

(Member Chorus Letterhead)

Editor/Reporter Note: This week-long event is filled with performances and performers which have national and regional significance and feature news value. Registered and credentialed members of the media are encouraged to pre-register with the Festival in order to receive a free "all access" media pass for all Festival 2008 events. Additionally, each morning GALA Choruses will host a media breakfast at 10 a.m. in Miami, on site at the LOGO Lounge location. These informative sessions will feature guest performers and newsmakers.

For Immediate Release

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(Member Chorus Name) Joins Celebrities, 5,000 Delegates and 120 Choirs in Miami for One of Nation's Largest Choral Events

*GALA Choruses Celebrates 25th Anniversary at Festival 2008
Performances Dedicated to 'Changing the World through Song'*

(City and State Dateline), June XX, 2008 – (Member Chorus Name), a member of GALA Choruses, an internationally recognized advocacy organization for gay and lesbian choruses, will convene with more than 5,000 delegates and 120 choirs from 40 states and six countries in Miami, Florida, from July 12 through 19, 2008, to help GALA Choruses celebrate its 25th anniversary at Festival 2008. GALA Choruses Festival 2008 is the largest GLBT performing arts event in the world.

The (Member Chorus Name) is comprised of XX individuals, and performs XX times a year in the (City Name) area. The group will be represented by XX singers at Festival 2008. (Member Chorus Name) will commemorate the silver anniversary of GALA Choruses along with the following special guests:

- Alec Mapa, actor, comedian, playwright and journalist
- Ann Hampton Callaway, actress, singer and songwriter
- Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, singer and civil rights activist
- Toshi Reagon, singer, songwriter and activist
- Ari Gold, independent recording artist

Festival 2008 is being generously underwritten by LOGO™, Comcast, Coors Brewing Company, Kimpton Hotels, American Airlines, Macy's, AT&T Foundation, ARAMARK Parks & Resorts, Aquafina and ACFEA Tour Consultants.

GALA Choruses is an internationally recognized advocacy organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) choruses. It is the largest GLBT performing arts event in the world. The group's weeklong gathering of singers, choirs and clinicians boasts a full schedule of performances, commissioned works, workshops and social events. The event will be held at Miami's Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, formerly known as the Carnival Center.

“The entire membership of the (Member Chorus Name) is looking forward to participating in Festival 2008, commented (NAME), Artistic Director of the group. “It provides an excellent opportunity to network with other GLBT choral singers, as well as significant opportunities to learn and grow artistically.”

Throughout the weeklong event, there will be numerous special events and workshops for attendees during the morning hours. During the afternoons and evenings, GALA member choruses will be performing in one-half hour increments.

GALA Choruses' membership includes more than 7,500 individuals drawn from every major metropolitan area in the United States, as well as several major cities in Canada, Australia and Europe. The organization's 150 member choruses reach in excess of one million people annually through concerts, community appearances, Internet, radio and television appearances, and through recorded music.

“We are exceptionally pleased to have the support of our visiting celebrities, our sponsors, and of course, the 5,000 delegates that will make Festival 2008 an event for the record books,” commented Sonelius Kendrick-Smith, President of the GALA Choruses Board of Directors. “It is incredibly affirming to have a gathering of so many talented individuals standing behind and supporting the mission and objectives of GALA Choruses. For the past 25 years, we have endeavored to change the world through song. This event confirms that the arts – and particularly the choral arts – are truly a medium that supports change and fosters understanding in nearly every corner of society.”

Dr. Timothy Seelig, Artistic Director in Residence for GALA Choruses and Director Emeritus of the Turtle Creek Chorale in Dallas, Texas, reinforces the notion that choral singing is indeed a change medium. “Festival is a life changing experience for choral singers. If you attend, you will cry. You will laugh. You will get chill bump on top of chill bump. You will stand and applaud your brothers and sisters for sharing their very souls so proudly. Most importantly, you will go home a different person.”

The GLBT choral movement has been gaining considerable momentum for more than 30 years. The Anna Crusis Women's Choir, formed in the fall of 1975, is the longest running feminist choir in the United States. The San Francisco Gay

Men's Chorus (SGFMC), founded in 1978, debuted after forming informally to sing a memorial hymn on the steps of the San Francisco City Hall on the evening Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk were assassinated. GALA Choruses was incorporated in 1983. For a complete timeline of GALA Choruses milestones, visit www.galachoruses.org/about/history.html.

(insert boilerplate description of local choral group here)

GALA Choruses, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3), not-for-profit organization serving the GLBT choral movement. The mission of GALA Choruses is to support GLBT choruses as we change our world through song. GALA Choruses is open to all GLBT and GLBT-allied choruses. Through workshops, festivals and ongoing networking and administrative support services, GALA Choruses fosters the continued artistic and organizational growth of its member choruses. For more information, please visit www.galachoruses.org.

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