



RCMC
River City Mixed Chorus



A Celebration of 25 Years

Saturday June 13 @ 7:05 pm

Sunday June 14 @ 4:05 pm

First United Methodist Church
7020 Cass Street, Omaha

\$15.00 - Adults

\$13.00 - Students/Seniors/Groups

\$10.00 - Children

\$18.00 - Day of Show



The River City Mixed Chorus is a Member of the
Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses



Cover art designed by Richard White

 **RCMC**
River City Mixed Chorus PRESENTS

I SING THE BODY ELECTRIC

**January 16, 17, 2010 at
Lied Education Center
for Performing Arts
Creighton University**



Tickets available on line Fall 2009 at www.rcmc.org

From the Music Director

RCMC is 25 years old!

Were we to go back in time and talk to the original eight brave souls who sang the first concert in 1984, I wonder if they would be surprised that the chorus they started would have such a long life, that it would grow and develop in such a way that numerous lives would be touched. Did they imagine that the chorus would become a support system for those who would lose loved ones to AIDS? Did they know it would become a vehicle for GLBT's to come out? That it would draw in straight allies? That it could help to heal broken families?



RCMC has been all of that, and much more, through good times and tough times, through the loving efforts of countless individuals who have given those who would follow a safe place to be and express who they are. All of this is worth celebrating! We are truly grateful.

One way to celebrate an anniversary is to look back, to remind ourselves of where we've come from and where we are going. So, we invite you in this concert to relive the music, the pictures, the stories, all that has inspired us to be who we are, and to join us as we dedicate ourselves to new visions and dreams for the next 25 years.

Would the original founders be surprised by what the group has become? Some of them are here this weekend to celebrate with us, and my hope is that we will make them proud!

– Mark Kurtz



Tim 612-3833
Carole 871-9817
Brian 250-5256



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From the Assistant Music Director



It is with great pride and overwhelming joy that we welcome you to this 25th Anniversary Celebration of the River City Mixed Chorus!! I joined RCMC in 2005, and have had the pleasure of watching the ensemble mature under the leadership of our Music Director, Mark Kurtz, and the Board of Directors.

I have enjoyed the successes of this ensemble, but most especially the feelings of family and camaraderie. RCMC has taught me much about harmony. Musical harmony is key, but personal harmony with each other is paramount.

It is therefore with a deep sense of connection to our community and to the River City Mixed Chorus' tradition that I assumed the role of Assistant Music Director this season. The Artistic Staff, Board of Directors, chorus leaders and musicians are dedicated to enriching your lives by providing first-class performances of a rich menu of diverse musical treats designed to satisfy your artistic palates.

It is my belief that RCMC's *idée fixe* (the underlying idea which recurs time and again, creating unity within a particular work) is the concept of community. We have found community with each other as chorus members and are honored to find that community with you. Each and every one of you is a valued member of our extended RCMC family, and we love and appreciate you.

We look forward to continued partnership with you as we embark upon Season 26. We thank you for your support and we hope that you enjoy all things Silver!

Sincerely,
E. Dwayne Moore
Assistant Music Director

RCMC MISSION

**RCMC is Omaha's GLBTA Chorus!
Building community and enriching the lives of our
members and audiences through our passion for music.**



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From the Chorus President

Welcome EVERYONE to our 25th anniversary concert! I am so happy that you are here to celebrate with us! Twenty-five years is a milestone in any relationship. RCMC has remained a cohesive choir in spite of the ups and downs that any long term relationship can bring. I am proud to be a member of this talented, fun, and supportive group. This concert expresses our playful side as well as our response to the trials that the last 25 years have seen in the GLBTA community. You will experience a taste of the changes that 25 years can bring as well as a sense of the passage of time among our members. This sense of history is at once humbling and exciting as we look forward to the next twenty five years of development and change. I look forward to the amazing things that are in store for River City Mixed Chorus and I especially look forward to seeing all of you at our 50th anniversary concert!



Sincerely,
Sarah Phelps, President of the Chorus



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of Omaha



From the President of RCMC Board of Directors



What an exciting 25th year for River City Mixed Chorus!

After the GALA Festival in Miami last summer, Chorus members returned to Omaha full of energy and ready to take on anything Mark Kurtz could dish out! With our winter concert, "SHOWSTOPPERS", we performed some fantastic music and even danced a few steps (even those of us with two left feet!). With tonight's show, "SILVER", we're traveling through the past 25 years of music with songs which we hope bring back many

memories and create a few new ones as well.

This is my eighth concert with RCMC and each time it's a different group of dedicated individuals on stage singing. Some Chorus members come and go while others are the foundation of this amazing organization, but each concert is a fantastic journey of inspiration, emotion and diversity - both in the music and musicians. I am very happy to be part of RCMC and proud of each of the performers on stage tonight.

Please sit back and enjoy the show and thank you for supporting RCMC - Omaha's GLBTA Chorus!

With best regards,

Travis Wilcox

President, River City Mixed Chorus Board of Directors

NEW MEMBER AUDITIONS

You too can become a part of Omaha's most interesting chorus! All that is required for membership is an audition with Mark Kurtz, our Music Director, and enthusiasm and willingness to invest the time and effort required to learn the music. However, some musical experience is helpful.

Auditions for our "I Sing the Body Electric" (January 2010) begins in August on Monday August 24 or Monday August 31.

An audition appointment may be scheduled by calling the sing line at 341-SING (7464) or by e-mail to Pat Rapier at Basiatree@cox.net. If you have a conflict with the scheduled audition dates, you may request an alternate date and time.

The RCMC rehearse and audition each Monday evening from 6:45pm to 9:15pm (from September – mid June). Rehearsals are held at First United Methodist Church, in Clark Hall, 69th & Cass Streets.

NEBRASKA ARTS COUNCIL

We thank the Nebraska Arts Council, a state agency, for the basic support of 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 information on how the Nebraska Arts Council can be helpful to your community or organization contact the Nebraska Arts Council at <http://www.nebraskaartscouncil.org>





RICHARD WHITE ASID
INTERIOR DESIGN

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Mark Kurtz

Music Director



Mark Kurtz is active as a director, performer, and composer of music that connects others to all of Creation. His studies began at the North Carolina School of the Arts, where he received a Chancellor's Award for Excellence and graduated as Outstanding Senior. From there, he continued studies at the University of Michigan School of Music, where he was twice named an Angell Scholar and graduated with highest honors. His Master of Arts degree is from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, where he lived

and worked in musical theater, church music, and composition, before moving to Omaha in 2000.

In 2008, Mark composed "The Gender Blender" for the RCMC to present at the Omaha summer concert and at the international GALA Chorus Festival in Miami, Florida. His compositions have been performed across the United States, in Canada, and in Europe, winning awards from Westminster Choir College and the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers. Recently, he has begun offering workshops on creatively using the organ for contemporary music.

Mr. Kurtz is currently Director of Music Ministries at First United Methodist Church as well as Music Director of the River City Mixed Chorus.

Salli Compton

Accompanist



Salli is thrilled to be working with a chorus she has admired for years. A musical junkie, Salli has played for Breathe and Elegies for Angel, Punks and Raging Queens for Snap! Productions, Carousel and My Fair Lady for the Omaha Community Playhouse, West Side Story and La Cage aux Folles for the Chanticleer, The Medium, Six Women With Brain Death and Nine for Little Apple Productions, Tommy for the Shelterbelt, and Lewis and Clark: Manifest Destiny and Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up? for Creighton

University. She accompanies the North Side Christian Church Choir, plays for the local students of Dr. Lauren Pickles Voice Studio, and teaches private piano lessons. A professional at Dundee Elementary School, Salli enjoys teaching character lessons and acting as Recess Goddess. Her most amazing gig to date is playing in a church combo with her son, Whit, on bass and her son, Luke, on drums.

E. Dwayne Moore (Wayne)

Assistant Artistic Music Director



Wayne, in his fourth season with the River City Mixed Chorus, enjoys a lengthy musical career. As the new Assistant Director of RCMC, he directs its newly formed outreach ensemble, River's Edge. He has worked under the baton of a number of conductors, including Dr. Tim Seelig (Turtle Creek Chorale), the late Dr. Robert L. Shaw (Atlanta Symphony Orchestra), and René Clausen (Concordia College). He studied vocal pedagogy at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas and choral conducting and ethnomusicology at the

University of North Dakota. He has served as choral director for eighteen years in the states of Texas, Oklahoma, North Dakota, and Minnesota.

At the age of 23, Wayne had the privilege of singing at Carnegie Hall; and has sung all over the globe: throughout the United States, Guatemala, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Poland, the Czech Republic, Holland, England, and Canada.

Wayne serves on the staff of First United Methodist Church as Music and Youth Associate where he directs the Bella Voz Youth Choir and Compassion Band and is a Sr. High Youth Director.

Michael Taylor-Stewart

Movement Coordinator

Michael is proud to have teamed with Megan Van Alstine and Mark Kurtz to create the movement for River City Mixed Chorus's 25th Anniversary performance. Before becoming a singer with RCMC, he helped backstage with "Spirit and Soul" and was the Staging Director for "Big Bent Broadway Bash". Michael is very active in the theatre community and has performed on several stages throughout the metro area. His latest performance was at the Bellevue Little Theatre in the musical revue "The All Night Strut". He is currently in rehearsals for Broadstreet Productions upcoming production, "Baby". Michael also serves as the Development Director on RCMC's Board of Directors.

Tracy Loucks

Sign Language Interpreter

Tracy Loucks hails from Nebraska and obtained a BFA degree in Theatre Arts from the University of New Mexico in 1985. This degree led her to many years of working in theatre, opera, commercials and movies. In 2004, she earned an AAS degree in Sign Language from Iowa Western Community College. She has served as an Educational Interpreter for the last five years. This is Tracy's second concert with RCMC.

Travis Wilcox

President, Board of Directors



As President of the River City Mixed Chorus Board of Directors since 2007, Travis Wilcox appreciates being part of a diverse and talented group of people. This is his fourth season with RCMC and second as Board President. In celebrating RCMC's 25th year, Travis reflects on the amazing people who have given so much to RCMC over the years and looks forward to what the future brings. His favorite song in today's concert is "Family" because "it echoes the sentiment of this Chorus, the GLBTA community and what I think everyone wants...

and needs...to be part of a loving group of people who truly consider themselves family". In his spare time, he enjoys being with his children, Bridgette and Spencer, and his partner Michael.

Sarah Phelps

President, Chorus



Sarah is excited to be celebrating RCMC's 25th Anniversary with this wonderful group of singers and our loyal audience. She has been involved in music since childhood, playing everything from a grandmother in the Pied Piper of Hamelin at age 9 to Queen Aggravain and Aunt Eller in high school productions. She participated in various choirs during her college career and has continued to sing at events in the Omaha area. Her bachelor's degree is in History and International Relations from Luther College where

she was Preus and Haatvedt honor scholar and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Study abroad experiences in India, China, Mexico, and France have given her a wide appreciation for various forms and types of music and she is glad to be a member of a choir that is not afraid to try new musical styles. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Communications at Bellevue University. Sarah is employed as an Enrollment Counselor at Bellevue University and remains busy as the President of RCMC.

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The Times says, “Great art, great deals. A production you don’t want to miss.”

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**Fifth Annual RCMC Art Auction
Saturday, October 24**

7:00 – 10:00pm

Tickets: \$35 or two for \$50

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Tickets available at: www.rcmc.org

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS PRESENTS FIFTH ANNUAL ART AUCTION “Art for the Taking” as you experience HOLLYWOOD HOW IT ALL STARTED...By Norm Melichar And his star team: Steve Kovar and Deb Melichar

One spring I was approached about having a garden walk/reception/art auction, at the Omaha Playhouse! I got together a few pieces of art we could offer for sale while our garden walkers enjoyed tantalizing refreshments at the end of the day. It was a great success and a lot of fun. The following year, we planned an upscale, dressy gala event with lots of art, creative food, wine and music! THAT event was a smashing success and raised a lot of needed cash for the chorus.

We are always on the hunt for great deals and donations of art! Imagine our surprise when we watched Antiques Roadshow and discovered that an artist with a work valued at \$30,000 was the same artist we sold TWO works for under \$200. Some very lucky patron has a real bargain. Just goes to show, you never know what you will pick up at the RCMC Art Auction.

Today there are many dedicated people working to make sure the Fall 2009 Art Auction will be a huge success. All year long, we search for art, both pre-owned and new. We have a huge variety of vintage art as well as originals created just for this event. Each year just gets better!

**Please Join Us on Saturday, October 24th from 7-10pm
at Jackson Artworks, 1108 Jackson Street
in Omaha's Downtown Old Market**

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River City Mixed Chorus CONCERTS

SAVE THE DATE

For

RIVER'S EDGE CONCERT DECEMBER 11th, 2009

Happy-Holly-Gayz

Dietz Memorial United Methodist Church



JANUARY 16th and 17th, 2010 CONCERT

"I Sing the Body Electric"

Lied Education Center for Performing Arts,
Creighton University, Omaha.

"I Sing the Body Electric" will relate to body image. A highly emotional and inspirational concert with the goal of touching everyone in the audience on a deep level; it will be a story concert, with people from the chorus sharing their stories of struggle, triumph, and celebrations.



JUNE 12th AND 13th, 2010 CONCERT

"A Comedy Tonight"

First United Methodist Church

"A Comedy Tonight" will be a "Vaudeville" concert with music and comic from 20's and 30's. The audience will view the drama and chaos happening between each musical number. Two curmudgeons will play their part from out in the audience. Come view how the early 20th century goes hilariously awry.



SILVER

Silver Bells

Music by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans

Lyrics by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans

Small Group (Founding Members): John Hall, Susan Knutzen, Chuck Martens,
Jim Poppert

Let the River Run (from "Working Girl")

Music by Carly Simon

Lyrics by Carly Simon

Arranged by John Higgins

Small Group: Reo Newring, Melissa Saunders, Karen Davidson-Fisher, Sarah Phelps,
Travis Wilcox, Mark Van Keckerix, Stan Brown, and Wayne Moore

Ring My Bell

River's Edge Chorus

Soloists: Corrie Suhr Mikityuk and Sarah Phelps

Music by Frederick Knight

Lyrics by Frederick Knight

Sister

Women's Chorus

Music by Chris Williamson

Lyrics by Chris Williamson

Arranged by Lori Surrency

The Silver Swan *World Premier (see page 20 for complete text)* **Music by** Mark Kurtz

Text by Mark Kurtz

The William Tell Overture

Music by Gioacchino Rossini

Arranged by Julie Eschliman

Be Our Guest (from "Beauty and the Beast")

Music by Alan Menken

Lyrics by Howard Ashman

Arranged by Ed Lojeski

Soloists: Michael Taylor-Stewart, Stan Brown, Sarah Phelps, Jean Rollin and
Melissa Saunders

★★★★ INTERMISSION ★★★★★

THE SILVER SCREEN: 1984-2009

Footloose (from "Footloose")

Music by Kenny Loggins

Lyrics by Dean Pitchford and Kenny Loggins

Arranged by Mark Brymer

Say You, Say Me (from "White Nights")

Soloist: Travis Wilcox

Music by Lionel Richie

Lyrics by Lionel Richie

Little Shop of Horrors (from "Little Shop of Horrors")

Music by Alan Menken

Lyrics by Howard Ashman

Arranged by Mark Brymer

Quartet: Megan Van Alstine, Jean Rollin, Mark Van Keckerix, Brian Adams

Take My Breath Away (from "Top Gun") **Music by** Giorgio Moroder & Tom Whitlock

Men's Chorus

Lyrics by Giorgio Moroder & Tom Whitlock

Axel F (from “Beverly Hills Cop”)
Instrumental

Music by Harold Faltermeyer

Under the Sea (from “The Little Mermaid”)

Music by Alan Menken

Lyrics by Howard Ashman

Arranged by Alan Billingsley

Somewhere in My Memory (from “Home Alone”)

Soloist: Brian Adams

Music by John Williams

Lyrics by Leslie Bricusse

Arranged by Terre McPheeters

Gaston (from “Beauty and the Beast”)

Men's Chorus

Music by Alan Menken

Lyrics by Howard Ashman

Arranged by Roger Emerson

Soloists: Michael Taylor-Stewart, Jerry Meis, Chris Davis, and Wayne Moore

I Have Nothing (from “The Bodyguard”)

Soloist: Megan Van Alstine

Music by Linda Thompson and David Foster

Lyrics by Linda Thompson and David Foster

Streets of Philadelphia (from “Philadelphia”)

Soloist: Victor Hahn

Music by Bruce Springsteen

Lyrics by Bruce Springsteen

The Circle of Life (from “The Lion King”)

Soloist: Wayne Moore

Music by Elton John

Lyrics by Tim Rice

Arranged by Mark Brymer

Rainbow High (from “Evita”)

Soloist: Melissa Saunders

Music by Andrew Lloyd Weber

Lyrics by Tim Rice

Small Group: Megan Van Alstine, Corrie Suhr Mikityuk, Peggy Ryan, Victor Hahn,
Michael Taylor-Stewart, Mark Van Kekerix

My Heart Will Go On (from “Titanic”)

Music by James Horner

Lyrics by Will Jennings

Arranged by Alan Billingsley

May It Be (from “The Lord of the Rings”)

Music by Eithne Ni Bhraonain, Nicky Ryan and Roma Ryan

Lyrics by Eithne Ni Bhraonain, Nicky Ryan and Roma Ryan

Soloist: Wendy Wright

All That Jazz (from “Chicago”)

Music by John Kander

Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Arranged by Ed Lojeski

Accidentally in Love (from “Shrek”)

Music by Adam F. Duritz

Lyrics by Adam F. Duritz

Arranged by Mac Huff

Quartet: Sarah Phelps, Karen Davidson-Fisher, Brian Burleigh, and Wayne Moore

Family (from “Dreamgirls”)

Music by Henry Krieger

Lyrics by Tome Eyen

Arranged by Mac Huff

That's How You Know (from "Enchanted")

Music by Alan Menken
Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
Arranged by Alan Billingsley

Mamma Mia (from "Mamma Mia")

Music by Benny Andersson, Bjorn Ulvaeus, Stig Erik Leopold Anderson
Lyrics by Benny Andersson, Bjorn Ulvaeus, Stig Erik Leopold Anderson
Arranged by Mac Huff

Take a Chance on Me (from "Mamma Mia")

Music by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus
Lyrics by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus
Arranged by Mac Huff

Dancing Queen (from "Mamma Mia")

Music by Benny Andersson, Bjorn Ulvaeus, Stig Erik Leopold Anderson
Lyrics by Benny Andersson, Bjorn Ulvaeus, Stig Erik Leopold Anderson
Arranged by Mac Huff

Small Group: Karen Davidson-Fisher, Reo Newring, Melissa Saunders,
Corrie Suhr Mikityuk, Megan Van Alsfine, Wendy Wright

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Could I Have This Dance?

Music by Wayland Holyfield and Bob House
Lyrics by Wayland Holyfield and Bob House

River's Edge Chorus
Solists: Judy Prenzler and Daniel Whitehouse

Singing for Our Lives

Alumni, Everyone in the Audience

Music by Holly Near
Lyrics by Holly Near

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Singers and Musicians

Soprano

Lori Adams-Miller (LA)
Sue Chamberlin
Aby Gross (LA)
Rita Gross (LA)
Judy Hancock
Alyson Meadows (LA)
Reo Newring
Sarah Phelps (PC/ASL)
Robin Richards (LA)
Jean Rollin
Melissa Saunders
Corrie Suhr Mikityuk
Megan Van Alstine (MSL)
Wendy Wright

Alto

Susan Adams (LA)
Marian Carling (LA)
Sharon Carling (LA)
Karen Davidson-Fisher
Julie Divis (LA)
Laura Finken (ASL)
Pat Gromak (LA)
Kristi Hooper (LA)
Susan Knutzen
Tina Kreuzenstein (LA)
Deb Melichar (LA)
Judy Prenzler
Carol Ramsey (LA)
Edie Russell
Peggy Ryan

Tenor

Tony Barnes
Bob Bugarino (LA)
Brian Burleigh(ASL)
Sean Buster (LA)
Mark Curley (LA)
Jon Holloway (LA)
Duane Lundeen
Jerry Meis
Andy Melichar (LA)
James Sawyer (LA)
Michael Taylor-Stewart
Mark Van Keckerix
Rick White (LA)
Travis Wilcox
Larry Wilson

Bass

Brian Adams
Craig Boetger (LA)
Stan Brown
Darryl Burgdorf
Chris Davis
Victor Hahn (ASL)
Chris Holst
Donald-Brian Johnson (LA)
Scott Miller
Wayne Moore (MSL) (Asst Dir)
Tom Nielsen
Patrick Rapier
Bill Wolaver

Instrumentalists

Salli Compton	Piano
Vince Krysl	Percussion
Marie Meyers	Keyboard
Casey Sheets	Bass Guitar

LA - Leave of Absence
ASL - Administrative Section Leader
DC - Dance Captain
MSL - Music Section Leader
PC - President of the Chorus

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*Best wishes to RCMC in its
25th Anniversary season!*

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SILVER NARRATORS

Vicki Grunwald

Nan Knicely

Daniel Whitehouse



BEHIND THE SCENES

Artistic Staff

Mark Kurtz

Music Director

Wayne Moore

Assistant Director

Salli Compton

Accompanist

Tracy Loucks

Interpreter

Michael Taylor-Stewart

Megan Van Alstine

Movement Coordinators

Back Stage

Dusty Davis

Stage Manager

Russ Terman-White

Sound Designer

Anna Terman-White

Sound Technician

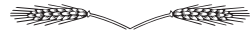
Jerry Meis

Michael Taylor-Stewart

Technical Support

Patrick Wait

Production Assistant



Reception

Following the concert, all are invited to mingle with Singers and Staff to celebrate our 25 years at a complimentary reception in Cary Hall which is located on the east side of the Church.

Turn left as you exit the sanctuary, and follow the winding hallway.

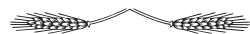


Sponsors of the Reception:

Metropolitan Community Church

The Max

Special Acknowledgment to Stan Brown and Scott Miller who spearheaded the reception, and arranged the artistic layout, festive food and decoration.




RCMC
River City Mixed Chorus PRESENTS

A COMEDY TONIGHT



June 12 & 13, 2010
at
First United
Methodist Church

Tickets available on line Fall 2009 at www.rcmc.org

RIVER'S EDGE

River City Mixed Chorus is proud to announce the birth of River's Edge, an outstanding outreach ensemble that partners with RCMC. Under the direction of Wayne Moore, the assistant director of RCMC, River's Edge is branching out to spread the message of diversity and acceptance for all people. They performed at the Omaha Community Playhouse before the opening of the 32nd season of their world-renowned "A Christmas Carol". River's Edge was very well-received and has been invited to return for the 33rd season.

Currently, River's Edge is preparing for "River City Presents: Happy Holly Gayz". The members have been working diligently to ensure that we offer our audience an entertaining, inspiring and thought-provoking performance. The performance will be held at Dietz Memorial United Methodist Church, located at 1423 S 10th Street. Please join them, Friday, December 11, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

River's Edge excitedly looks toward the future as they continue to build their repertoire while reaching out to the Greater Omaha Community. River's Edge is available to perform at special events. For more information, please contact their director at wayne.moore@fumcomaha.com

RIVER'S EDGE

Sopranos

Sara Phelps
Jean Rollin
Melissa Saunders
Corrie Suhr Mikityuk

Tenors

Tony Barnes
Brian Burleigh
Jerry Meis
Travis Wilcox

Altos

Karen Davidson-Fisher
Susan Knutzen
Judy Prenzler
Edie Russell

Basses

Stan Brown
Scott Miller
Michael Taylor-Stewart
Daniel Whitehouse

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Rivers Edge

presents...



Happy Holly Gayz

December 11th, 2009 • 7:00 p.m.
Dietz Memorial United Methodist Church
Tickets: \$10.00

Tickets available on line Fall 2009 at www.rcmc.org

The Silver Swan

The silver swan who living had no note...
Whose hollow breast harbored his breath...

Sailing still waters, an ivory tower, mast held high by
unseen straining oars...

When death approached...

Drawn down into moonlit mirrored depths, wings which
once shamed geese now a shroud in shambles...

Sliding in dreams of life unlived, loves left unloved, the
souls of swans and geese unknown, unmoved...

...when death approached, unlocked his silent throat,
and found himself no longer alone.

The silver swan who living had no note, now sings and
sings ever on in hearts who hear and join the song.

Text by Mark Kurtz

(based on a 17th century madrigal by Orlando Gibbons)

ADVERTISING

— YOUR AD HERE —

**Please consider advertising in future RCMC concert Programs.
For specific details and ad packages, e-mail Marketing4RCMC@yahoo.com
or call our sing line at 402-341-SING (7464).**

Please email your Ad to Marketing4RCMC@yahoo.com.

A minimum resolution of 300 dpi is required.

JPG or PDF formats are accepted.

RCMC Board of Directors 2008-2009

President – Travis Wilcox
Vice President – Mark Curley
Secretary – Scott Miller
Treasurer – Mark Van Kekerix

Members at large

Chris Davis
Jerry Meis
Carole Souza
Michael Taylor-Stewart
Megan Van Alstine
Richard White

Ex-officio

Music Director – Mark Kurtz
President of Chorus – Sarah Phelps
Fifth Voice Chair – Ric Chamberlin

River City Chorus WISH LIST

If you desire to donate to a specific need,
the chorus wish list is as follows:

Production equipment

special lights
platform risers
props
keyboard

Operating expenses

copyright fees
sheet music

Stipends

backstage manager,
light and sound technicians

Salaries

sign language interpreter
assistant music director

Concert Sponsor

River City Mixed Chorus

FIFTH VOICE

CHAIR: Ric Chamberlin

Duane Arends
Elizabeth Bennet
Scott Bryant
Cassandra Burgdorf
Sarah Cleary
Lucas Compton
Michael Dantzier
Bobbi Davidson-Fisher
Daniel Dixon
Dave England
Kathy England
Laura England
Dave Etmund
Ronny Foulk
Dennis Goodwater
Bobbi Greenspan
DeWayne Greim
Alex Gross
Vicki Grunwald
Kristi Hooper
James Kaup
Steve Kovar
Hank Kuhlmann
Stan Lassegard
Douglas Lee-Regier
Krissa Lee-Regier
Mike McClellan
Ellie McKiernan
Deb Melichar
Norm Melichar
Marisa Ozuna
Ted Price
Carol Ramsey
Kevin Rose
Keene Ruff
Bobby Samon
Patrick Wait
Amy Wendling

Fifth Voice – These “Friends” are non-singing volunteers, who work the “magic behind the music”. These devoted individuals accomplish many tasks associated with concert preparation and fund-raising events. They don’t get the opportunity to stand on stage and look into your faces. They feel the glow of sweet applause only from the sidelines. So when you’re clapping for us, throw in an extra round for our Friends. If you are interested in supporting the Chorus in this way, please contact Ric Chamberlin at the Sing Line (341-SING (7464).

Contributors Circle of Cash Donations

Received May 15, 2008 – May 23, 2009

Diva \$2500-\$4999

Mark Van Kekerix

Virtuoso \$1000-\$2499

Judy Prenzler
Imperial Court of Nebraska
Nebraska Arts Council

Soloists \$500-\$999

Heartland Round-Up Association
Jeremy Kaiman and Jimmy Wojtkiewicz
NuStyle Development Corporation
State Farm Foundation

Prodigy \$250-\$499

First United Methodist Church
Ice Bowl Invitational Tournament

Performers \$100-\$249

Stan Brown and Scott Miller
Mark and Ginny Curley
Milton Davison
Mark Goodman, M.D.
Thomas Liefer
James Rinehart
M. M. Stewart
Bluestone Development

Friends \$1-\$99

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Mark Schulze
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Travis Wilcox and Michael Taylor-Stewart
Roger Wiles
William Will
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River City Mixed Chorus PRODUCERS CIRCLE

The River City Mixed Chorus acknowledges all persons who participate in our Producers Circle in each concert program and on our website. Your support and belief in the cause of our organization is commendable. If you wish to become a member of our Producer's Circle family, please call our sing line at 402-341-7464.

Friends	\$25-\$99
Performers	\$100-\$249
Prodigy	\$250-\$499
Soloists	\$500-\$999
Virtuoso	\$1000-\$2499
Diva	\$2500-\$4999
Maestro	\$5000-\$9999
Directors Circle	\$10000-\$24999
Conductors Circle	\$25000+

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS

Our 25 YEARS 1984 - 2009

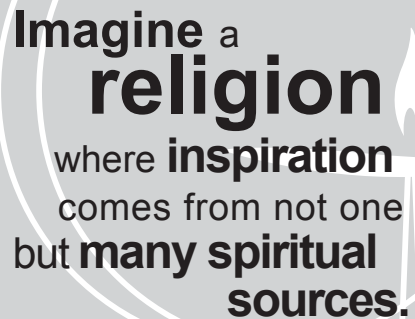
A National tragedy turned into one of the most inspiring empowering movements of a lifetime....

In San Francisco, in fall 1978 a shocking event hit the gay and lesbian community. The first openly gay politician, Supervisor Harvey Milk, was assassinated along with Mayor George Moscone. That evening, the world's first openly gay chorus sang, for the first time in public on the steps of City Hall for the impromptu memorial service. In 1981, The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus toured the US, and forever changed the lives of millions of people.

In 1982, fourteen choruses founded what is now the largest gay and lesbian organization in the world – the Gay and Lesbian Association of choruses (GALA Choruses) with over 8000 international members and 210 Choruses. The mission of GALA Choruses is to inspire and strengthen member choruses to change their world through song. The mission is to foster the artistic and organizational development of member choruses. GALA engages in advocacy; provides grants for the commissioning of new choral works; facilitates networking within the association; and serves as a resource center for choruses. A choral festival is held every four years. RCMC has performed at seven GALA festivals: Minneapolis 1985, Seattle 1989, Denver 1992, Tampa 1996, San Jose 2000, Montreal 2004 and Miami 2008. RCMC is a member of GALA and shares the vision of "Our Voices Win Freedom".

In 1990, members created a quilt to honor eight RCMC members who died between 1984-1990 in order to personalize the national tour of the "Names Quilt". Toni Pastory, Quilt Project Coordinator and the quilt makers wrote new verses to celebrate the lives of deceased friends. Chorus members signed a signature block and the quilt block was presented to the Names Project in Lincoln in October, to be added to the "Names Quilt". Working on the quilt was a powerful experience for all involved. Quilt makers included: Tanith K., Toni P., Cleve E., Vik D., Jim P., Dan W., Mike G., John H., Susan M., Eloise, Bill W., John C., Juan Pablo A., Rich K., Brian B., Karen J., Michelle T., Brandon S., Stan B. and, Marsha A.

RCMC is a dynamic element of the beginning of the GALA movement; a result of those who had the courage to come together and stay together, in the heart of the Midwest, in Omaha, Nebraska. The RCMC artistic director selects music and images that show where we came from as a people, what we have gone through, and where gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people and allies are going.



**Imagine a
religion**
where **inspiration**
comes from not one
but **many spiritual**
sources.

First Unitarian Church

Sunday Services at 9:30 & 11:15 AM

3114 Harney St., Omaha 402.345.3039
firstuomaha.org

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS

History of Musical Directors & Accompanists

<u>YEARS</u>	<u>MUSICAL DIRECTOR</u>	<u>ACCOMPANIST</u>
1984	Jerry Kruse*	Jerry Kruse
1985-1986	John Ziegler*	Dale McDole
1986	Dale McDole	Michael McCabe
1987 (March)	Judith Bieker	Nick Behrens
1987 (June)	Kevin Jones	Nick Behrens
1988 (Interim)	Nick Behrens	Michael McCabe
1988-1990	John Kelly	Nick Behrens, Roberta Siebert and Mark Armstrong
1991	Jonathan D. Cole*	Nick Behrens
1992	Jonathan D. Cole* & John Bennett	Nick Behrens
1993-2000	John Bennett	Jonathan Swoboda, Brent-Alan Huffman, Ron Guthrie
2001 (Interim)	Brian Jay	Aleta Fenceroy*
2001-2006	Mark Kurtz	Aleta Fenceroy*
2006 - current	Mark Kurtz	Salli Compton

* deceased

Very Special Acknowledgments

Cover art by **Richard White**
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First United Methodist Church
St. Andrew's United Methodist Church
Steve Kovar
Norm and Deb Melichar
Nebraska Arts Council
Bobby Samon
Mark Van Kekerix
Travis Wilcox
Michael Taylor-Stewart

All of the members of the River City Mixed Chorus are deeply grateful to those individuals and businesses that have been so generous with their financial support, time and energy. Everyone associated with River City Mixed Chorus is profoundly aware that if not for the loyalty and personal sacrifice of our audience, contributors, family and friends, we would not be celebrating a Silver anniversary.

Thank you all!

In Memoriam

Chuck
 Alen
 Chip
 Jerry Kruse
 Jerry Peck
 Johnathan
 John
 Marilyn
 Norm
 Tim
 Dana
 Joel
 Brandon
 Vance
 Fritz
 Steven
 Jonathan D. Cole
 Ronnie
 Bruce Beyersdorf
 Mark Farmer
 Aleta Fenceroy

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ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
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