



News from the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus

Macy's Presenting Sponsor of AGMC's Aug. 1 Salute to Gay, Black Jazz Musician

May 18, 2009 — The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus is proud to announce that Macy's — world-famous for its over 80-year history of quality and community service — is the presenting sponsor of the chorus' upcoming summer concert, "Lush Life: The Music of Billy Strayhorn."

The special event celebrates the life and music of William Thomas "Billy" Strayhorn (1915-1967), a composer, pianist and arranger best known for his almost 30 years as right-hand man to jazz legend Duke Ellington. Among Strayhorn's best-known classics are "Take the 'A' Train," "Satin Doll" and "Lush Life."



"Billy isn't better known because he chose to live his life 'out and proud' as a gay man," said Kevin Robison, AGMC artistic director. "That, plus his exceptional contributions to the unique art of American jazz, combines for perfect reasons for the chorus to celebrate his accomplishments."

Macy's Strong Commitment to Diversity

Sponsorship of the Aug. 1 event continues Macy's commitment to diversity, says Joe Vella, director of corporate giving for Macy's, Inc. "Macy's reaches out to our communities to build solid, meaningful relationships. We believe in helping produce stronger and healthier communities for our customers and employees. And of course we're very committed to making Macy's stores the 'best place to shop' and work...regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or way of life.

"Macy's is proud to support the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus, long an integral part of the Atlanta area's healthy GLBTQ community...and that's what *diversity* is all about!" Vella continued.

The legendary retailer — long beloved for its Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City and telecast to millions around the world — has an exceptional record of employee retention and satisfaction, "largely because of their ongoing efforts to applaud diversity in every aspect of their corporate life," said Brenda Pruitt, AGMC executive director. "We of course appreciate their financial support of this entertaining and moving concert and, more importantly, their 'quality seal of approval' by choosing to associate with the AGMC. It is truly gratifying."

"Lush Life: The Music of Billy Strayhorn" will be presented for one special night on Saturday, Aug. 1 in Symphony Hall at the Woodruff Arts Center in midtown Atlanta. More information on other organizations co-presenting the concert with the AGMC, and how to purchase tickets, will be announced shortly.

For more information, see the chorus' web site at www.agmchorus.org or call the office at (404) 320-1030.

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

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community at large.

The chorus and its select ensemble, Panache, have shared the stage with such notables as former poet laureate Maya Angelou, actor Leslie Jordan, The Atlanta Opera, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Atlanta Ballet, Turtle Creek Chorale, the International Gay Men's Chorus of Paris, 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 Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund and 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 28th season include Window Media, LLC (Southern Voice and David publications), Metrotainment Cafes (Einstein's, Joe's on Juniper, Cowtippers, Garrison's, and Hudson Grille restaurants), IHR - Integral HR, Cooper Music, Kaiser Permanente, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Habersham Gardens, and Diageo.

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