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PREMIER



 **CHARIS**
The St Louis Women's Chorus

presents

Heart

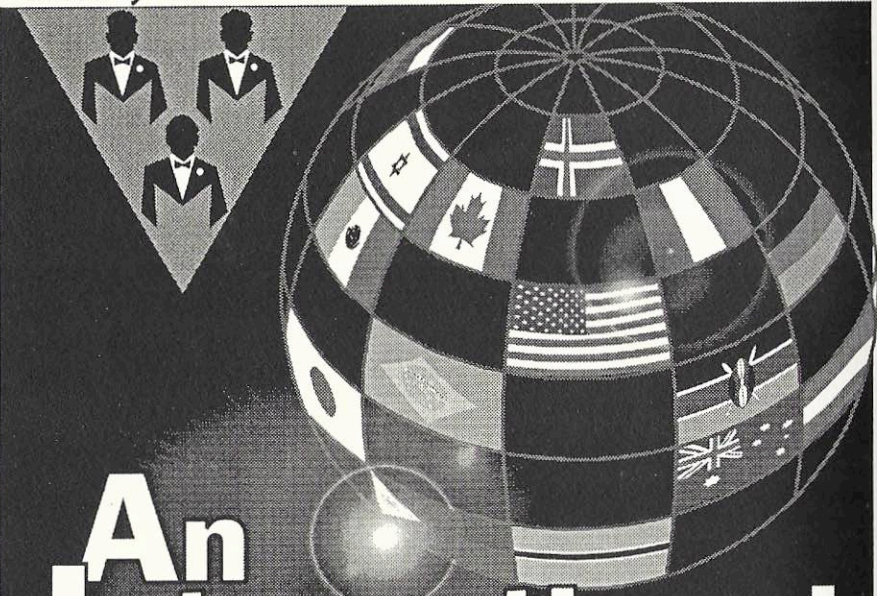
& Soul



Saturday, November 22, 2003
Sheldon Concert Hall


Gateway Men's Chorus

Seventeenth Season



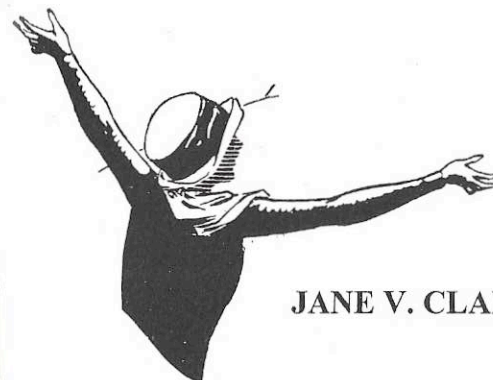
An International Holiday

with special Guest Star
Christine Brewer



**December 19 & 20, 2003
8 p.m.
Grandel Theatre**

Tickets available at Botanicals,
Left Bank Books, through Chorus Members
or call 314.621.7286
www.gmc-stl.org



WELCOME
JANE V. CLARK, PRESIDENT OF CHARIS

What a privilege it has been to be associated with CHARIS from its inception in 1992. I could never have imagined where the journey would take us. For my part, I simply wanted a place to sing and perform that was disconnected from my vocation as an ordained clergy woman. I found it. I won't even try to elaborate the high points - there are too many. Suffice it to say, I've been a brick through this whole thing! I served as the second President of CHARIS and now, here I am again.

How we struggled in the beginning with what to call ourselves. I think our choice of CHARIS (women of joy, hope and expression) has served us well. We continue to have that mind among us. How we struggled to say who we are. What would the community accept? How could we be open and protective at the same time, acknowledging everyone's rights and dignity. The struggle and the outcome has been worth every minute for me.

No one could have been more supportive and encouraging to us than the Gateway Men. They continue to be wonderful brothers to us and we join them as often as possible. Recently we, along with the GMC, have begun some productive conversations with Band Together, a wonderful instrumental group, to form a co-operative and close alliance that will see us performing more together, I'm sure. The future is out there.

Enjoy the show tonight. We have enjoyed it tremendously.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Merry Keller

Tonight, we invite you to travel with us to New York City. The time is right after the turn of the 20th century - the days of vaudeville and radio, when publishing houses sprang up overnight, eager to find the next "hit" song that would be played and sung by thousands of aspiring young piano students across the country. Tin Pan Alley, the descriptive name coined by a newspaper writer named Monroe Rosenfeld to symbolize the cacophony of the many pianos being played in all the publishing demo studios, was located on 28th street in New York, between 5th Avenue and Broadway, where a number of the more important publishers had offices. These are the days of George and Ira Gershwin, Dorothy Fields, Hoagy Carmichael, Cole Porter and Jerome Kern. These are the days before rock and roll, when a song's popularity was determined simply by the number of sheet music copies sold to the general public.

Don't be surprised by the appearance of an unlikely guest on our stage. She's come to share her memories of this special time in our country's history through the eyes and ears of one who grew up among the pianos and the individuals made famous through the songs they wrote. She offers a unique viewpoint through the lens of her personal experiences and offers insights, as one who was likely invisible to most, but was most assuredly in the center of all the flurry and excitement of the time.

The concert features the full chorus in many of the familiar love songs that have found their way into the repertoire of our hearts. How many of us learned the tune of *Heart and Soul*, pounding out the appropriate keys in coordination with a friend playing the repetitive, rhythmic accompaniment? Tonight you will be treated to an arrangement of the entire song, created especially to open this production.

Message con't...

The cabaret-style format of the show provides CHARIS the opportunity to highlight some of the great talent in our membership, as individuals and small groups entertain and thrill you with songs such as Dorothy Field's *I'm In the Mood for Love* and Cole Porter's sultry *Night and Day*. Tonight, we welcome to our stage the son of one of our singing members, Casey Fitzhugh, to sing *It's Only a Paper Moon* by Harold Arlen. And we especially welcome the Klassy Kickers, a tap dancing troupe, which performs all across the St. Louis region, dressing up our stage with two acts that take us directly to the vaudeville stage.

Thank you for sharing this night of "Heart and Soul" with us. May you leave humming a song and feeling lighter of heart.

Performing rights reserved

Oh You Beautiful Doll

Words by
A. SEYMOUR BROWN

Musio by
NAT. D. AYER

Moderato

Piano

Non-ey dear, Want you near,
Precious prize, Close your eyes,

Just turn out the light and then come over here;
Now we're goin' to vis-it lov-er's par-a-dise;

Now-ah close
Press your lips



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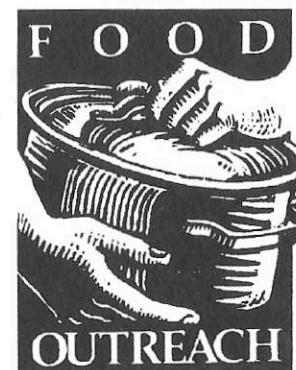
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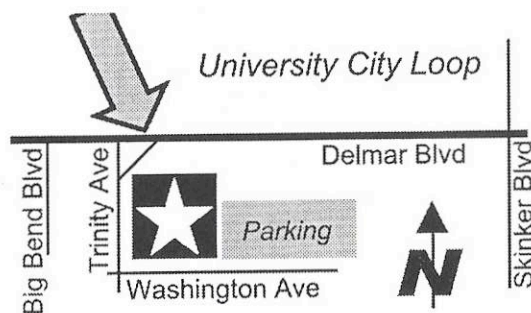
Presents
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Winter Rhapsody

December 13, 2003
8 p.m.

Community Music School of Webster University

560 Trinity Avenue
West End of the U City Loop



Emcee: Valery York-Schneider

Conductors: Jeff Girard & Gary Reynolds

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 27 years and is a staff interpreter for Deaf Inter-Link as well as a freelance/community interpreter. She holds national certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). She currently holds the position of RID Region IV Representative, which represents 14 states and three provinces in Canada. 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 with Armistead Maupin. She recently had the honor of interpreting for Ann Hampton Callaway at the Pageant and Stephen Schwartz, Liz Callaway and Scott Coulter, at the Edison Theatre at Washington University. Glenace loves sharing the poetry, inspiration and laughter of music through sign language with the deaf and hearing communities.

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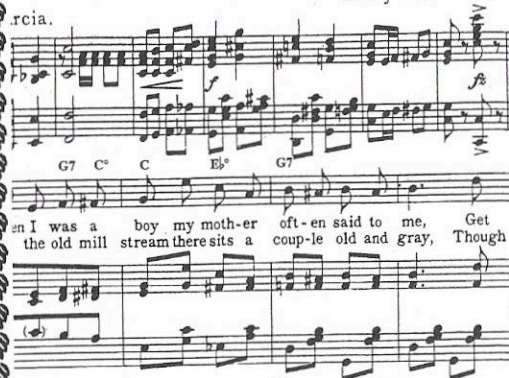
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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - Merry Keller

Merry Keller, Artistic Director of CHARIS - The St. Louis Women's Chorus and the Gateway Men's Chorus, 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 25 years. Merry's local performance experience includes The St. Louis Women's Chorale, Random Access, The St. Louis Chamber Chorus, several community-based groups, and solo performance in a variety of venues in the area. As a director and teacher, Merry Keller founded and directed a St. Louis community chorus in the Central West End, Centenary United Methodist Church Choir, 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 *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 by providing music for services at Immanuel Congregational UCC.

As Artistic Director of CHARIS, Merry has produced concerts including: "Music She Wrote," songs by and for women, "Heart of a Woman," a concert of love songs, "Rainbow World," celebrating children, "CHARIS Sings the Blues," - featuring Denise Thimes, "Changing Woman," a collaboration with Gash/Voigt Dance Company and "A Labyrinth of Song," a journey of feelings through music. In June of 2001, Merry Keller directed both CHARIS and the Gateway Men's Chorus in "Sing for the Cure," an amazing celebration of life in support of the St. Louis Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Merry lives in St. Louis with her partner, Debbie, and two sons, David and Mike.



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GOOD WISHES

TO

JANE CLARK

&

CHARIS



CHARIS

The St. Louis Women's Chorus

Merry Keller, Artistic Director

Susan McIntosh, Accompanist

Glenace Humphrey, Sign Language Artist

Sopranos

Wendy Bruner

Jane V. Clark

Darlene Dougherty

Kathleen Duncan

Melissa Fanetti

Sonja Sanae Furiya

Colleen Gilmore

Loretta Haggard

Kendra Henry

Pat Henry

KH

Julie Jennings

Kristen Myers

M.S. Phillips

Altos

Susan Drake

Candice Freeman

Georgia Johnston

Katherine Kinnamon

Debbie Lawson

Sharon Opp

Kim Powlishta

Lesley Proud

Chataunya Rawles

Sharon Smith

Sharon Spurlock

Erin Marie Szymanski

Nadine Varner

Dina Young

CHARIS concerts are interpreted
for the Deaf/HH



Interpreted for the Deaf

Corporate seasonings

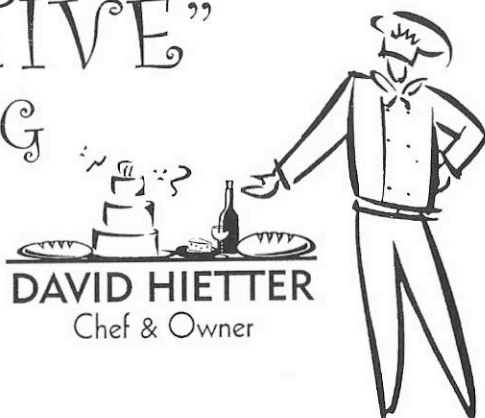
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CHARIS - The St. Louis Women's Chorus A History

CHARIS - The St. Louis Women's Chorus, 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 a 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. The seed money for the group came from fundraising activities sponsored by the GMC.

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 conformation of its tax-exempt status as a 501c(3) corporation in July, 1994.

Since January 1993, the members of CHARIS have met weekly to learn and rehearse music, develop musical skills and vocal technique, and broaden their range of musical experiences. CHARIS is a non-auditioned chorus with both experienced singers and members with less musical training. Chorus members and section leaders work in sectionals and with practice tapes to memorize music and improve pitch and vocal quality.

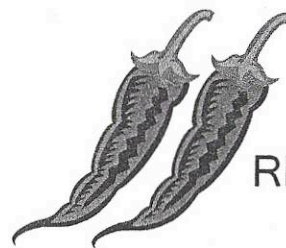
The chorus made its first public appearance on May 23, 1993, at Trinity Episcopal Church in a fundraiser to benefit Northside AIDS Outreach. Shortly thereafter CHARIS took the stage with the Gateway Men's Chorus to perform at the latter's Pride Concert in June 1993. CHARIS made its solo debut in October 1993, at the Center of Contemporary Arts, drawing a total audience of over 700 people for its two performances. The chorus has subsequently produced two to three solo performances, with additional three or four guest appearances, 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

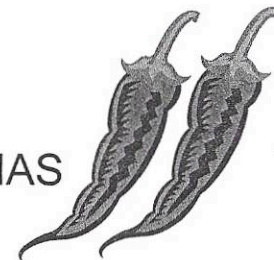
hosted and performed at the 1995 Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA) Leadership Conference for delegates from around the United States and a number of foreign countries. In 1996, after much rehearsal and a major fundraising effort, CHARIS proudly performed in Tampa, Florida at GALA Festival V. Through the years, CHARIS has donated its time for many benefit performances to aid organizations such as the Cathedral Mission Society, Metropolitan Food Pantry Association, The NAMES Project, Habitat for Humanity, and Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

Merry Keller came to CHARIS as Interim Director in 1999. Merry's exceptional leadership skills and strong background in music, both as a performer and a teacher, provided valuable assets to the chorus. The match between chorus and director was made permanent when Merry accepted the position of Artistic Director in January 2000. From that time to the present Merry and CHARIS have successfully produced many full concerts such as: "Heart of a Woman," featuring songs about the many aspects of love, and "Rainbow World," a family concert featuring the CHARIS kids. With the Gateway Men's Chorus, CHARIS presented "Sing for the Cure," a concert benefitting the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation in June 2001. Recent concert include "CHARIS Sings the Blues," featuring Denise Thimes, at the Grandel Theatre in November 2001, "Changing Woman," a collaboration with Gash/Voigt Dance Company, in June 2002, and "A Labyrinth of Song" at the St. Louis Art Museum in November 2002.

After moving to a new and spacious rehearsal site at Immanuel Congregational United Church of Christ, CHARIS celebrated its tenth anniversary with the production of "A Decade of Song" featuring special guest star, Holly Near. With a talented board of both singers and non-singers addressing management issues and with Merry's wise and able artistic direction, the chorus is looking forward to sharing its voices and vision with its audiences for many years to come.



RED HOT MAMAS



If you're a woman age 40 and beyond,
This message is for YOU!

Catherine L. Dean, M.D., M.P.H. & Renee D. Ewing, M.D.
of Women's Health Partners, Inc.
are pleased to announce the formation of
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The Red Hot Mamas meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month
at the Richmond Heights Community Center at 7pm.
It's free & open to the public.

We have a prominent Women's Healthcare Provider presenting
a different topic every month.
We encourage you to bring your questions, your partner,
and your friends.

For more information, call 314-726-1150
ask for Rhonda or Karen.

REMEMBER
We're here, We're hot, We're the Red Hot Mamas.

Heart and Soul
November 22, 2003 - 8 PM
The Sheldon Concert Hall

Artistic Director, Merry Keller

Sign Interpreter: Glenace Humphrey

Combo: Gwen-Marie Lerch, Wendy Hyman, MS Phillips

Accompanist, Susan McIntosh

Char-Woman, Kathy Morris

Heart and Soul

By Frank Loesser & Hoagy Carmichael

Arr. Merry Keller & Neal Richardson

Solo - Kristen Myers

Embraceable You

By Ira & George Gershwin

Arr. Allan Billingsley

Solo - Jane V. Clark

Sisters

by Irving Berlin, arr. Kirby Shaw

Trio: Kristen Myers, Loretta Haggard, Erin Marie Szymanski

I'm In the Mood for Love

By Jimmy McHugh & Dorothy Fields

Solo - Wendy Bruner

What'll I Do?

By Irving Berlin, arr. Kirby Shaw

My Romance

By Lorenz Hart & Richard Rogers

Arr. Kirby Shaw - Small Ensemble

But Not For Me

By Ira & George Gershwin

Solo - Dina Young

I've Got You Under My Skin

By Cole Porter

42nd Street

By Harry Warren & Al Dubin

Featuring the Klassy Kickers

Solo - Jane V. Clark

INTERMISSION

All the Things You Are

By Oscar Hammerstein II & Jerome Kern

Arr. Carl Stommen, Featuring:

The Heart & Soul Combo, and MS Phillips on trumpet

Night and Day

By Cole Porter, Solo - Susan Drake

In the Still of the Night

By Cole Porter, arr. Jackie O'Neill

The Way You Look Tonight

By Jerome Kern & Dorothy Fields

Arr. Neal Richardson

Ja-Da

Featuring the Klassy Kickers

It's Only A Paper Moon

By E. Y. Harburg, Harold Arlen, & Billy Rose

Solo - Casey Fitzhugh

Exactly Like You

By Dorothy Fields & Jimmy McHugh,

Arr. Kirby Shaw. Skat group:

MS Phillips, Julie Jennings, Debbie Lawson

Play For Me A Simple Melody

By Irving Berlin

Small Ensemble Group

Kathy Duncan, Colleen Gilmore, Jane V. Clark

Kendra Henry, Loretta Haggard, KH, Melissa Fanetti

Erin Marie Szymanski, Nadine Varner, Lesley Proud

Debbie Lawson, Sharon Opp, Chataunya Rawles

KATHY MORRIS - Char-Woman

Kathy Morris began her theatrical career at the age of three, tap dancing in front of the family fireplace. She got rave reviews in the living room and wowed them in the kitchen, and a Jewish ham was born. Many thought Kathy had reached her theatrical peak when she played Minnie Fay in the middle school production of "Hello Dolly." After a long hiatus, however, Kathy resumed her performing career in 2000, and has received critical acclaim as the emcee for Band Together. She also enjoys being a vocalist and pianist with the local pop/jazz/alternative group "Mrs. Wiggins!" Having the sense to not quit her day job, Kathy is a faculty member at St. Louis University School of Medicine. She resides in St. Louis City with her partner, Gwen-Marie Lerch and their pet menagerie.

* * * * *

The Leslie Maclean Trio



First heard in the top jazz clubs of Chicago, jazz pianist, composer/arranger and vocalist Leslie Maclean brings a new dimension to the St. Louis jazz scene. Described as original, energetic, and passionate, the Leslie Maclean Trio performs unique renditions of jazz classics as well as exciting original compositions.

Come Join Us at One of Our November Performances!

11/15 at Ritz-Carlton, 9-12

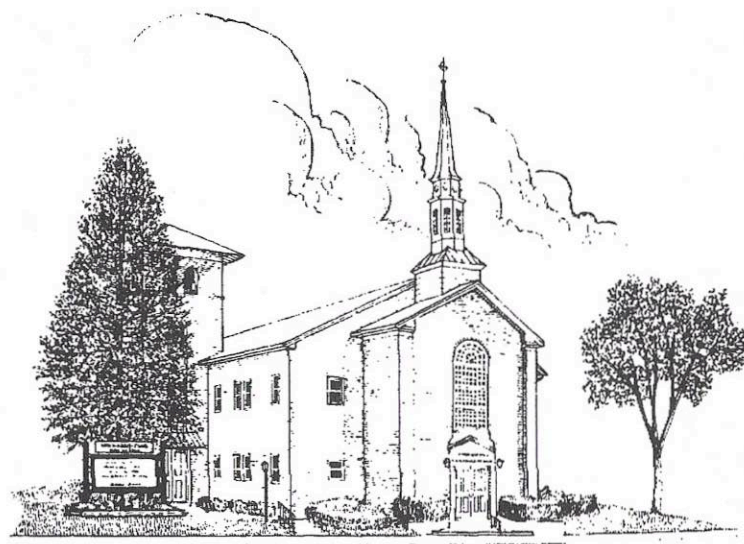
11/25 at Café Balaban, 9-11:30

11/21 & 22, JaBoni's Bistro, 8-12

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WHO WE ARE

CHARIS is a lesbian chorus open to all women. We differ in age, size, ethnic background, sexual orientation, and abilities but we share a goal to seek musical excellence, voice messages of social justice, and create a fun and supportive place for all women. We are a non-auditioned chorus.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

CHARIS extends an open invitation for membership. Practices are currently held Tuesday nights from 7 to 9 at Immanuel United Church of Christ, 3460 Jamieson Ave. If you are interested in membership information or attending a rehearsal, please call (314) 652-5318.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jane V. Clark, President
Lesley Proud, Vice-President
Sharon Smith, Secretary
Kathy Duncan, Treasurer
(*) Marilyn Stavenger, Recording Secretary
(*) Linda Clark
(*) Glenace Humphrey
(*) Julianne Smutz

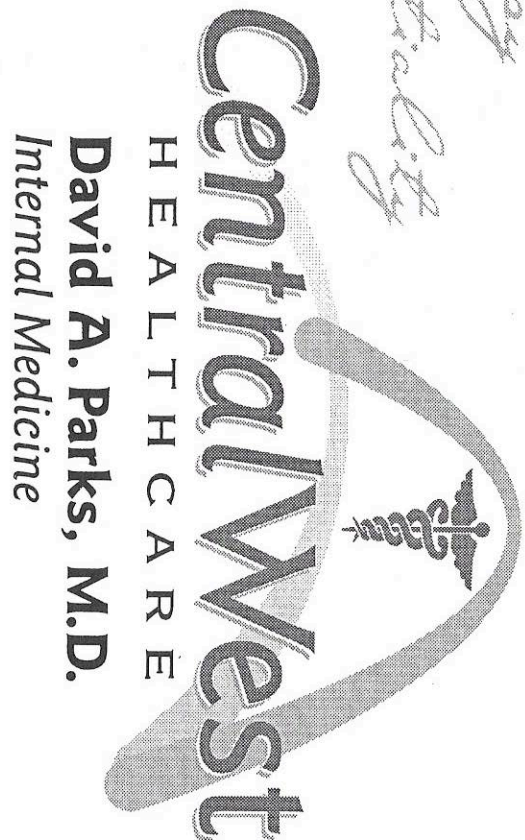
(*) Non-singing directors

Accompanist - Susan McIntosh

Susan has been making music for many years, with her voice and on the piano. She has accompanied soloists and small ensembles in the St. Louis area, and is now proud to be the principal accompanist for CHARIS. She also enjoys singing with her three girls, and plans to make beautiful music for many years with her partner, Dayna Deck.

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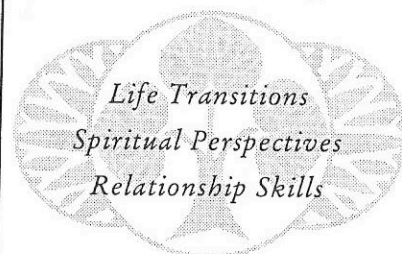


Eddie Cantor, hyperactive, "banjo eyed,"
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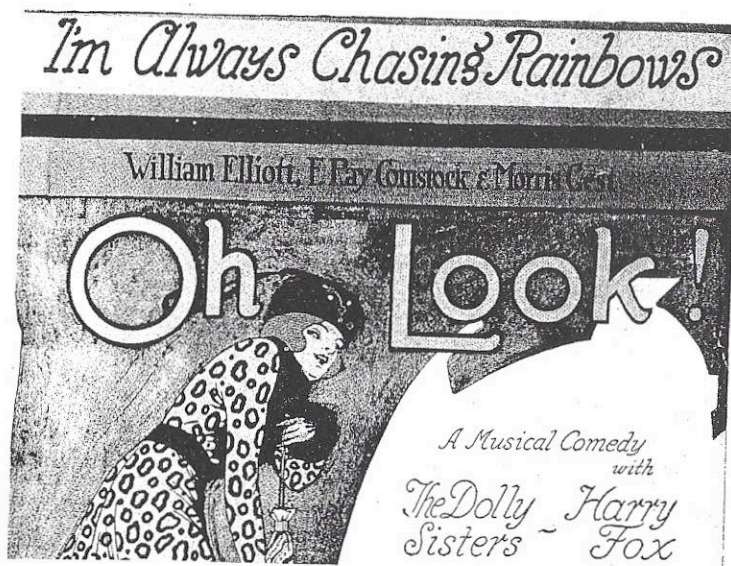


MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 13, 2003: Band Together presents: *Winter Rhapsody*, a free band concert at Community Music School of Webster University, 560 Trinity Ave., University City at 8pm.

December 19 & 20: Gateway Men's Chorus presents: *An International Holiday*, at the Grandel Theatre, 3610 Grandel Sq, at 8pm.

March 19 & 20, 2004: CHARIS presents: *Girls*, at the Missouri History Museum



WANT TO SING WITH CHARIS?

NAME _____ PHONE _____

Tear off and give to an usher or phone: Jane V. Clark, 314-652-5318

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

CHARIS gratefully acknowledges the help of the following persons in the preparation of this concert

Concert Coordinator: *Candice Freeman*

Publicity: *Debbie Lawson, Georgia Johnson*

Graphic Design: *Heath Karch*

Flyers and Tickets: *Debbie Lawson, Georgia Johnson*

Program: *Jane V. Clark, Linda Clark*

Advertising Sales: *Sharon Opp, Jane V. Clark*

Production: *Candice Freeman*

Set Design: *Renee Dix*

Stage Manager: *Mike Eppenberger*

Stage Helpers: *Leah Kinnamon, Alicia Pierce, Geoffrey Steele*

Amanda Walther

Photographer: *C.T. Sharp*

Sound: *Audioactive Projects*

Lighting: *Audioactive Projects*

Costumes: *Pat Henry, Chataunya Rawles, Jane V. Clark*

Aftersset Party: *Colleen Gilmore*

Volunteers: *Julianne Smutz*

Mia Ulmer, Marilyn Stavenger, Chris Reinhard, Jane Miles, Linda

Clark, Katrina Pfeiffer





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 Certified Fitness Instructor, ACSM

ARLENE AHRENS
 Certified Colon Hydrotherapist, I-ACT

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THE HEIGHTS

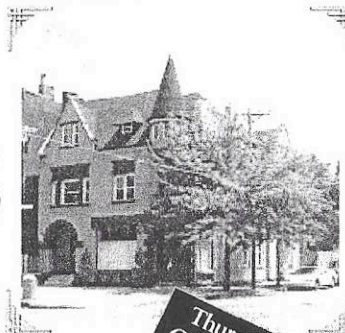
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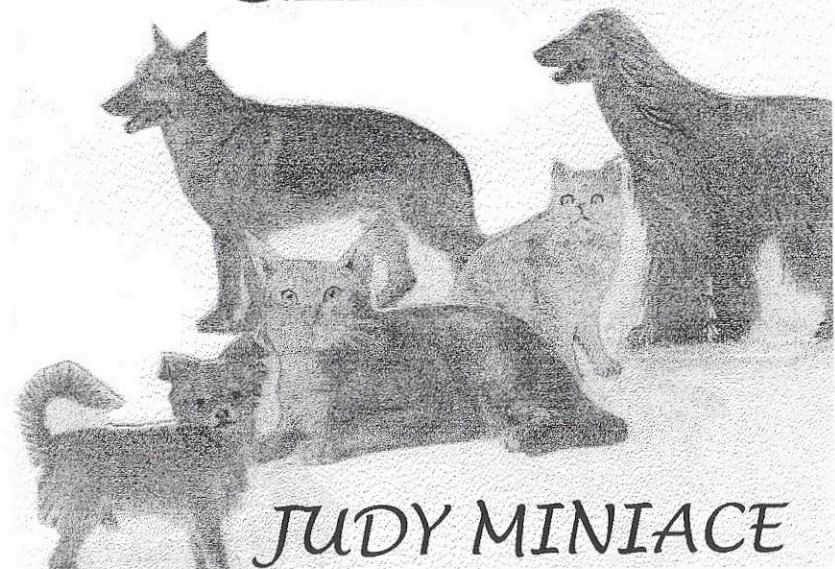
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