

Upcoming Chorus Events

March 18	Tech Rehearsal at Hobby Center
March 20, 21	GMCH Performance at Hobby Center
March 27	Music book building
April 3	GMCH Cast Party at Home of Jeff Salazar

Monday, March 14, 2004

GAY MEN'S CHORUS of HOUSTON

Volume 9 / Number 25



The Director's Cut

From James Knapp

Quote Of The Week

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act but a habit"
- Aristotle

Dear GMCHers,

Well this is it! It is time to continue to be inspired for excellence. That comes through the repetition of excellence and I want to thank each and everyone of you in advance for the hard work you have given and will give this week. Let's uphold a HUGE part of the GMCH Mission Statement that says "We strive to achieve excellence in men's choral music"! Let's do it.

What inspires you? Discover and rediscover those inspiration points- those high places from which you can see more, feel more and more beautifully. Spend time this week taking in a grander view of life so you can share that view with your audiences this weekend. See how on stage you can return with vigor, humor, enthusiasm, passion and excellence!

Study your words, music, dynamics and movements daily and each of you will achieve the best performance that you can do individually. Practice in front of the mirror. That is excellence!

Invigorate your soul and see the large picture of Red Hot and Cole! Your singing along with the dancers, orchestra, designs and staging are going to be nothing short of MAGICAL. We now have to make the magic happen.

I am so proud of you. Keep up the great work guys!

James

PS I was so sorry to have been in Little Rock for the wonderful soiree at Neiman Marcus. Thanks to ALL of you who rallied and turned out for this wonderful event. Congrats to JB Hughes on such a roaring success and a special thanks to VocalEase in their performance.

PSS We are behind on ticket sales guys. Remember each of us is personally responsible to sell 10 tickets. Just 10 tickets guys. We can do it!

REHEARSAL GUIDE

Review the movements/music sections
Run the entire show!

MUST HAVE Props for "Red, Hot and Cole"

From Dale Miller and Tim Lankford

This is a list of 'must have' props for Red, Hot & Cole. If you have any of these items, have a friend who might loan us the items, or you know a place where we can find them inexpensively, call or email Dale Miller (txgm@aol.com / 713-529-5952 or Tim Lankford (mans99@sbcglobal.net / 832-236-3506)

- 1 black stool (bar height) that swivels
- Stool-height table for Sharon Montgomery
- 2 long-hair wigs

Please Note: There will be no BUZZ on March 22 due to the concert. The Buzz will resume publication on Monday, March 29, 2004!

Rehearsal Attendance Policy Revision

From James Knapp

Heads up, guys: we'll be making a slight change in the rehearsal attendance rules beginning March 29th, when we begin rehearsals for the JUNE show.

You may be aware that previously, when we kept count for the "can't miss more than three rehearsals" requirement, we began counting at the fourth rehearsal: an absence during the first three weeks did not "count" toward the three absences allowed per concert cycle.

Guys, all of our Monday night rehearsals are equally important -- Starting with the June show, the "absences" counter will start immediately with our first rehearsal for each cycle, including our opening rehearsal on Monday, March 29th. Hope you'll plan to make it a part of your regular routine on Monday to be present for rehearsal, starting two weeks from tonight on Monday, March 29th. Thanks, guys!! See 'ya here!!!!

June Concert Recruiting and Concert Announcement

From James Knapp

What an exciting and wonderful concert this is going to be. The first half of the concert will have some of the most popular music we have sung including "Something Inside So Strong" and "The Last Words of David" as well as a 25th Season commissioned work with a text by Walt Whitman from *Leaves of Grass* set to music by Boston composer Eric Helmuth and I am so thrilled about it!

The second half will be the greatest hits of Sir Elton John! Yes, that's right the Rocket Man! From Disney selections from *The Lion King* (Circle of Life) to *Aida* to *Crocodile Rock*, *Candle in the Wind*, *Daniel, Benny and the Jets*. You got the picture...all the favorites!

Please invite new folks to join us for this new concert cycle. They will NOT be eligible to go to GALA in Montreal because of the two concert minimum requirement but they can join us for the June concert and our appearance in September at the Meyerson Center with Turtle Creek Chorale.

Invite them today to come to our concerts this weekend and then to our next open rehearsal Monday March 29th at 7 pm. You can also contact Robert Parker with their info.

Thanks guys. We expect a lot of new people after this RED HOT and Cole weekend! Woo Woo!!!

Help us Put Together the March Music!

From Barb Easterly

On Saturday, March 27 we need as many able hands as possible to help us put together the music books for our June concert. We will, again, be working at the home of Larry Brown - 6670 Meadowlawn, off I-45 south at Wayside - from 10:00 to whenever we finish

Come join us for a fun day of fellowship...Lunch will be provided.....

Spring Fever Cast Party!!!

From the Hospitality Committee

Hi everyone! Your Social Directors want to remind you about our upcoming Cast Party on **Saturday, April 3rd, 2004**. The festivities will begin at 2PM and run until 6PM. This is gonna be one HECK of a BASH. Food will be provided, but please bring your favorite libations.

The Party will be held at the home of guess who: hehehe Thats right!!!!

Senor Jeffrey Salazar and Senor William Smylie
1741 McIlhenny St
Houston, TX 77004

Come casual, wear your flip flops or boat shoes. Please no High Heels, DOCKER!! Just come to have a good time and share your warm personalities and reminisce over our Wonderful Concert.

RSVP:

Lou Anderson	Dale Miller	Jeff Salazar
281.481.2723	713.529.5952	713.825.4062
ktinker@swbell.net	TXGM@aol.com	MidtownMasseur@aol.com

From The Executive Director's Desk

James B. Hughes

Dear GMCH Family, Friends and Supporters,

Words are simply not sufficient to express my pride in our accomplishment this past Thursday night at Neiman Marcus. For those of you in attendance, you can attest to the magnificent turn out, festive party and fantastic public relations achievement we all shared. You were all simply fabulous and you made a tremendous impact on the staff at Neiman Marcus, Jhane Barnes, and her future collaborations with other GALA Choruses across the country through similar sponsorship/public relations events. Congratulations! You're the best!

Also, we all need to thank both VocalEase for their sensational performance and our GMCH models for their "gorgeousness" on stage. In every way possible we all created a slam dunk experience and it only cost us a trip to the Galleria, except of course for those of you who bought/lost your shirt buying clothes. Wow! Now that's what I call bang for the buck. Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you for stepping up to the plate!!! It is so comforting to me to know just how committed you are. When we need your support you are there, and folks, boy do we ever need your support right now on something closer to home for all of us.

This may seem like I'm complimenting you and picking on you all at once, but such is the nature of a matter of dire necessity that I must bring to your attention immediately. Folks, we simply have not done what is needed in the way of ticket sales for our upcoming performances. I was in great hopes that this weekend would turn things around before the show opens, but I must tell you that at best the movement since last week is marginal if not downright non-existent.

I'm the whistle blower, so please don't shoot the messenger, but you just have to understand the gravity of our situation here. Budgets for shows of the caliber we are now performing are predicated upon the assumption of a certain volume in ticket sales. How could it be otherwise? We are in the performance business after all and we have to believe that ticket sales will support our productions or we have to completely rethink what we're doing here.

The long and the short of it is simply this. We have over \$20,000 invested in production expenses for this show alone, which by the way is extraordinarily lean in this business given the venue and caliber of performance we expect to produce. The entire sum will be due upon completion of the final performance. We began this whole performance cycle with \$40,584 in potential revenue from ticket sales. In other words, with four consecutive sell-outs we would have no difficulty in meeting our financial obligations and would in fact produce a modest gain for ongoing operational expenses. To put this in further perspective, you sold well in excess of 2,000 seats at the holiday concerts, not to mention the Galveston runout performance, and we only had 2,016 to begin with for this show.

Presently, we have only generated \$11,066 (25%) of our potential ticket revenue with 6 days until our opening. This translates into 724 seats sold and includes season subscribers. I do not enjoy alarming people any more than having a toothache but the reality is right here in front of us and we have to face up to the fact that we have not done all that we can do. The following chart should put the whole picture in perspective for us:

	ISSUED	REVENUES	OPEN	VALUE
SAT 20 March 8:00 PM				
	303	\$4,064	201	\$3,277
SUN 21 March 3:00 PM				
	209	\$3,555	295	\$6,949

Please See Tickets Sales, Page 3

GMCH Seeks Board of Directors Nominations

From Stew Zuckerbrod

GMCH is currently accepting nominations for potential members to the GMCH Board of Directors. Nominees do not have to be members of the GMCH. Please contact me at szckbrd@aol.com for more information or if you have a nominee.

Concert Attire for "Red, Hot and Cole"

From James Knapp

Due to the limited backstage and dressing room space at the Hobby Center, the attire for "Red, Hot and Cole" will be your TUXEDO for the entire show. Please take a moment to review the Tuxedo Requirements on Page 3.

Al's Formal Wear Tuxedo Offer

From Steve Yocom

Al's Formal Wear presents the following TUXEDO offer to GMCH members at their SOUTH MAIN ST location only:

\$119.95 includes	Polyester Tuxedo Package Polyester notch lapel coat Adjustable pant White wing-tip shirt Black bowtie and cummerbund
\$199.95 includes	Wool Tuxedo Package Worsted Wool notch lapel coat Worsted Wool pant White wing-tip shirt Black bowtie and cummerbund

The Rard Sale Is Coming!

From Drew McDiarmid

Rard...a Rummage/Yard Sale get it?

The chorus will be having a Rummage/Yard (RARD) Sale in March/April to help raise funds for GALA. We need some energetic people to help plan and manage this event. This will be a great committee project, not only for fundraising, but outreach as well.

If you are interested in joining the project team please contact either Drew McDiarmid or Eric McAnallen.

Just In From GALA Choruses!

From Your GALA Project Team

Organizers of Vile Festival International GALA Choruses, to be held 17-24 July 2004 in Montreal, Canada announced today that more than 5,000 people have registered for the festival. This marks the highest number of registrations in advance of any GALA Choruses quadrennial festival.

For the first time in GALA Choruses' history, the group has instituted online registration, a technological innovation that was expected to and has increased the registration volume.

"We are confident that a quality festival is being built and the delegates will have an incredibly memorable experience," said Susan Haugh, Co-chair of the Vile Festival International GALA Choruses. "We now have more than 160 choruses and ensembles currently registered to perform at the festival and have encouraged individual members to complete the registration process. This resulted in a surge in total numbers," added Gene Dolphus, Co-chair of the Vile Festival International GALA Choruses.

The beautiful performance facility of Place des Arts will be the sight of formal concerts presented by the more than 5,000 delegates expected to attend the eight-day festival. The festival will also offer an Exposition at Complexe Desjardins and special community events open to the general public. Most of the choruses and ensembles registering have come from the USA (84%) and Canada (13%). Other countries including UK, France, Germany, Ireland and South Africa will be represented. Choruses are comprised primarily of women's choruses (22%), mixed men's and women's choruses (29%) and men's choruses (48%). The sizes of choruses range from a quartet to more than 200 singers. Performances deliver powerful messages about social justice and the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual transgender people. Many new works commissioned by choruses will be debuted at the festival.

50/50 Raffle Fundraiser For Montreal

From Eric McAnallen

To help raise money for Montreal we will be having a 50/50 Raffle every Monday night during break. Ticket are \$1 each. The winner will be announced each Monday night at the end of rehearsal. You must be present to win. Help raise funds for Montreal and try your chances at winning some instant extra cash!

About The Buzz

The Buzz is published for each Monday night rehearsal during the concert season.

Submission Deadline:

Sunday, 9pm

To Contribute:

buzz@gmch.org

**GAY MEN'S
CHORUS of
HOUSTON**

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77254-1004

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Janet Soller
Human Resources
Gary Teixeira
Box Office
Margie Babbidge

Ticket Sales*Continued*

ISS	REV	OPEN	VAL
SUN 21 March 8:00 PM			
61	\$1,124	443	\$10,950
TUE 23 March 8:00 PM			
151	\$2,323	353	\$8,342
TOTALS			
724	\$11,066	1,292	\$29,518

EEEEEEEEKKK!!!! As you can see, we will not even be able to cover production costs, let alone provide for any operational support following the concert. I don't know if you feel the same way I do about this but I would so much rather invite my friends, family, co-workers, and church goers to a concert in which I have invested my valuable time and effort than to any other fundraising activity we do throughout the year. Is there a better way to raise financial support for GMCH than our concerts themselves? This is our top priority it seems to me if we intend to maintain and of course grow beyond our present status as the most influential and largest gay performing arts agency in the city.

Think about this with me and what a rewarding honor it is to participate in a group with that much credibility and respect. We owe it to ourselves to turn this situation around. And, quite frankly, I don't see any other way than to spell this out as a shared responsibility in which we all simply must commit. So, the magic number is 10 tickets per singer sold by Saturday. If you have already fulfilled this assignment, we all say thank you for setting a good and proper example for us to follow. Personally, I have sold 6 and will eat the last 4 if I do not have them sold by Saturday.

Lastly, in bringing all of this verbaria to a close, you need to know that neither the Silver Edition concert this past fall or the Holiday concerts met their targeted goals for ticket revenue. Hence, we are feeling a pretty nasty financial crunch and it's going to be really grave if we don't get this situation under quickly in hand. We can turn this around with one mighty last effort here before Saturday. Please do all that you can to lend GMCH the helping hand that only you can offer.

Respectfully
Yours in Service
JB

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!!!
March 15 – March 28**

Tom Tinzley	Associate
Daniel Bennett	Tenor
Tony Adam	Bass
Tim Lankford	Baritone
Kenny Chua	Associate
Al Clerc	Associate
David Blackwell	Bass
Neil Neugebauer	Associate
John Keathley	Associate

Concert Attire

Tuxedos are worn at most concerts.
Here are some hints on what you'll need:

- Black Tuxedo with satin (not velvet) lapels
- White Pleated shirt with wing collar (no ruffles)
- Black studs
- Black bowtie and Cummerbund (The pleats point up: remember, it's a crumb-catcher!)
- Black dress socks and dress shoes.

Tuxedo Merchants

Below is a list of merchants who offer tuxedos at economical prices. You can generally expect a tuxedo from one of these sources to cost between \$125 and \$150.

Al's Tuxedo Outlets**Northbrook Location**

11290 Northwest Freeway

Houston, Texas

(713) 682-1131

Alameda Location

9940 Kleckley

Houston, Texas

(713) 910.3700

Filly's Men's Formals**Midtown Location**

2405 Main Street at McGowen

Houston, Texas 77002

(713) 652-2039

North Houston Location

10998 North Freeway

Houston, Texas 77037

(281) 445-1898

K&G Men's Superstore**West Houston Location**

12143 Katy Freeway

Houston, Texas 77079

(281) 589-7337

Meyerland Location

8717 West Loop South

Houston, Texas 77096

(713) 667-3945

Suit Mart Men's Outlet**Astrodome Location**

1211 South Loop West

Houston, Texas

(713) 796-8196

Sugarland Location

11894 Murphy Road

Houston, Texas 77031

(281) 495-5656

Tuxedo Assistance

GMCH offers financial assistance to members who cannot afford to purchase a tuxedo. No-interest loans are available with payment schedules to fit your budget.

If you require assistance, please contact our treasurer, Tony Adam. The tuxedo assistance program is funded by members.

If you would like to contribute to this program, please talk to Tony Adam.

**Administrative
Section Leaders****1st Tenors**

Daniel Bennett
(713) 446-8017
daniel_e_bennett@msn.com

Upper 2nd Tenors

Docker Tran
(713) 515-1255
vudoct@aol.com

Lower 2nd Tenors

Dave Swart
(713) 953-0636
akdave@aol.com

Baritones

Ron LaCama
(281) 484-1305
rlacama2@earthlink.net

Upper Basses

Donald Daniel
(713) 520-7662
rollercstr@aol.com

Lower Basses

David Hughes
(713) 869-8051
howie57kh@cs.com

Membership Adm.

Steve Yocom
(713) 880-5115
syocom@earthlink.net

Membership

Robert Parker
(713) 524-6335
parkerri@aol.com

Associate Members

Lou Anderson
(713) 419-8152
ktinker@swbell.net

**If you cannot
attend a rehearsal,
please let your
admin. section
leader know in
advance.**

**Musical
Section Leaders****First Tenors**

Eric McAnallen
(713) 780-9806
eric.mcanallen@cigna.com

Second Tenors

Kenneth Clayborne
(713) 863-7611
keneclay@flash.net

Baritones

David Carter
(713) 942-0209
dactex@swbell.net

Basses

Mike McNamara
(713) 524-1295
mpmc1@swbell.net

GMCH Rehearsal and Events Calendar Online
<http://www.gmch.org/calendar/rehearsals.asp>