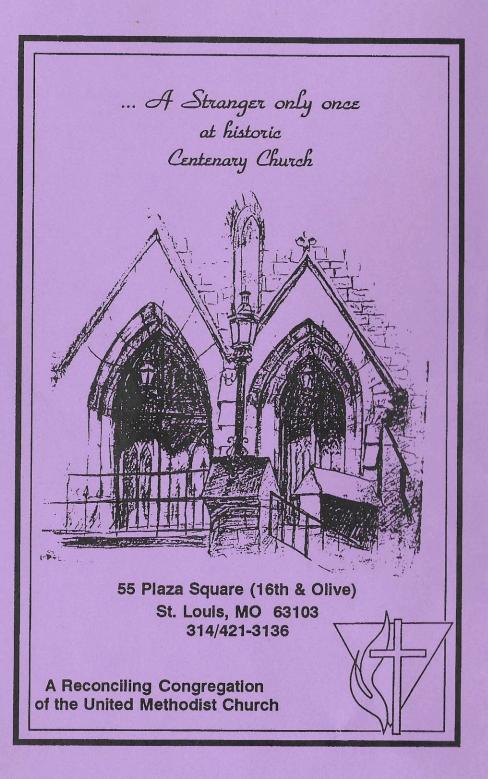
CHARIS The St. Louis Women's Chorus

proudly presents

A Labyrinth of Song

November 9, 2002 8:00 p.m. Saint Louis Art Museum Auditorium



Welcome Loretta Haggard, President of CHARIS

Dear Friends,

CHARIS, The St. Louis Women's Chorus, is pleased to open its Tenth Anniversary Season with *A Labyrinth of Song* - a musical journey through life's emotions.

CHARIS has undertaken its own emotional journey over the past decade. We began as a vision in the hearts of our founding directors, Cindy Sohn and Juliet Jackson and our charter member-singers. The chorus was founded in 1993, and grew quickly with the support of the St. Louis GLBT community, including our brothers in the Gateway Men's Chorus. In slightly over three years, CHARIS traveled to Tampa, Florida, to perform proudly in the Quadrennial Choral Festival of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA). CHARIS experienced growing pains after the departure of its founding directors in 1998. Merry Keller became our Artistic Director in 1999, and has since challenged us to reach new heights with performances such as *Sing for the Cure* (a 10-part song cycle with full orchestra and 8-part chorus), *CHARIS Sings the Blues* (with guest artist Denise Thimes), and *Changing Woman* (a collaborative piece with Gash-Voigt Dance Theatre.)

We are thrilled to announce that Holly Near, one of the foremost pioneers in the women's music movement, will be CHARIS's Guest Artist in *A Decade of Song* on Friday, March 7, 2003. We could not imagine a better way for us to honor CHARIS's first ten years and the history of women's music which has inspired us. Mark the date on your calendars now – the time will be 8:00 p.m. at the Mildred Bastian Center for the Performing Arts at Forest Park Community College. You will enjoy song sets by Holly Near alone, CHARIS alone, and Holly Near with CHARIS!

If you ever considered joining CHARIS, now is the time! No audition is required. Whether you read music or not, you are welcome if you are willing to learn. We would like to expand the chorus to at least 40 women, so don't be shy! We rehearse on Tuesday nights from 7:00-9:00 p.m. For more information, contact me at (314) 822-7580.

Now sit back and immerse yourself in a musical and emotional journey - A Labyrinth of Song.

Labyrinth

Merry Keller, Artistic Director

A labyrinth is a circular path that takes a traveler on a continuous journey to its center and then out to the perimeter again. Various forms of this ancient design have been found in cultures dating as far back as 5,000 years, and have been used throughout history for many purposes including decoration, play, and walking meditation.

CHARIS chose the image of a labyrinth as a metaphor for the musical journey we will be taking together as performers and audience of this production, *A Labyrinth of Song*. The journey encompasses many of the emotions that are a part of being alive and human in this world, and in fact, follow the stages of life change that may be familiar to many: Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, and Acceptance.

The chorus opens the concert with an invitational piece, *Let There Be Music*, which calls us all to the musical journey ahead. In the spirit of freedom from care and worry, Handel's *Come and Trip It* and a child's verse set to music, *The Swing*, provide a prologue to our journey. Just as the path of a labyrinth draws a person to the center, so will the music of this concert carry you to an imaginary center of "being alive".

The music presented in this concert is varied in setting and style. Classical pieces are interspersed with familiar popular songs of the recent past, the gospel rock beat of *Caged Bird* is juxtaposed with the African beat of *Freedom Come*, and the gentle melody of *Time In A Bottle* contrasts with the driving intensity of *Take Back the Guns*. The wide diversity of sounds and styles are held together by the emotions portrayed through words and music. Portions of poetry connect with the messages of the music, carrying us onward and inward, and finally drawing us outward again. Tonight's concert ends with a final acknowledgement that music is a true gift, an *Everlasting Gift* we offer as you continue your life's journey.



CHARIS

The St. Louis Women's Chorus

Merry Keller, Artistic Director Susan McIntosh, Accompanist Glenace Humphrey, Sign Language Artist

Soprano

Elizabeth Bewig Wendy Bruner Jane Clark * Dayna Deck Darlene Dougherty

Kathleen Duncan *
Sandra English
Cindy Fedders *
Penny Frame
Sonja Furiya *
Colleen Gilmore

Loretta Haggard *
KKH *

Julie Lynch Kristen Myers Julie O'Guinn

Lesley Wilson *

Alto

Linda Agnew
Dot Bailey
Jayme Christenson *

Karen Clodfelter Georgia Johnston Katherine Kinnamon

Debbie Lawson *
Susan Levin
Susan McIntosh *

Lesley Proud

Chataunya Rawles

Sharon Smith Sharon Spurlock

Mia Ulmer
Nadine Varner *

Dina Young *

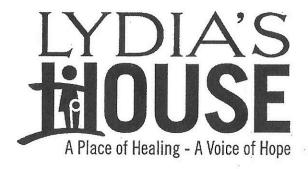
CHARIS concerts are interpreted for the Deaf/HH



^{*} Charismatics

Sign Language Artist - Glenace Humphrey

Glenace has interpreted for CHARIS since it was founded in 1993. She has worked in the field of interpreting for more than twenty-five years and is a freelance/community interpreter. She holds national certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (R.I.D.). She has interpreted in many places in the United States, and also in Japan and Europe. Glenace has attended the GALA choral festivals since 1989. Her initiation to GALA was in Seattle interpreting for the Denver Women's Chorus. Later festivals took her to Denver, Tampa and most recently San Jose. She has recently interpreted for Bruce Villanche, Maya Angelou, Nell Carter and President George W. Bush. Jeffrey Maynard and the New York City Gay Men's Chorus invited Glenace to perform with them in Carnegie Hall in December of 2001 and June of 2002. Glenace loves sharing the poetry, inspiration and laughter of music through sign language with the Deaf and hearing communities.



Working to end domestic violence through community awareness and education. For more information or to schedule a guest speaker, contact our speakers bureau coordinator at 314.771.4411.

Artistic Director - Merry Keller

Merry Keller, artistic director of CHARIS, The St. Louis Women's Chorus, and the Gateway Men's Chorus and brings a professional choral background and extensive performing experience to her work. With an undergraduate degree in vocal/choral music, and advanced studies in choral conducting and voice, Merry has been involved in performing, directing and teaching music for over twenty-five years. Her local performance experience includes The St. Louis Women's Chorale, Random Access, The St. Louis Chamber Chorus, and she is a member of the Ladies' Friday Musical Club. In Pennsylvania, Merry performed in such diverse settings as a top-forties band, piano bar and opera theater. As director and teacher, Merry Keller founded and directed a St. Louis Community Chorus in the Central West End, served as Director of Music at Centenary United Methodist Church, helped produce musicals at Dignity House and a local children's community theater, and has taught privately and in the public school systems of Pennsylvania and Missouri.

With additional degrees in Business and Divinity, Merry is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. She has produced and hosted a community service program, "Steeple and People" for KMOV, Channel 4, was Chaplain of Evangelical Children's Home and was Director of Development at Care and Counseling. Merry continues her ministry as "Minister of Choral Music" at Parkway United Church of Christ in Creve Coeur.

Accompanist - Susan McIntosh

Susan has been playing piano since childhood, occasionally stopping to care for her own three children. She enjoys accompanying groups and individuals, including herself, since she also loves to sing. Susan joined CHARIS last season as a singing member, and is now thrilled to be principal accompanist, as well.

S. Paige Canfield Attorney at Law

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Acknowledgements

CHARIS gratefully acknowledges the various contributions of the following persons to the preparation of this concert.

Publicity: Russell Wycoff

Graphics: Merry Keller, Sharon Spurlock

Flyers and tickets: Cindy Fedders, Merry Keller, Dot Bailey

Ticket outlets: Planet Proud and Left Bank Books

Program: Cindy Fedders

Rehearsal space: Centenary United Methodist Church
Union Avenue Christian Church

Production:

Technical Directors: Sonja Furiya and Renee Dix

Stage Manager: Mike Eppenberger

Assistant Stage Manager: Warren Sanders

House Manager: Chad Johnson

House Crew: Lewis Purdun, Bill Byrd, Marti Frumhoff, Linda Power,

Robin Hanson, Aaron Wells, Julianne Smutz

Costume: Jane Clark, Dot Bailey, Katherine Kinnamon

Stage Set: Colleen Gilmore, KKH

Box Office: Patrick Niedringhaus, Ronja Furiya

Flower arrangements: Warren Sanders

Musicians:

Jerry Oliver, percussion Alissa Conklin, tenor saxophone Jayme Christenson, oboe Loretta Haggard, flute Matt Nichols, conga drums

Readers:

Dayna Deck, Debbie Lawson, Sharon Smith, Dot Bailey, Georgia Johnston, Loretta Haggard, Dina Young.

A Labyrinth of Song

Saint Louis Art Museum November 9, 2002 Merry Keller, Artistic Director Susan McIntosh, Piano Jerry Oliver, drums

Reading: Excerpt from Letters to A Young Poet by Rainer Maria Rilke

Let There Be Music (A Choral Fanfare)

Words and music by Kirby Shaw

Come and Trip It (Air from L'Allegro)

George Frideric Handel arr. by Linda Spevacek-Avery

The Swing (from A Garden of Joy)

Words by Robert Louis Stevenson, Music by Michael Richardson

Reading: Excerpt from Caged Bird by Maya Angelou

Caged Bird

Words and music by Jeff Funk Soloists: Linda Agnew, Dayna Deck

Something Inside So Strong

Words and music by Labi Siffre, arr. by Jon Arterton Featuring: The Charismatics

Reading: Excerpt from A Just Anger by Marge Piercy

Take Back the Guns

Words and music by Therese Edell, arr. J. David Moore Tenor sax - Alissa Conklin Whistler - Dina Young

Reading: The Piper's Paid by Bartie Jones

From a Distance

Words and music by Julie Gold, arr. by Teena Chinn

The Rose

Words and music by Amanda McBroom, arr. by Kirby Shaw Soloists: Susan McIntosh, Linda Agnew

Time in a Bottle

Words and music by Jim Croce, arr. by Mac Huff

Intermission

Sittin' On the Dock of the Bay

Words and music by Steve Cropper and Otis Redding arr. by Mac Huff Featuring: The Charismatics

Reading: Lost by Carl Sandburg

Wanting Memories (from Crossings)

Words and music by Ysaye M. Barnwell

Motherless Child

Traditional Spiritual, arr. by Nancy Grundahl

Reading: Excerpt from Transcendental Etude by Adrienne Rich

How Can I Keep From Singing?

Quaker Tune, arr. by Bradley Ellingboe Oboe - Jayme Christenson

Pachelbel's Canon of Peace

From Canon in D by Johann Pachelbel arr. by Patrick M. Liebergen Flute - Loretta Haggard

Nigra Sum

Adapted from *The Song of Solomon*, chapters 1 and 2 Music by Pablo Casals

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

Reading: Excerpt from Still I Rise by Maya Angelou

Freedom Come (from Bandari: Inside These Walls)

Words and music by Ben Allaway Soloists: Elizabeth Bewig, Julie O'Guinn Deborah Lawson, Nadine Varner Conga Drums - Matt Nichols Song for Peace

Words and music by Allister MacGillivray arr. by Diane Loomer Soloist - Wendy Bruner

Reading: Excerpt from Letters to a Young Poet by Rainer Maria Rilke

Everlasting Gift

Words and music by Rae Moses



Don't miss these upcoming CHARIS performances, mark your calendars now to save the dates.

February 9, 2003: Benefit concert (with the Gateway Men's Chorus Ensemble) for Epiphany United Church of Christ's Building Accessibility Fund at Parkway United Church of Christ, 2841 New Ballas Rd., Creve Coeur, 3 p.m.

March 7, 2003: A Decade of Song, celebrating CHARIS's 10th anniversary with guest artist Holly Near. Mildred Bastian Center for the Performing Arts, Forest Park Community College, 8 p.m.

And don't forget.....

the Gateway Men's Chorus presents *A Saint Louis Holiday* at the Grandel Theatre, December 6 and 7, 2002 at 8 p.m.

and

BandTogether presents *A Holiday Concert* at the Missouri History Museum, December 21, 2002 at 8 p.m.

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GALA Choruses inspires and strengthens the international Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community. Through its programs, GALA Choruses promotes excellence while building bridges of respect and understanding.

GALA Choruses, the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, Inc., is the world's only association committed to serving the LGBT choral movement. Our 200-plus member choruses and 10,000 singers look to us repeatedly for support and leadership. We are dedicated to providing that support and helping our choruses to be strong—artistically and professionally.

GALA Choruses fosters the artistic and organizational development of member choruses through a wide variety of programs and services. We produce choral festivals, educational conferences and publications. We engage in advocacy; provide grants for the commissioning of new choral works; facilitate networking among our members; and serve as a resource center for choruses and individual members.

GALA Choruses is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation with taxexempt status in the United States. Under the leadership of an international board of directors, GALA Choruses is based in Washington, D.C.

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info@galachoruses.org

(CHARIS is a member of GALA Choruses, Inc).



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Friends of CHARIS

We would like to thank the following Friends of CHARIS for gifts (including in-kind donations) made during the last twelve months. We sincerely regret any omissions or errors.

Holly L. Anderson in memory of Karin J. Anderson Bill Bauer and Neal Richardson Susan Block and Barbara Greenberg Betty Cross and Kit Klein Marcia and Gale Haggard in honor of Jonathan Michael Gilmore Haggard George Michael Hulsey Bartie Jones In memory of Eddie Sandren Merry Keller Jennifer Kelly Betty J. Lurk B.J. McGough in honor of all women making music.

Daniel and Kim Madden Jane Miles and Chris Reinhard

Audrey and J. Tom Miles, Jr.

Judith C. Miniace

Kathleen Murphy

in honor of Dot Bailey and Linda Agnew

Hugh Pavitt

in honor of Russell Wycoff

Paul D. Richter

Jilaine Rosenthal

Linda Shubow and David Howard

Marilyn L. Stavenger

in honor of Merry Keller's superb leadership

Friends of CHARIS, cont'd.

Garnet A. Thies
Marilyn A. Turner
In memory of Carol Hummert
Marge Van Diggelen
in memory of my mother

CHARIS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the Regional Arts Commission and the Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis.







