

**PRESENTS** 





Lafayette United Methodist Church 2300 Lafayette 63104

















C-RIS

The St. Louis Women's Chorus presents

Women Who Rock

November 18 and 19, 2011 8:00 P.M.

Lafayette Park United Methodist Church

Kourtney R. Strade, Artistic Director

Chelle Habecker, Accompanist

CHARIS receives financial assistance from the Regional Arts Commission.





#### Who We Are

CHARIS is a diverse group of women united in our mission to perform music that celebrates and encourages women and the LGBTQ community.

## **Membership Information**

CHARIS is a non-auditioned chorus that extends an open invitation for membership. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday nights from 7:00-9:30 p.m. at Center for Divine Love, 3617 Wyoming Ave. 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 Spurlock, President
Kendra Henry, Vice-President
Allison Benoit, Secretary
Candice Freeman, Treasurer (non-board member)

Members At-Large: Andrea Compton,, Stephanie Keysacker, Desy Maus Kelly Mitchell, Megan Petra, Lisa Riek, Carol Weisman

## From the Board President Ms. Sharon Spurlock

s we enter our 19<sup>th</sup> season, I am filled with gratitude for the community relationships that sustain our mission and committed to expand those partnerships as we move forward. In the past year, we have moved our



board meetings to the LGBT Center, a wonderful place to connect with other like-minded groups. We've been involved in several long range planning and development activities with other LGBT A-focused organizations, and we've had the pleasure of performing with both of our sister organizations, the *Gateway Men's Chorus* and *Band Together*.

We are so grateful to businesses like *Hartford Coffee Company, Center for Divine Love*, our advertisers, and silent auction donors who share their space and services with us throughout the year. We are also blessed to have dedicated and hard working volunteers and individual donors who champion our activities. C HARIS is committed to giving back and welcomes opportunities to perform throughout the St. Louis metro area, so give us a call!

Open rehearsals for our World War II style USO show, "We Can Do It!", will begin Tuesday, January 10, 2012. If you'd like to sing with us, contact us through our website or on Facebook. If you'd like to support us in other ways, we are always looking for volunteers to help with fundraising, organizing music, and planning social activities. Be a part of the music!

Sharon Spurlock, President
The St. Louis Women's Chorus



## From the Artistic Director Ms. Kourtney R. Strade

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is celebrating 25 years of inductees in 2011, and while none of the first people to enter the Hall of Fame were women, many of the subse quent induction ceremonies paid homage to women rockers. The efforts of female artists in the genre have turned pop culture on its head numerous times over the last several decades. Tonight, we honor those performers who made musical history by giving us their 'no holes barred,' 'get

outta my way,' 'I'm not taking any crap' attitudes.

We are also very excited to present our show in concurrence with a special new exhibit at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame entitled *Women Who Rock: Vision, Passion, Power.* This "groundbreaking and provocative new exhibit illustrates the important roles women have played in rock and roll, from its inception through today. *Women Who Rock: Vision, Passion, Power* highlights the flashpoints, the firsts, the best, the celebrated -- and sometimes lesser-known women -- who moved rock and roll music and American culture forward. "(RRHoF website) Since a trip to Cleveland may not be in your near future, we are bringing the museum exhibit to you! Well, sort of. Our concert may not have Lady Gaga's famed "meat dress" or 2 floors of artifacts and videos, but it does include a small slice of music from all of the major rock eras. The songs you will hear tonight were all made famous by women or bands with women members, and all the artists are either in the Hall of Fame, or highlighted in the special exhibit. Your program lists the year the singer or band was inducted, where applicable.

For me, with my classical music background, this concert has been very educational! For instance, I learned that Marilyn Manson is not a woman (his name is *Marilyn*, for goodness sake!), and that Peggy Lee and Brenda Lee are not related (who says studying rock and roll can't be worthwhile ?!). I also think the chorus has had a lot of fun learning music from the different rock eras, especially with the wide age range of our chorus members. The younger singers enjoyed visiting the 1 950s and '60s, and I would dare to say that even our more mature CHARISians had a good time singing Pink and Lady Gaga! I hope you find something you like in tonight's show, and have as much fun hearing the musical evolution as we have singing it for you. Finally, in the words of Janis Joplin, "Rock On Out."

Kourtney

#### Loretta K. Haggard, Attorney at Law



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## CHARIS:

HARIS 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 501(c) (3) corporation in July 1994.

The chorus made its first public appearance on May 23, 1993 at Trinity Episcopal Church in a fundraiser to benefit Northside AIDS Outreach. Shortly thereafter, CHARIS took the stage with GMC to perform at the latter's Pride Concert in 1993. CHARIS made its solo debut in October 1993 and has subse quently 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 and accepted the position of Artistic Director in January 2000. Many wonderful concerts ensued under her direction. Highlights included "Sing for the Cure," a concert benefiting the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation in June 2001 and CHARIS' tenth anniversary concert, "A Decade of Song," featuring special guest artist Holly Near.

Another era in CHARIS' legacy began in the chorus' 12th season with the leadership of new Artistic Director Aric Henson, former director of GMC's Ensemble. During Henson's debut season, he directed CHARIS in "Postcards: Journeys of the Heart" at the New City School and "In The Groove" at The Shrewsbury Community Center. CHA-

## **Through the Years Herstory**

RIS' 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 its 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 made it possible for those with disabilities to become members 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 the Academy Awards tribute - "CHARIS Does Oscar." In April 2008, the chorus invited special guest artist Lisa Koch, a talented singer - songwriter and comedienne, to the stage for "CHARIS On The Couch." In July 2008, CHARIS members took to the stage in Miami and proudly shared their voices with thousands of other LGBT singers at the GALA Festival VIII.

CHARIS' 16th season began with an ending, as Artistic Director Aric Henson brought his tenure to a close. After leading CHARIS in a creative interpretation of "The Four Elements" in the fall of 2008, he handed the baton to our current Artistic Director, Kourtney R. Strade.

Strade officially took the helm in January 200 9 and directed CHARIS through a musical journey of LGBT memoirs with "Coming Out" in May 2009. In CHARIS' 17th season, Strade led the chorus into new territory with two musically-challenging offerings — November 2009's "Quantum Leap," a concert of music by women composers over the centuries, and May 2010's "Unplugged," an offering of a cappella numbers.

Tonight, as the chorus opens its 19th season, we salute the independent and sometimes audacious women of rock and roll. With the largest contingent of singers in our history, we are poised for an ama zing year including our own USO show and a trip to the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses Festival in Denver CO. Your support is what sustains us; so thanks a million. You Rock!

Now it is up to the women of CHARIS and "you," our audience, to continue creating the legacy of CHARIS!

# Band Together



















Greatest Hits: Season 15 WINTER HOLIDAYS CONCERT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2011 AT 8 P.M.

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We've been given a rare opportunity in our fundraising drive for the GALA Choruses Festival in Denver, Colorado in July 2012. Two anonymous donors have posed a fundraising challenge. They will match up to \$1,000 in donor contributions toward GALA Festival.

We've set a goal to send 20 singers to the 2012 Festival. The average cost of a delegate's attendance at the five-day festival will be \$700-\$1,000.

This is where you come in. Any amount you can give (whether it's \$5 or \$500) will help us reach our goal of matching the \$1,000 contribution on the table, allowing us to provide financial assistance to members for the Festival.

For information on contributions, please contact Kendra Henry at kellen518@gmail.com.

More information on the GALA Choruses Festival can be found at galachoruses.org.



## **Artist Biographies**

## Kourtney R. Strade, M.A.

Kourtney received her Bachelor of Science in Vocal Music Education from Northwest Missouri State University and her Master's degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Missouri -Kansas City, Conservatory of Music. She is currently an instructor of voice for the Community Music School of Webster University and is the director of music at Lafayette Park United Methodist Church. Additionally, Kourtney received a Certificate of Vocology from the University of lowa, and she uses this expertise in her own business, Heartland Healthy Voices, providing vocal health seminars, private voice lessons, and transgender voice training.

Ms. Strade is also an accomplished me zzo-soprano and has performed on stages across the United States in opera, oratorio, and recital. Recent roles include Freddie in *The Vegans of Provincetown*, Rosina in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, and Joan in the monodrama *Jehanne de Lorraine*. Kourtney has served as a singing voice consultant for the University of Iowa Voice Clinic, and worked as a clinician in Voice Diagnostics. In her private studio, Ms. Strade has helped many persons strengthen their singing voices following a voice disorder, and several of her students have gone on to become performance scholarship recipients and competition winners.

As an active member in the National Association for Teachers of Singing, the Music Educators National Conference, and a recent consultant for the Choral Journal, the national publication of the American Choral Directors Association, Kourtney is well -respected in the voice field and continues to make her mark as a musician and a specialist in vocal health. Kourtney is excited about continuing to serve as the Artistic Director for CHARIS.

Frankie Bonuso - Guitarist

## **Artist Biographies**

#### Chelle Habecker - Accompanist

Chelle holds a Master of Arts in Music from the University of Hawaii, Manoa, with an emphasis in Ethnomusicology. She earned her BA in Music, Piano Performance, and an AA in Piano Pedagogy from Spring Arbor University in Michigan. Chelle teaches piano privately and through Community Music School, accompanies musicians at NATS and Solo-Ensemble festivals, and strives to balance her 2nd-shift occupation with her active family!

This is Chelle's 4th season playing for Charis

## Tena Polukewich - Sign Language Artist

Returning for another performance, Tena is delighted to appear as CHARIS' sign language interpreter. For the past few years, she has been interpreting interpreting contemporary religious music at a local church and for various artists at the St. Louis Pride Festival. She has combined her passion and degrees in dance and sign language to teach African drums, rhythm and dance to deaf children.

## Kelly Mitchell - Bass

Kelly Mitchell started singing with CHARIS in 1998. She previously played bass in the Quantum Leap concert at Lafayette United Methodist Church. She has also played with artist Ro Anderson, and with the worship band, *Out on a Limb*, at Zion United Methodist Church.

### Stephanie Keysacker - Percussionist

Stephanie Keysacker grew up in a musical family and realized early on that she, too, had a love for playing music. She began playing drums around age 13 but only recently began sharing her talents publicly. When she's not drumming for CHARIS - The St. Louis Women's Chorus, she can be found accompanying local singer /songwriter Ro Anderson at area venues. Musical interests aside, Stephanie en joys traveling the U.S. and beyond and looks forward to her ne xt adventure with her partner, Kendra.

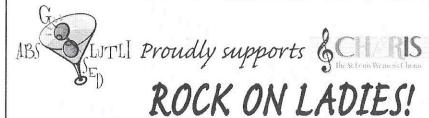


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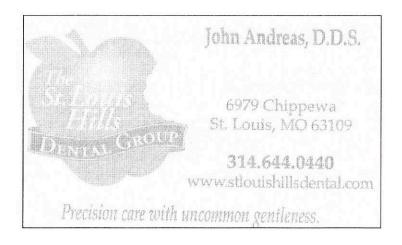
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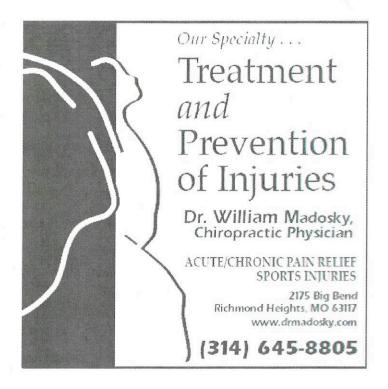
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## CHARIS

## The St. Louis Women's Chorus

#### Soprano I

Cassie Coleman Jo Cannon Kelsi Davis Kendra Henry-Keysacker Julie Lynch Kristen Myers Belinda Quimbly Allison Rose Aleksandra Shklyar Carol Weisman

## Soprano II

Allison Benoit Katie Benoit Penny Frame Colleen Gilmore Keren Gomez Guilds Loretta Haggard Cindy Martin Megan Petra Chloe de los Santos Kyra Short Diana Stuckey Kim Powlishta Karen Shye Woods

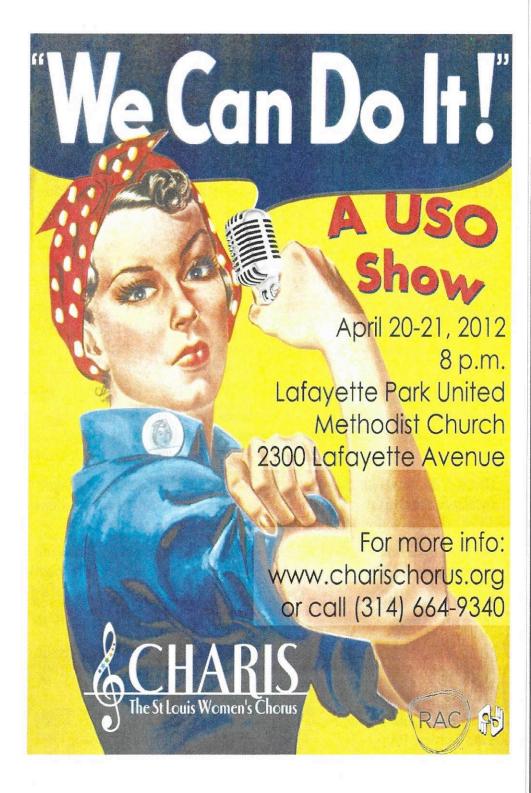
#### Alto I

Amy Aldridge Brittany S. Buck Edna Coleman Meredythe Guilds Julie Harmann Zoanne Leavy Desy Maus Leah Patriarco Lauren Rapp Lisa Riek Sheryl Smothers Angel Walker Jennafer Wells

## Alto II

Star Ellis Candice Freeman Danielle MacCartney Sharon Spurlock Donna Yakel Dina Young Susan Young





## WOMEN WHO ROCK

St. Louis Blues Bessie Smith, Recorded 1925 W.C. Handy, arr. Shaw Hall of Fame, 1989

Jambalaya Brenda Lee, 1956 Hank Williams, arr. Shaw Hall of Fame, 2002

At Last Etta James, 1961 Harry Warren, arr. Althouse Hall of Fame, 1993

I'm A Woman Peggy Lee, 1963 Leiber and Stoller, arr. Huff

Karen Shye Woods and Leah Patriarco, Soloists

Be My Baby The Ronettes, 1963 Phil Spector, arr. Huff Hall of Fame, 2007

Allison Benoit, Katie Benoit, Zoanne Leavy, Julie Lynch, Danielle MacCartney, Kristen Myers

"Beehive Medley"

arr. Brymer

Little Eva, The Marvelettes, The Supremes, The Shangri-Las Brittany S. Buck, Colleen Gilmore, Allison Rose, Kyra Short, Aleksandra Shklyar, Carol Weisman

Chain of Fools Aretha Franklin, 1967 Don Covay, arr. Gilpin Hall of Fame, 1987

Kyra Short, Soloist

California Dreamin'

John and Michelle Phillips, arr. Emerson

The Mamas and The Papas, 1965

Hall of Fame, 1998

Somebody to Love

Darby Slick, arr. Emerson

Jefferson Airplane, 1967

Hall of Fame, 1996

Me and Bobby McGee Janis Joplin, 1972

Kris Kristofferson Hall of Fame, 1995

Kendra Henry-Keysacker, Solo

River Deep - Mountain High Tina Turner, 1966

Phil Spector, arr. Shaw Hall of Fame, 1991

\*Please enjoy a fifteen minute intermission

Both Sides Now Joni Mitchell, 1970 Joni Mitchell, arr. Jasperse Hall of Fame, 1997

Dina Young and Amy Aldridge, Soloists

Heart of Glass Blondie, 1978

Harry and Stein, arr. Sharon Hall of Fame, 2006

Amy Aldridge, Cassie Coleman, Kelsi Davis, Leah Patriarco, Megan Petra, Jennafer Wells, Dina Young

"Slices of ABBA" ABBA, 1975-81

B. Anderson, S. Anderson, and B. Ulvaeus, arr. Millov

Hall of Fame, 2010

arr. Mark Brymer

Girls Rock the '80s

Joan Jett, Patti Smyth,

Katrina & the Waves.

Madonna, Pat Benatar,

Cyndi Lauper, The Gogos

Lauren Rapp, Soloist

Love Shack

Pierson, Schneider, Strickland, Wilson, arr. Huff

The B-52s, 1989

I Can't Make You Love Me

Reid and Shamblin, arr. Sharon

Bonnie Raitt, 1991

Hall of Fame, 2000

Loretta Haggard, Desy Maus, Lisa Reik, Sharon Spurlock, Lisa Riek, Susan Young

Like a Prayer Madonna, 1989 Leonard and Ciccone, arr. Anders and Davis Hall of Fame, 2008

Belinda Quimby, Cassie Coleman, Keren Gomez-Guilds, Katie Benoit, Soloists

Get the Party Started

Lina Perry, arr. Brymer

Pink, 2001

Telephone

Knowles, Daniels, Franklin, arr. Anders and Davis

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### Special Acknowledgements

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

Producer: Desy Maus

Production Committee: Bill Byrd, Renee Dix, Sharon Smith,

Kelly Mitchell

Performance Committee: Katie Benoit, Kelsi Davis, Renee Dix,

Kim Powlishta, Belinda Quimby, Sharon Smith, Carol Weisman, Jennafer Wells, Donna Yakel, Dina Young

PR Committee: Lisa Riek, Chloe de Los Santos,

Sharon Spurlock

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Assistant Stage Manager: Mary Jo Misselhorn

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Lighting Technician: R.E. Dix
Asst. Lighting Technician: Logan Maus
Set Designer: R.E. Dix

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Cover/Poster Design: R.E. Dix

Grant Writer: Sharon Spurlock

Program Production: Bill Byrd

Rehearsal CDs: Susan Young

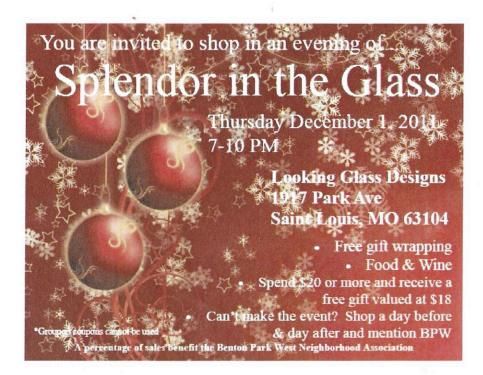
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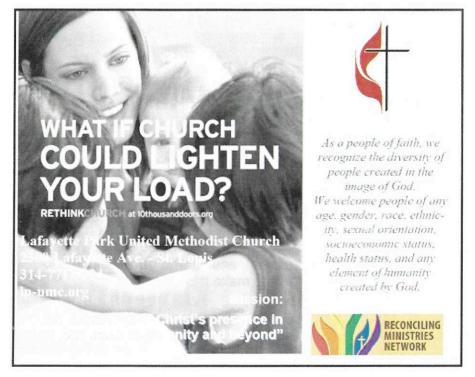
Sarah Martin, Bill Maus, Sharon Smith,

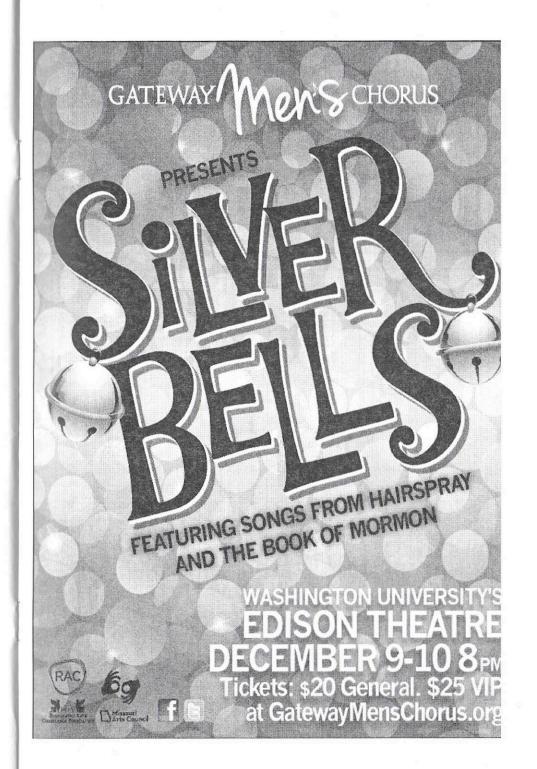
Scott Stevenson, Leo & Barb Weisman, and all who gave their time to

help make this concert sing!

We sincerely regret any omissions.







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## Congratulations to the women of CHARIS for another fantastic concert!

Special Congratulations to Ms. Kourtney Strade and the Production Team. You have done another great job of bringing this group of women together and creating a "safe space" to perform!

## Buy some groceries and flip a couple coins our way with the Schnucks eScrip Program!



Just sign up for the eScrip program and swipe your eScrip card before the cashier starts ringing up your items — Schnucks will then donate up to 3% of your purchase to CHARIS.

To register, just return this form to any staff member at tonight's concert or mail it to: CHARIS, Attn: eScrip Program, P.O. Box 21642, St. Louis, MO 63139. We'll send your new eScrip card to the address listed on the form.

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# Congratulations, CHARIS!

WE ROCK!

Love, the Maus, McDowell, and Weisman families

Wishing you a speedy recovery, Sharon.

We love you and support you always.

## Become a Member - Be Part of the Fun!

CHARIS is a non-audition chorus. We invite you to visit any Tuesday when we are in rehearsal and see what we are about.

Call (314)664-9340 to confirm we are in rehearsal or with any questions about the chorus.

## Be a Singing Member as simple as:

- · Regular attendance at rehearsals
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- Participation in decision -making and fundraising

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"Music of the Night" Trivia Night Saturday, March 3, 2012 Location TBD 7:00 p.m.



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Thank you for your continued support of CHARIS!

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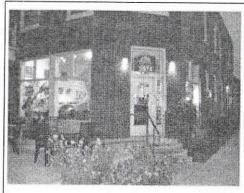
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We sincerely regret any omissions .

If you would like to make a contribution (including honorariums/memorials), please contact us at charischorus@gmail.com or visit our website at www.charischorus.org.

Desy and Bill Maus





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