

News from the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus

Gay Men's Chorus Receives Three Standing Ovations at International Choral Festival

— *Performance considered a 'must-see' among 100-plus choruses;
included premiere of new piece by Artistic Director Kevin Robison*

July 21, 2008 — It may have been predominantly rainy in “sunny” South Florida during the recent GALA Choruses Festival, but you wouldn't know it from the smiling faces of the 70-plus participating members of the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus and their artistic director, Kevin Robison.

“Three standing ovations for a 28-minute performance will tend to do that!” Robison noted, still smiling as he recalled the performance and the week-long festival. “GALA audiences are very supportive — we want our brothers and sisters in other choruses to do well and we all show our appreciation for their effort. But receiving standing ovations not just at the end of your program but twice in the middle is truly heartwarming. It just shows the hard work and professionalism of the men of the AGMC.”

As one of the longest-operating gay choruses in the world, the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus was an early member of GALA, the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (www.galachoruses.org). At a time when the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered movement was still gaining momentum, GALA began with a handful of members — many, unlike Atlanta, *without* the word “gay” in their name due to the pressures of the time. Today, almost 150 choruses from around the world are members, working together to present high-quality performances that change the world through song.

This year, GALA marked the silver anniversary of the quadrennial festivals that bring most of the choruses together for a week of workshops, networking and, above all, fabulous performances. “The experience of seeing and hearing other choruses, talking with your colleagues from around the globe and hearing them premiere new works that perhaps someday you yourself will be performing...it's just an enriching and completely unparalleled experience,” Robison said.

The AGMC presented a diverse program of music in its set, performing Tuesday evening, July 15 in the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts (formerly the Carnival Center) in downtown Miami. Selections ranged from *Sinfonia Sacra* by gay American composer Daniel Pinkham, to the “Humming Chorus” from *Madam Butterfly*, “The Pilgrims' Chorus” from Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, the timely “Married” from the chorus' recent successful Alliance Theatre show *They Had It Coming: The Music of Kander & Ebb*, and “Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning,” a new arrangement of the traditional spiritual which saw its premiere at GALA Festival 2008.

'A Musical Force to be Reckoned With'

The AGMC is traditionally one of the “choruses to watch” at GALA Festival, due to its size and reputation for excellence. “But I have never been so proud as I was after this year's performance,” said Dennis R. Nance, long-time active AGMC member and self-proclaimed “oldest-living AGMC diva.” “We were a powerful musical force to be reckoned with. We have never been so ‘with Kevin’ as we were in this performance. In the five GALA Festivals in which I've participated, I don't think I've *ever* seen us receive *three* standing ovations.”

For information on auditions, the upcoming 28th season or other details regarding the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus, see www.agmchorus.org, call (404) 320-1030 or email agmcmail@bellsouth.net.

- more -

Gay Men's Chorus Receives Three Standing Ovation
at International Choral Festival
July 22, 2008
Page 2 of 2

About the AGMC

Musical excellence. High-energy entertainment. Community service. Camaraderie. *Pride*.

For over a quarter of a century, the AGMC has been a voice for diversity and inclusiveness, presenting high-quality musical entertainment that positively represents the gay community while serving the entire community at large.

The chorus and its select ensemble, Panache, have shared the stage with such notables as former poet laureate Maya Angelou, The Atlanta Opera, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Atlanta Ballet, Turtle Creek Chorale, the International Gay Men's Chorus of Paris, actor Leslie Jordan, and many more. The AGMC is a proud member of [GALA Choruses](#), the international Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, and [Chorus America](#), a group of over 1,600 choruses, individuals and businesses dedicated to the continued expansion of the choral movement in North America.

The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus is supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. The council is a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Corporate sponsors for the AGMC and its 27th season also include Metrotainment Cafes (Einstein's, Joe's on Juniper, Cowtippers, Garrison's, and Hudson Grille restaurants), Window Media, LLC (*Southern Voice* and *David* publications), Cooper Music, Kaiser Permanente, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Habersham Gardens Intown Garden Center, and Diageo.

Contact:

Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus
Brenda Pruitt, Executive Director
agmced@bellsouth.net
(404) 320-1030

###