</b>
<b>John Coe</b>	<b>Vik Dainauskas</b>
<b>Russell Dobrusky</b>	<b>John S. Lodes</b>
<b>Steven Nichols **</b>	<b>William T. Wilwerding—President</b>
<b>Allen Zimbleman</b>	

## Friends

<b>Chuck Collins</b>	<b>Patty Green</b>	<b>Patrick Goodin</b>
<b>Tanith K. Korravai</b>	<b>Pat Phalen</b>	<b>Michael Rice—Treasurer</b>
<b>Ron Leslie Schroeder</b>	<b>Brandon Shukis **</b>	<b>Michelle D. Tarantino</b>
<b>Mel Zueger</b>		

**\* On leave of absence    \*\* Section Leader**

*In memory of our past members and friends, Alan, Chip, Jerry,  
Jonathan, John, Marilyn, Norm and Tim.*



# SIMPLE GIFTS



River City Mixed Chorus Winter Concert  
Strauss Performing Arts Center  
University of Nebraska at Omaha  
Sunday, February 3, 1991

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Noel—Sur Les Jeux D’Anches,<br/>Sans Tremblant et un Duo</b><br>Nick Behrens, Organist | Louis Claude Daquin                                |
| <b>Fanfare for Christmas Day</b>  | Martin Shaw  |
| <b>Jazz Gloria</b>  | Natalie Sleeth                                     |
| <b>Simple Gifts,<br/>an American Shaker Song</b>  | arr.: Marie Pooler                                 |
| <b>Greetings</b>  | Chorus President, Bill Wilwerding                  |
| <b>Billy Jean’s Restaurant</b><br><i>Roger Bennett, Soloist</i>                           | Words: Raymond Hoffman<br>Music: John Coe          |
| <hr/> <hr/>   |  |
| <b>Stopping by Woods on a Snowy<br/>Evening</b>   | Poem by Robert Frost<br>Music: Ruth Artman         |
| <b>The Little Horses, Lullaby</b>   | Adapted by Aaron Copland<br>arr.: R. Wilding-White |
| <i>The River City Mixed Chorus Womens Ensemble</i>  |  |
| <hr/> <hr/>   |  |
| <b>Sure on This Shining Night</b>   | Samuel Barber<br>Text by James Agee                |
| <b>Lo’ How a Rose E’er Blooming</b><br><i>Toni Pastory, KD Jones,<br/>John Coe</i>        | Hugo Distler<br>arr.: Jerald T. Hawhee             |
| <b>Silent Night</b><br><i>Vik Dainauskas,<br/>Vance Waddell, Solos</i>                    | Franz Gruber<br>Joseph Mohr<br>arr.: Paul Sjolund  |



**The Most Wonderful Time  
of the Year**

Eddie Pola  
George Wyle  
arr.: Mark A. Brymer

**I Sing the Body Electric**

Michael Gore  
Dean Pitchford  
arr.: Ed Lojeski

## —INTERMISSION—

**Ballade, Opus 47, in  
A Flat Major**

Frederic Chopin

**Briar Rose**

*Jonathan Cole, Pianist*

*Performing in memory of mother, my "briar rose"*

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Jonathan Cole

**Brothers, Sing On!**

Edvard Grieg  
Herbert Dalmas  
arr.: Howard D. McKinney

**Still, Still, Still**

*Steven Nichols, Soloist*

Norman Luboff  
Marilyn Keith  
Alan Bergman

*The River City Mixed Chorus Mens Ensemble*

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**Blow, Blow Thou Winter Wind**

John Rutter  
Text by William Shakespeare

**Three Madrigals**

Emma Lou Diemer  
Text by William Shakespeare

I) "O Mistress Mine, where are you roaming?"

II) "Take, O take those lips away"

III) "Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more!"

**He Ain't Heavy...He's My Brother**

*Toni Pastory, Soloist*

Words: Bob Russell  
arr.: Jonathan Cole  
Music: Bobby Scott

**Hallelujah, Amen**

(from Judas Maccabaeus)

Georg Friedrich Handel



# CONTRIBUTORS

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Allen Zimbleman  
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## THANKS FOR ATTENDING OUR SHOW

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### HERE'S ANOTHER WAY YOU CAN HELP...

You can join our special group of volunteers — our contributors — who help support all River City Mixed Chorus activities. Your gift of any amount is welcome and appreciated.

As a contributor, you'll be part of a primary source of our financial support. Our ticket sales cover only a small part of our revenue needs. Your contribution helps toward expenses such as sheet music, rehearsal and performance space rental, and expanded program plans.

The River City Mixed Chorus is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and your contributions are tax-deductible.

Thanks for your support!





## A SPECIAL NOTE

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A special mention needs to be made about a group of people who work behind the scenes within the River City Mixed Chorus. This group of non-singing members make up our Friends group and Volunteers.

These individuals support the chorus by monitoring the ticket table at concerts, ushering, providing refreshments during intermissions and serving on committees. They are the "behind-the-scenes performers" who attend to the needs of the chorus and our audience.

So, when you are clapping for us, throw in an extra round of applause for our friends and volunteers. They will appreciate it, just as we appreciate them.

Thanks Friends.

**If you are interested in joining as a Friend or as a Volunteer, please contact Bill Wilwerding at 733-1703 or Brandon Shukis at 556-8352.**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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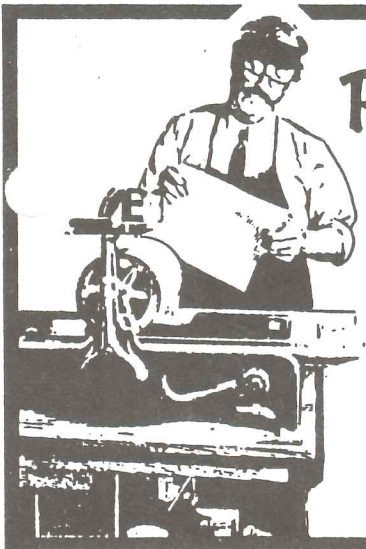
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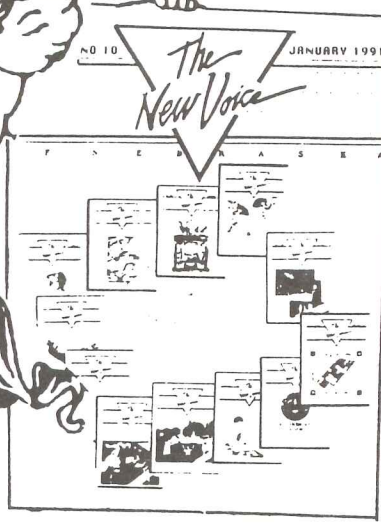
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