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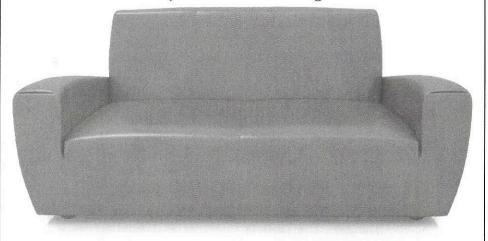
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presents...

# CHARIS on the Couch

"Crazy" never looked so good.



## featuring guest artist Lisa Koch

April 25 & 26, 2008 7:30 p.m. Missouri History Museum

Des Lee Auditorium

RAC



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# CHARIS - The St. Louis Women's Chorus presents

## CHARIS ON THE COUCH

featuring guest artist Lisa Koch

April 25-26, 2008

Des Lee Auditorium

Missouri History Museum

Aric Henson, Artistic Director

Chelle Habecker, Accompanist Glenace Humphrey, Sign Language Artist Abby Kestner, Sign Language Artist

> Tracy Utzmyers, Stage Manager Samir Banerjee, Sound Design R. E. Dix, Scenic Design



CHARIS receives financial assistance from the Regional Arts Commission.



#### Who We Are

CHARIS is a lesbian chorus open to all who identify as women. We differ in age, size, ethnic background, sexual orientation, and ability but share a common goal to seek musical excellence, voice messages of social justice, and create a fun and supportive place for all women.

#### **Membership Information**

CHARIS is a non-auditioned chorus and extends an open invitation for membership. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday nights from 7:00-9:30 p.m. at Lafayette Park United Methodist Church (2300 Lafayette Ave., 63104). If you are interested in membership information or in attending a rehearsal, please visit our website at www.charischorus.org or call (314) 664-9340. We are accessible to those with disabilities.

#### **Board of Directors**

Sharon Smith, President Terri Velasco, Vice-President Vicki Staples, Secretary Kendra Henry, Treasurer

Members At-Large:

Susan Bollman, Linda Clark, Susan Dwyer, Nancy Folk, Candice Freeman, David Hanes, Shannon Henderson, Kathy Morris, Kristen Wozniak, Dina Young

#### From the President



I look out my window as I write this, and realize that while the calendar says spring is here, the weather does not. It's still quite cold, and it's been dreary and raining for what seems like forever. I hope that when this reaches you, it will truly be spring.

Speaking of spring, it's time for CHARIS to complete its 15th season with the concert, "CHARIS on the Couch." It's shaping up to be quite an

entertaining evening and we are pleased to feature comedian Lisa Koch. Lisa will perform with the chorus as well as take the stage on her own. Lisa has wowed audiences (including some of our own members) aboard the Olivia Cruises, so we're particularly excited to have her with us!

The women of CHARIS are also looking forward to this summer's festivities. We've been working extremely hard over the past year or more in preparation for our appearance at the GALA Festival in Miami this July. This is an wonderful opportunity for us to perform for, and hear, many other gay, lesbian or mixed choruses, both large and small, from around the world. It will be our second appearance at a GALA Festival, as the chorus also performed during the Festival in Tampa some years ago.

When you get a chance, please surf over to our website (www.charischorus.org) to see the changes that have sprung up there. We have new faces on our board as well as new singers and volunteers. As we prepare for all the performances ahead of us, we're reminded that it's with the support of all of you that we can do the things we do. We appreciate each of you and are happy you've joined us for this concert. All of us together can make a difference through song.

For now, Sharon Smith

#### From the Artistic Director



Therapy. As the performance committee and I gathered, I pondered this one word. Therapy is something I am pretty familiar with. It's played a huge role in my life over the last 15 years or so. My reflections are mixed having both enjoyed it (presently) and struggled with it (previously). The therapy experience, I've come to realize, is as individual as we are. Many reasons bring us to "the couch" but the goal is the same: working to resolve some unresolved issues. CHARIS

has woven together a dynamic, wide-ranging concert designed to take you along on an emotional roller coaster, hopefully with a light -hearted "ear." I feel the chorus is singing some of its most challenging music to date and doing so with a fervor that will take your breath away. To top it off, we have guest comedian Lisa Koch showing us that therapy can, indeed, be a laughing matter. I am delighted to be a part of this experience.

As CHARIS closes its 15th season, so closes another chapter in the life of the chorus. I've decided to step down as Artistic Director to return to school to further my education. I've enjoyed the past four years spent with these remarkable women and continue to be in awe of their spirit. These women stand together in song and in life. They have become a family, dedicated in their support of each other.

I will continue to support CHARIS as an audience member and "Head Cheerleader" (I've already got the skirt!), and I'm excited to see what the future holds for them. I look forward to our final performances together; at the GALA Festival in Miami this July, at Pridefest, and in our fall concert, exploring the "four elements."

A final word to the members of CHARIS: Sing with all you have to give *forever*, for you have touched my heart and I will forever hear *your* song.

Aric Henson





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#### **Artist Biographies**

#### Aric Henson - Artistic Director

Aric Henson received his musical training at Jefferson College and The University of Missouri, St. Louis. He previously served as director of the GMC Ensemble, Associate Director of the St. Louis Symphony Children's Choir and music director of Faith UMC. He is also a former adjunct faculty member with Jefferson College, where he led the Jefferson College Singers, the Starlight Show Choir and taught private vocal lessons. He has also taught in public and private school settings. Aric also serves as guest conductor and adjudicator for various music festivals. Currently he is on staff at Woodlawn Chapel Presbyterian Church, where he directs The Adult Hand Bell Choir and the Chancel Choir. He also runs a private voice studio in the St. Louis metro area.

Henson's life revolves around music. He loves to teach and perform and that love has taken him on tours in cities such as Prague, Vienna, Salzburg, Munich, New Orleans, Little Rock, San Antonio, Dallas and Austin. Aric holds several affiliations with such distinguished music organizations as Music Educators National Conference, Missouri Music Educators Association, American Choral Director's Association and The Missouri Choral Director's Association. He will be making his GALA directorial debut in Miami this summer with CHARIS at GALA Festival VIII.

Aric would like to thank the members of CHARIS for their hard work and determination. Thanks also to Scott for his amazing love.

#### Chelle Habecker - Accompanist

Chelle holds a Master of Arts in Music from the University of Hawai'i, Manoa with an emphasis in Ethnomusicology. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Music, Piano Performance and an Associate of Arts in Piano Pedagogy from Spring Arbor University in Michigan. In addition to teaching private piano lessons, she currently accompanies the Soaring Singers elementary choir in Webster Groves, Solo-Ensemble festival participants, and her young children in their violin studies. She regularly performs keyboards and vocals in the band at Living Water Church in Winchester, MO. This is her first season accompanying CHARIS.

#### Lisa Koch - Guest Artist



Mix a touch of Bette Midler, a healthy dose of Lily Tomlin, and a smattering of Karen Carpenter and you've got Lisa Koch. An irreverent Seattle singer/comedian, Koch (pronounced "Coke") is a deliciously twisted mix of comedy, theater, and demented songs. She has released four solo recordings ("Tall Cool Drink," "Both of Me," "Colorblind Blues" and "You

Make My Pants Pound and other show tunes..."), is one-half of hilarious sketch-comedy duo, Dos Fallopia ("My Breasts Are Out of Control"), and is an alumnus of cult quartet Venus Envy ("I'll Be A Homo for Xmas"). She has shared the stage with a diverse group of artists, including Steve Martin, Dave Brubeck, Janis Ian, Kate Clinton, and Suzanne Westenhoefer. She produces, writes, and performs all over the globe, and has been a featured act at the National and Michigan Women's Music Festivals, the Vancouver Comedy Festival, and is a regular on Olivia Cruises.

Lisa has co-written such warped shows as "The Carpeters: Uncomfortably Close To You," "Two's Company, I'm a Crowd," and "Ham for the Holidays: Swine, Women and Song." She also finds time to work as an actor, appearing in "The Vagina Monologues," "Dirty Blonde," and as the Wicked Witch of the West in "The Wizard of Oz" (5th Ave Theatre). She is touring her onewoman cabaret show, "Return to Planet Lisa", and is the composer of a new musical about Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas ("27, Rue de Fleurus"), premiering Off-Broadway in the spring of 2008. Koch's latest CD ("Tall Cool Drink") contains the internet hit, "I'm a Middle-Aged Woman."

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#### **Artist Biographies (cont.)**

Glenace Humphrey - Sign Language Artist

Glenace has interpreted many times for CHARIS since it was founded in 1993 and has over 30 years of experience as an interpreter. She holds certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and has interpreted many places in the U.S. as well as Japan and Europe.

Over the years, Glenace has interpreted for several public figures including Kate Clinton, Bruce Villanche, John Kerry, Maya Angelou, Nell Carter, and President George W. Bush. Jeffrey Maynard and the New York City Gay Men's Chorus invited her to perform with them at Carnegie Hall in December of 2001 and in June of 2002 with Armistead Maupin. Other artists for which she had the opportunity to interpret were Ann Hampton Callaway, Stephen Schwartz, Liz Callaway, and Scott Coulter.

Glenace has attended the GALA choral festivals since 1989 and will join CHARIS this July in Miami at GALA Festival VIII.

Glenace loves sharing the poetry, inspiration, and laughter of music through sign language with the deaf and hearing communities. She is also proud to mention Lloyd (her husband), her daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughters.

Abby Kestner - Sign Language Artist

Abby is a St. Louis native and a student at Florissant Valley Community College studying Deaf Communications. A self-professed music lover, Abby enjoys live music of all varieties and is interested in interpreting more musical performances upon graduating in May. She is honored to have this opportunity to interpret for CHARIS and hopes that she can continue working in the community to benefit as many people as possible.

#### R.E. Dix - Set Designer

Dix began formal study of scenic art at Meramec Theatre as part-time technical assistant while enrolled full-time in commercial art studies. Dix has a studio art degree from SIUE and a master's degree from Webster University. Current Interests include mural, scenic and public art projects. Dix is grateful to CHARIS and honored to be a part of the organization. Dix wishes to thank "Cubby Bear for everything, with love.



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#### **CHARIS Herstory**

CHARIS was the realization of the dream of its founders Cindy Sohn and Juliet Jackson. With the guidance and support of the Gateway Men's Chorus (GMC), they organized the Committee to Unite Women Singers in the fall of 1992, with the goal of creating a chorus open to all women, regardless of cultural background or musical experience. CHARIS has always been a non-auditioned chorus.

Twenty-five women attended the first meeting of the chorus held in January, 1993. An acting Board of Directors was appointed at that time to organize and direct the activities of the chorus. CHARIS was granted status as a not-for-profit organization by the State of Missouri on September 27, 1993, and received confirmation of its tax-exempt status as a 501c(3) corporation in July, 1994.

The chorus made its first public appearance on May 23, 1993, at Trinity Episcopal Church in a fund-raiser to benefit North side AIDS Outreach. Shortly thereafter CHARIS took the stage with The Gateway Men's Chorus to perform at the latter's Pride Concert in 1993. CHARIS made its solo debut in October, 1993, and has subsequently produced two to three solo performances along with community benefits each year.

Chorus highlights include a performance at the "Notes From Home" series at the Sheldon Memorial on January 24, 1995, at which time the chorus recorded "Dream In Color," its first commercially released tape. CHARIS hosted and performed at the 1995 Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA) Leadership Conference for delegates from around the U.S. and a number of foreign countries.

In 1996, CHARIS proudly performed in Tampa, Florida at GALA Festival V. Our performances have benefited the Cathedral Mission Society, The Names Project, Metropolitan Food Pantry Association, Habitat for Humanity, and Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

Merry Keller came to CHARIS as Interim Director in 1999. Her exceptional leadership skills and strong background in music both as a performer and teacher provided valuable assets to the chorus. Merry accepted the position of Artistic Director in January, 2000. Many wonderful concerts ensued under her direction. Highlights include "Sing for the Cure," a concert benefiting the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation in June, 2001 and our tenth anniversary concert, "A Decade of Song," featuring special guest artist Holly Near.

Another era in CHARIS' herstory began in the chorus' 12<sup>th</sup> season with the leadership of new Artistic Director Aric Henson, former director of the Gateway Men's Ensemble. During that season, Henson directed CHARIS in "Postcards: Journeys of the Heart" at the New City School and "In The Groove" at the Shrewsbury Community Center. CHARIS' 13th season featured the shows, "Fired Up!" at the Missouri History Museum and "Broadway: A CHARIS Cabaret" at the Shrewsbury Community Center.

In January 2006, the chorus officially moved to a new rehearsal space and home at Lafayette Park United Methodist Church. An important factor in this decision was a commitment to greater accessibility. The church's elevator makes it possible for those with disabilities to become a member of CHARIS, serve on its Board of Directors, or attend other chorus functions.

The 2006-2007 season was a banner year for the chorus and opened with "Legends" featuring St. Louis' own legend, Kim Massie as the guest artist. In the spring, CHARIS staged the world premiere performance of "The Vegans of Provincetown," a witty and lesbian-friendly homage to Gilbert and Sullivan.

CHARIS' 15th anniversary season began in November 2007 with a tribute to the Academy Awards - "CHARIS Does Oscar". CHARIS has much to look forward to as her current season closes with "CHARIS on the Couch". This summer, the chorus will take the stage in Miami to share their voices with thousands of other LGBT singers at the GALA Festival VIII.

With a talented board of both singers and non-singers addressing management issues, the chorus is looking forward to sharing its voices and vision with its audiences for many years to come.



#### CHARIS on the Couch

#### Act I

Now I Become Myself......Gwenyth Walker Processing.....Bev Standish Soloists: Megan Petra, Linda Clark, Dina Young Uh-Huh......Holly Near, arr. J. David Moore Soloist: Chataunya Rawles Transference Tango......June Bonacich Soloists: Susan McIntosh, Dina Young, Colleen Gilmore Wanting Memories......Ysaye M. Barnwell Trio: Kelsi Davis, Belinda Quimby, Terri Velasco I Come From Good People.....Robert Seeley, Phillip Little Trio: Sharon Spurlock, Loretta Haggard, Karen Shye Featured Performance by Guest Artist Lisa Koch

Intermission

#### **CHARIS** on the Couch

#### Act II

Still I RiseRosephanye Pov Soloist: Kendra Ellen Henry	vell
Gender PolkaDavid Made Dancers: Jacqueline Masei (a.k.a. Count Jackula) & boi bella	dux
MariaLeonard Bernstein, arr. Susan McInto Soloist: Shannon Henderson	osh
Featured Performance by Guest Artist Lisa Koch	
My Love Walks In VelvetGwenyth Wal Soloist: Kim Gruner	ker
Getting Married TodayStephen Sondhe Soloists: Belinda Quimby, Dina Young, Kourtney Strade	
In Whatever Time We HaveStephen Schwartz, arr. Mac E Soloist: Kathy Morris	Huff

A Jubilant Song......James McCray

#### Singers

Soprano I Linda G. Clark Kendra Ellen Henry Julie Lynch

Belinda Quimby Karen Shye

Alto I

Barbara Gilchrist Julie Harmann

Shannon Henderson

Stacie Horton Georgia Johnston Susan McIntosh

Kathy Morris Susanna Roe Terri Velasco

Soprano II

Kelsi Davis Penny Frame Colleen Gilmore

Kim Gruner

Loretta Haggard

Megan Petra Kim Powlishta

Sharon Smith Diana Stuckey

Alto II

Candice Freeman

Sharon Opp

Chataunya Rawles Sharon Spurlock Donna Yakel

Dina Young

#### Special Acknowledgements

CHARIS gratefully acknowledges the help and contributions of the following in preparation of this production:

Performance Committee: Kelsi Davis, Aric Henson, Kendra Henry,

Sharon Opp, Belinda Quimby, Sharon

Spurlock (chair), Dina Young

Box Office Manager: Kristen Wozniak

Grant Writer: Sharon Spurlock

Script Writer: Dina Young, Kathy Morris, Kendra Henry

House Manager: Nancy Folk Volunteer Coordinator: Charlotte Ellis

Program Production: Linda G. Clark, Kendra Henry

Logo Design: Kendra Henry Rehearsal CD Production: Susan McIntosh

Set Construction: MaryAnne Tolliver, Ramona Boston, Sharon

Opp, Sharon Smith, Stacie Horton, Sharon Spurlock, Joyce Sherokow, Andy Wilder

Volunteers: Jason Myers, Sue Pratt, Vicki Staples, Linda

Kennedy, Mary Jones, Mary Sue Guenther, Sheila Muhlbaier, Sharon Ohlms, Pat Moran,

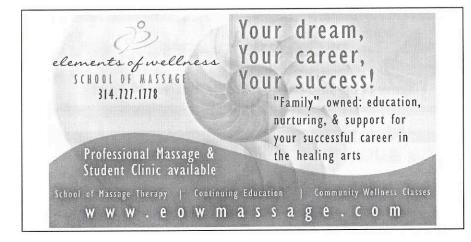
Robert Brieg, Nancy Phillips, Deb Salls



Please join us in remembering the legacy of Marti Frumhoff, a community leader, activist, and longtime supporter of CHARIS.

Marti's record for public service and her deeply rooted love for the City have inspired many over the years. As a result, her friends, colleagues, and neighbors have decided to build a memorial garden in her honor.

Please visit www.martifrumhoffmemorial.org to make a donation or to find out how you can help honor Marti!





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to see you now, Uh-Huh!



In celebration & song, Dina Young



Best wishes to CHARIS from your fan

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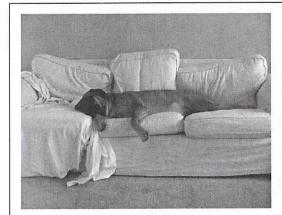
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GALA Choruses is the leading association committed to serving the GLBT choral community and 7,500 singers look to them repeatedly for support and leadership. They are dedicated to providing organizational support and helping their member choruses to be strong both artistically and professionally.

GALA Choruses serves choruses that range in size from five to over 250 singers. Member choruses are located throughout North America, Europe and Australia. GALA Choruses was formed in 1982 by a few visionary leaders among GLBT choruses.

In July 2008, CHARIS will proudly join over 120 member choruses at the GALA Festival in Miami. Performing in the new Adrienne Arsht Center for Performing Arts, CHARIS will help delegates from all over the world celebrate the 25th anniversary of GALA Choruses. If you would like to help sponsor our participation in the Festival, please refer to the donor form found toward the back of the program. For more information, go to www.galachoruses.org.

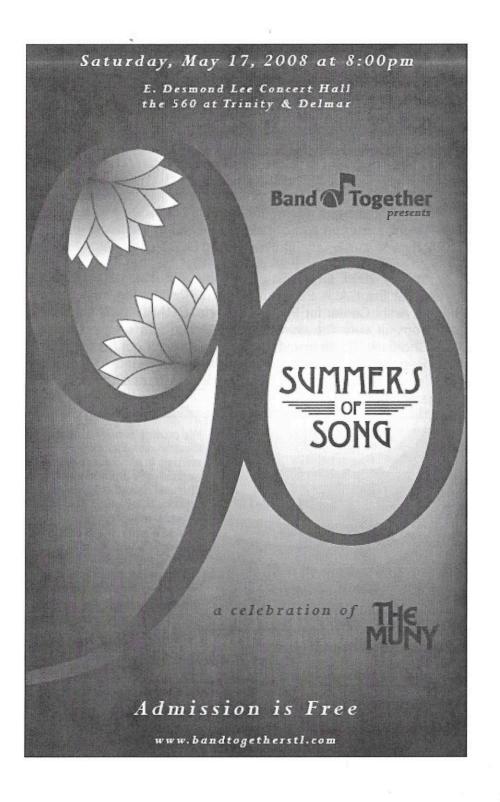


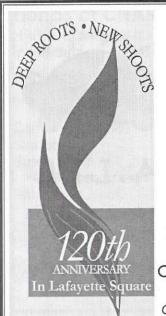
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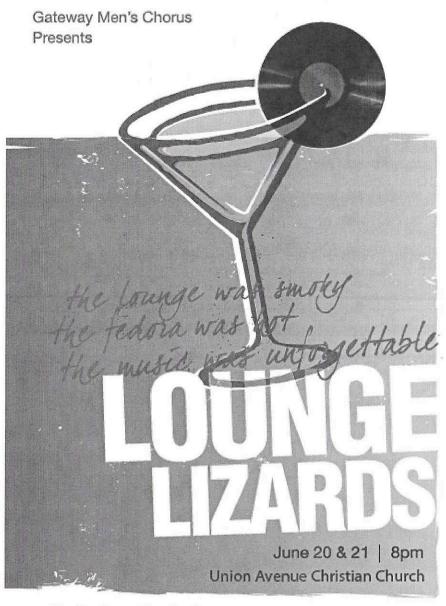
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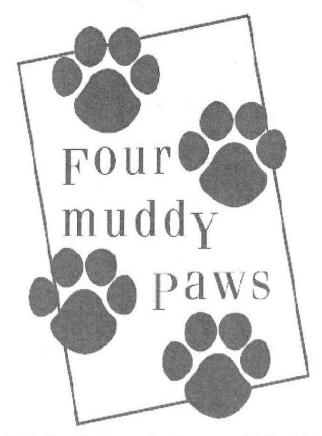




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