

Arizona Women in Tune



Merry and Bright

Local holiday concerts by LGBT ensembles honor many traditions

By Liz Massey

PHOENIX — The LGBT equality movement is, at its best, about inclusion and goodwill, and two local musical groups will reflect these qualities in their holiday-themed concerts this month, according to organizers.

Arizona Women in Tune (AZWIT), the Valley's lesbian choral,

will present "Spirit Journeys: Mystics & Muses" on Dec. 11 and 12 at Faith Lutheran Church in central Phoenix and on Dec. 13 at the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Tempe. The ensembles of the Grand Canyon Performing Arts (GCPA) organization will present "Wish Upon a Star" Dec. 18-20 at John Paul Theater on the campus of Phoenix College.

A Z W I T ' s artistic director Kim McCreary

said her group's concert would reflect both the serious and lighter side of the holiday season.

"I believe our spirit journeys, both as a society and as individuals, often contain a dual nature: the more serious spiritual element circumscribed in mystery and expressed in the mystical, and the lighter side of the holidays, found in the creative 'imp,'" she said. "The music of the concert reflects that duality."

The AZWIT chorus will perform works that include Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols," several Hanukkah-inspired Jewish songs, as well as renditions of Mariah Carey's popular song "All I Want for Christmas Is You," and humorous piece, "Coming Out on Christmas Day."

Programming for the AZWIT concert includes pieces that celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Winter Solstice.

"AZWIT itself is extremely spiritually diverse and that diversity is reflected in the members of our music selection committee," McCreary said. "We've always worked hard to make sure our music is as balanced as possible."

The GCPA concert will feature many of the organization's performing groups, including the Phoenix Metropolitan Men's Chorus/Philharmonic Ensemble, Canyon Echoes and Harmonic Vibrations. Press materials for the concert promise "traditional and not-so-traditional holiday favorites" that dovetail with the organization's theme for its 2009-10 concert season, "Reach for the Stars."

"Our holiday wishes will be interwoven with our music for a world filled with peace, diversity and good will to all," wrote GCPA Artistic Director Marc Gaston in an online introduction to the concert.

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VITAL STATISTICS

"Spirit Journeys: Mystics & Muses"

Presented by Arizona Women in Tune
7:30 p.m. Dec. 11 and 12

Faith Lutheran Church,
801 E. Camelback, Phoenix

4 p.m. Dec. 13

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany,
2222 S. Price Road, Tempe

Tickets: \$18

Information: <http://www.azwit.com/concerts.html>

"Wish Upon a Star"

Presented by Grand Canyon
Performing Arts

8 p.m. Dec. 18, 7 p.m. Dec. 19,
2 p.m. Dec. 20

John Paul Theater at Phoenix College,
1202 W. Thomas Road, Phoenix

Tickets: \$23; \$18 senior;
\$13 12 and under

Information: <http://phoenixmetropolitanmenschorus.org/>