

Saturday, December 2, 1995 Ethical Society

### **CHARIS WELCOMES YOU**

#### CHARIS

Our name comes from the Greek word meaning grace that was used to describe women's culture on the Isle of Lesbos. Charis encompasses all women's arts including music, visual art, dance, poetry, philosophy and romantic love. We sing together in the spirit of Charis, honoring women's artistic culture.

#### **CHARIS SYMBOL**

The CHARIS symbol is derived from an ancient symbol for women, and represents more than just the members of our chorus. In written music, when a half note or whole note falls on one of the lines of the staff, this symbol is created. So the CHARIS symbol not only represents the women who make up our chorus, but also our reason for coming together...our music.



#### **OUR MISSION**

We are an all-woman community chorus, striving toward musical excellence through the education and growth of our members, performing a variety of musical styles and messages, seeking to represent the diversity and talents of lesbian and non-lesbian women in the St. Louis community, enlightened by the joy of singing.

#### WELCOME

Be a part of CHARIS and help us shape our future. Even if you don't want to sing, CHARIS always needs volunteers to help organize and serve on committees. Practices are Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Centenary Methodist Church, 16th and Olive. Dues are \$15 per trimester. Scholarships are available. For more information, call 726-0250.

CHARIS is a member of Sister Singers and GALA Choruses.

### FROM THE DIRECTORS

Beginning with our *Voices and Visions* "best of" concert on September 1 performed before a near sell-out crowd at the St. Louis Symphony Community Music School (CASA), continuing with our *Worldwide Winter: Celebration of Light*, followed by our second annual *Women In History* concert on March 30, and culminating in our June send-off concert and our performance in the *GALA V Choral Festival* in Tampa, this concert season proves to be our most exciting and challenging yet! Our efforts, along with those of the Gateway Men's Chorus, in bringing the *GALA Leadership Conference* to St. Louis in September paid off by calling attention to the musical excellence to be found in the midwest. The innumerable telephone calls, letters, and E-mails that Charis has since received are congratulations due to our members, as well as our financial supporters, volunteers, and to you, our audience.

Tonight's concert features musical celebrations of several winter-time, and specifically December-time, events. The unifying theme of light ties our concert segments, interwoven by presentations about each event by individuals from the respective communities involved. We warmly welcome Dana Eilers (Winter Solstice), Annette Harrison (Hannukah), Jane Clark (Advent), and Jabari Asim (KWANZAA) to our stage. Their widely diverse styles of presentation will remind us of the rich cultural diversity of our world, while the interesting similarities in theme will certainly enrich us to the possibilities of shared wisdom and truth.

Several of our concert pieces deserve mention. Many thanks go to Gregory Taft Gettys, who has shared his (and Jabari's) uplifting composition of KWANZAA Song with Charis and joins us for this evening's performance. For a "first", this evening Charis breaks headlong out of the secular realm to perform SSAA renditions of Randall Thompson's Alleluia and John Rutter's Shepherd's Pipe Carol. Charis is also performing the a cappella work And Back Again by Gwen Frostic and Dede Duson, a favored team of ours, this time in a light, lilting melody calling us to be mindful of the "great symphony of life".

We make a special welcome to our guest performers this evening, JOIA. They have been a pleasure to work with and their rhythms will enrich your concert experience! In reference to their concert set, someone asked, "Just percussion?" The answer is, "Definately not JUST PERCUSSION!" They'll knock your ear muffs off. Feel free to, well, wiggle...or tap your foot...or, hey, even dance!

And don't forget to mark your calendars now for our March 30, 1996 Women In History Concert!

Welcome!

Juliet Jackson Cindy Sohn

### **CHARIS PRESENTS**

### Worldwide Winter: A Celebration of Light

Saturday, December 2nd, 1995 - The Ethical Society

Juliet Jackson & Cindy Sohn, Co-Directors
Mary Akers, Assistant Director
Kathleen Haydon, Accompanist
Glenace Humphrey, Sign Language Artist

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Cindy Fedders

#### ALTO I

**Dot Bailey** 

Cindy reducts	Dot Dancy		
*Juliet Jackson	Chris Chew		
M.S. Phillips	Suzanne N. Cornell		
200 August 1 (100 August 1 (10	Brenda Domingue		
	*Loretta Haggard		
	Jill Jean		
SOPRANO II	Karen Kowal		
	Elaine Lopez		
Jane V. Clark	Kay Schmitt		
Cary Colman	Sharon Spurlock		
Darlene Dougherty	Nadine Varner		
Colleen Gilmore			
*Kim Gruner	ALTO II		
Marti Frumhoff			
Anonymous	Linda Agnew		
Phyllis E. Holland	*Mary Akers		
Julie Lynch	Pat Bozdech		
Rachel Philippone	Joan Brackmann		
Lynn Placek	Jane E. Levdansky		
Linda Shubow	Lynn Mark		
Vicky Stricklin	Sarah Merriman		
•	Deb Webber		
* Section Leaders	Dina Young		

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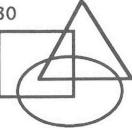
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### STORYTELLERS

Dana D. Eilers is an author, speaker, and teacher whose published works have appeared in *Sage Woman*, *GoodWitch Stories*, and *The Pathfinder*. She is the co-founder of a spiritual circle known as The Occasional Coven and conducts a monthly "pagan town meeting" at Mystic Valley. Dana has been a featured speaker and creator of ritual for such events as CraftWise Midwest and Magickal Weekend.

Annette Harrison is an educator, author and storyteller. She shares her stories in keynotes, workshops and performances throughout the U.S. She is the author of two books on storytelling, has stories in two new storytelling anthologies and has produced three cassette tapes. Annette is co-host of "GATORTALES" a children's weekly television program on CBS.

Jane V. Clark is an ordained clergywoman currently serving as Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church in Washington, Missouri. A co-founder of CHARIS and President for the past two years, Jane is committed to singing songs of justice, to relationships with her CHARIS sisters, and to her grandson Zane.

G. Taft Gettys is a pianist, singer, actor, composer and church choir director. He has served as assistant conductor of the National Touring Company of "The Wiz," and as composer and musical director for the Muny Student Theater's production of "It Affects Us All". He has collaborated with Jabari Asim on projects such as "Testify" and "New Blood Symphony" (at the national black arts festival), "Echoes of Blackness" and "Didn't It Rain."

Jabari Asim, an arts and entertainment writer for the Post-Dispatch's GET OUT magazine, is a playwright, essayist and editor whose works have been performed by TNT, Pamoja Theatre Workshop and the Muny Student Theater. He serves as editor or co-editor of several publications including *Drumvoices Review*, *Young Tongues* and *Eyeball*. His published essays include a contribution to the forthcoming *Soulfires: Young Black Men on Love and Violence*.

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

CHARIS wishes to thank Interiors in Green for the lovely flowers decorating the stage tonight and to extend a special thank you to Blue Moon Coffeehouse for all the support you have extended to the chorus in the past. We are sorry to see you close your doors.



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### **GUEST ARTIST**

### JOIA

JOIA is a samba percussion group. Their goal is to "empower the people of the world to dance in rhythm as one." They believe "that music is a healing power for all creation" and are "dedicated to exposing all people to high energy, life celebrating rhythms of Brazil, Africa and the world." They ask their audiences to "come and be one in the rhythm of our drums...to celebrate being alive!"

Some of their instruments are the Surdo (the bass drum, the heart beat of samba); Tamborim (a little high-pitched hand-held drum, played with a stick); Repenique (a small aluminum drum, plays leading parts); Caixa (a snare drum); Pandeiro (Brazilian equivalent of the tamborine); Agogo (two bells attached to each other); and Ganza (a shaker).

JOIA seems to play anywhere and everywhere. Most recent appearances have been at the University City Loop Parade, the Laumeier Park "Brazil Fest", and at the first Rams game in the new TransWorld Dome, Nov. 12th. (they welcomed the fans by playing at the entrance gates.) — and they have just recorded a CD which includes selections such as "Rhumba", "Taiko", and "The Funk." Information on the CD is available from Bradley Drury at 727-9589.

In the words of one of their members the band is very much like a family. "If you look at the CD credits you won't be able to tell who is the band leader, who the music writer, and who wasn't even there at the time of recording. This is how the band approaches every affair, like a family, we come to it together. ...when we get together to play or compose or practice, the love and energy that comes out is just dazzling..it comes out in a fiery, flashy celebration of each other, music, happiness and life..."

### INTRODUCING

### CHARIS' new accompanist Kathleen Haydon

Kathleen is a 1991 graduate of Washington University with a degree in Music - Piano Performance. For the past three years she has worked for Webster Groves High School as their staff accompanist where she plays for five choirs, including a show choir, and coaches individual students and small vocal ensembles. She has performed in pit orchestras for musicals, accompanied ballet classes at Washington University and is also a private piano teacher.

### CONCERT PROGRAM

Worldwide Winter: A Celebration of Light

With Storytellers

Dana Eilers, Annette Harrison, Jane V. Clark
G. Taft Gettys and Jabari Asim

Light the Light Mark Brymer

And Back Again
Words Gwen Frostic
Music Dede Duson

One Candle Lights the Way
Sally K. Albrecht and Jay Althouse
Soloist Phyllis Holland

Beams of Gentle Light

Words Michael Frank and Dwight Holmes

Music Robert Evans Holmes

Soloist M.S. Phillips

Alleluia
Randall Thompson

Shepherd's Pipe Carol
John Rutter
Soloist Juliet Jackson

Namasté
Christine Korb
Text C.K. from Sanskrit

### Seven Principles

Bernice Johnson Reagon
Soloists Mary Akers, Chris Chew, Loretta Haggard
and Dina Young

**Kwanzaa Song**J. Asim and G. Taft Gettys

Intermission

GUEST ARTIST JOIA

aaaaaaaaaaaa

Deck the Halls (in 7/8)

Traditional

Arrangement James McKelvy

Sleigh Ride

Words Mitchell Parish Music Leroy Anderson Arrangment Holly Lynde

Storms in Africa

Words Roma Ryan
Transcription Jagg Groeg
Music Eithne Ni Bhraonain (Enya)
Arrangment Steve Milloy



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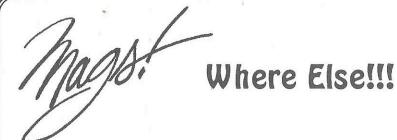
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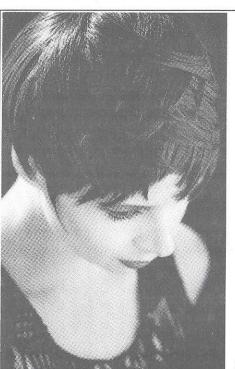
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