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“Sing A New Season”

Saturday, January 16, 1993

7:05 pm

Strauss Performing Arts Center
University of Nebraska at Omaha





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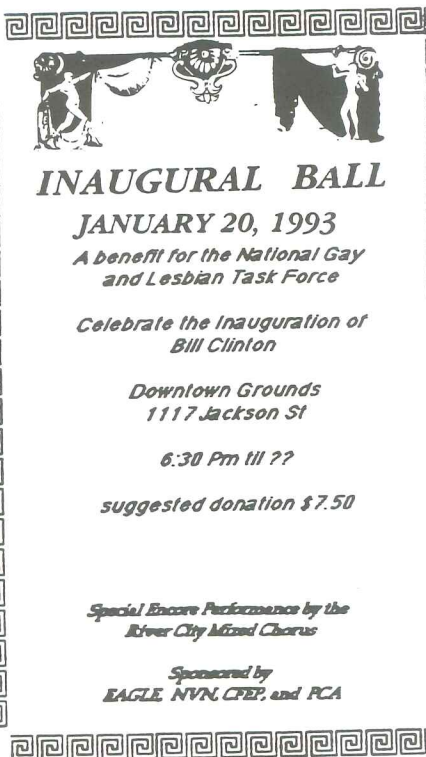


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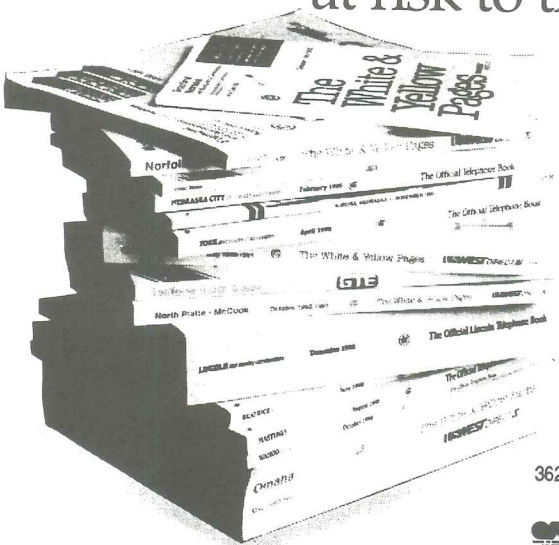
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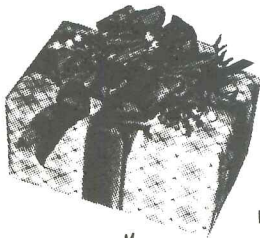
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JOHN J. BENNETT, MUSIC DIRECTOR

John J. Bennett is the Director of Music and Cathedral Administrator for Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. In addition to his responsibilities with the River City Mixed Chorus, Bennett maintains an active performance schedule as a recital accompanist. He will be performing in many venues this season including the Brownville (Nebr.) Concert Series.

Bennett served as Music Director for the Omaha Playhouse from 1976 to 1991, directing over 70 productions. He also created the musical arrangements for the nationally-acclaimed Playhouse production of "A Christmas Carol."

He begins the 92-93 season as Music Director for the River City Mixed Chorus having served as Co-Director in 1991-92.

JONATHAN SWOBODA, PIANIST

Jonathan Swoboda is a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Music. He has led a varied career as a pianist, music director, composer and performer in music theatre. Jonathan has served as the music director of over 40 productions in the last ten years, including numerous national tours. He has composed children's musicals, incidental theatre music, and has produced and performed education programs for Opera/Omaha. He is currently music director for the highly-successful production of "Beehive" at the Howard Street Tavern where it plays to packed houses.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES "CELEBRATING DIVERSITY"

Little did we know, when choosing a theme for our '92-'93 season last summer, how incredibly "with it" we would be today. **Diversity** is a word used as often as **Infrastructure** or **Wonk** these days. Without even trying, we have become "politically correct" in our outlook and promotion.

An accident? A quirk of fate? A calculated bit of P.R. on our part?
I think not!

The **River City Mixed Chorus** has always celebrated diversity:
in our lives and in our music.

Our concert tonight represents weeks of concentrated rehearsals - interrupted only by an ice storm. (I love Nebraska in the winter!) You see before you 46 singers (**13 new members**) who bring unique combinations of talent, desire, opinion, ego, and love of music to each and every rehearsal. One of our goals is to define our musical identity: through our sound and interpretation. Our sound has changed from last season and will continue to change as we add new members to the chorus; we each have our musical likes and dislikes; we don't always agree with all choices of music; we feel more successful performing a certain genre of music over another; we have strong feelings about inclusiveness in language; we don't always understand what the heck the director is talking about—but, we try to translate and produce none-the-less. With all of these diverse elements in play, our common bond is the love of singing.

I hope you recognize the care and joy this group puts into their music. I am so very privileged to be their director. They keep me alert, alive and astounded!

Enjoy!
John Bennett

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS ROSTER

John J. Bennett,
Music Director

Jonathan Swoboda, Pianist
Carrie Nath, Stage Manager

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RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

EXULTATE DEO

Alessandro Scarlatti
(1660-1725)

*Sing aloud unto God our strength;
Alleluia.
Make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob.*

Three Choral Settings from "ALICE IN WONDERLAND"

Music: Irving Fine
(1914-1962)
Words by Lewis Carroll

1. THE LOBSTER QUADRILLE
2. BEAUTIFUL SOUP Women's Ensemble
3. FATHER WILLIAM

HAVE YOU SEEN THE WHITE LILY GROW

from "The Hour Glass"

Music: Irving Fine
Poem: Ben Jonson

A CREELEY COLLECTION (1989)

Music: Libby Larsen
Poetry: Robert Creeley

1. The Winter
2. Sufi Sam Christian
Joel Miller, Solo Tenor
3. Cheap Thrill
4. Love Comes Quietly
5. From "Mabel"
Flute: Janet Williams
Percussion: Ron Johnson

NIGRA SUM

Music: Pablo Casals
(1876-1973)
Text: The Song of Solomon

*I am black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem:
The King hath rejoiced in me,
The King hath brought me into His chambers.
He spake unto me:
Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.
For, lo, the winter is past, and the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth:
And the time of renewal is come. Alleluia.*

S 1993 WINTER CONCERT

7 "SING A NEW SEASON"

THE LAST WORDS OF DAVID

Music: Randall Thompson
(1899-1984)

Text: 2 Samuel, XXIII, 3, 4

Men's Ensemble

GOOD ALE

from "When Icicles Hang"

Music: John Rutter
(b. 1945)

15th Century text

Three Songs of Aaron Copland

1. **LONG TIME AGO**

2. **AT THE RIVER** **Men's Ensemble**

3. **ZION'S WALLS**

Arr. Irving Fine

Arr. R. Wilding White

Arr. Glenn Koponen

INTERMISSION

I LOVE A PIANO

Words and Music: Irving Berlin

WHAT'LL I DO?

Words and Music: Irving Berlin

Women's Ensemble

COME IN FROM THE RAIN

Words and Music: Melissa
Manchester & Carole Bayer Sager

Roger Bennett, Soloist

UNEXPECTED SONG

from "Song and Dance"

Music: Andrew Lloyd Webber

Words: Don Black

Elizabeth Bejan, Soloist

IN THIS VERY ROOM

Words and Music: Ron & Carol Harris

CARRY ME

arr. Barry Oliver

Todd Brooks & Ann E. Potter, Soloists

HAND IN HAND

Words and Music: Jesse Kane
arr. Pat Parr

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Words and Music: Peter Yarrow
arr. Robert De Cormier

FRIENDS OF THE RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS

Our Friends are a special group of non-singing associate members of the River City Mixed Chorus who provide support for Chorus activities in many, varied ways. We encourage any of you in our audience who would like to join us as an associate member to contact any member of the Chorus for more information. We'd like to add your name to our current list of Friends.

Chuck Collins
Harry DiLise, board
Patty Jo Green
Pat Phalen
Michelle Gengler

Ron Leslie Schroeder
Brandon Shukis
Phil Lister
Mary E. Williamson, board
Allen Zimbleman

CONTRIBUTORS

The River City Mixed Chorus sincerely thanks the individuals, businesses and organizations who have supported us through the years and in this concert season. We are a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation so any contribution is tax deductible as well as most appreciated.

Some of our benefactors have wished to remain anonymous and although they are not listed, we appreciate their support and generosity.

Fritz Bally
Dr. & Mrs. James R. Belt
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Allen Zimbleman
Don Zwink
In appreciation of sweet
memories of GALA '92

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The River City Mixed Chorus also wants to acknowledge and thank the following organizations and individuals who have helped make our performances a success.

- Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church • The New Voice of Nebraska
- Local television, radio and print media • University of Nebraska at Omaha
- WomenSpace • Kathy Tyree • Jonathan Cole • Concert volunteer group:
Terri, Kelli, Mark, Chris, Fred, Steve, Charles, Dave and others

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS MISSION

The River City Mixed Chorus is a voluntary community chorus, organized to provide the opportunity for Gay/Lesbian and Gay/Lesbian-sensitive men and women to sing together. Our primary purpose is to demonstrate musical excellence in our performances by providing our members the most competent and professional musical leadership available.

GALA CHORUSES and THE RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS

We are proud to be a member of GALA Choruses (the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses), an international alliance of over 100 men's women's and mixed choruses dedicated to providing leadership and inspiration to the lesbian and gay movement through excellence in the choral arts.

GALA Choruses produces a national choral festival every four years and the River City Mixed Chorus was a proud participant in the 1992 festival in Denver last summer. In addition to the festivals, GALA Choruses, a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation, also plans annual conferences for directors and managers, addresses problems of mutual concern and assists with the sharing of music holdings.

THANKS TO THE NEBRASKA ARTS COUNCIL

The Nebraska Arts Council, a state agency, has supported this arts event through its matching grants program funded by the Nebraska Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The Nebraska Arts Council has a variety of grants and service programs to help support arts events throughout Nebraska.

For more information on how the Nebraska Arts Council can be helpful to your community or organization, contact the Nebraska Arts Council, 1313 Farnam-on-the-Mall, Omaha, NE 68102-1873, or call (402) 595-2122.



Nebraska Arts Council

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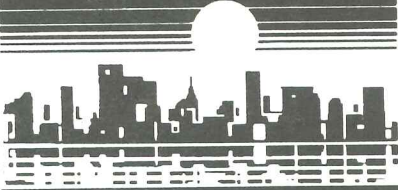
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