

Featuring the world premiere of

Song of the Dying Amazon by Kay Gardner

a piece specially commissioned by the chorus and conducted by the composer



Archive

Third Annual Fall Concert November 22, 1997 Harrisburg Unitarian Church

Strawberry Café



704 North Third Street Harrisburg

2 PM to 2 AM Monday through Saturday The members and Board of the Harrisburg Men's Chorus request the pleasure of your company at

A Reception

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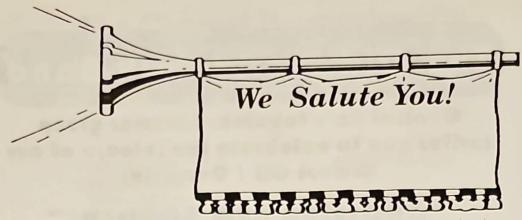
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Welcome! Without our audience, there can be no chorus. Your enthusiasm is contagious, and we thank you for it.

Behind the scenes, countless individuals and organizations give quietly and generously of their money, time and talents to support the chorus. We wish we could name you all. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank each

and every one of you.

If you have not yet joined our supporters, we would love to have you. If you are a woman who can sing and would like to start each week with an inspiring rehearsal, join us when we resume rehearsals in January. If you have desktop publishing experience and equipment, if you like to do fundraising, if you would like to help produce the concerts, if you have public relations experience, or if you just have energy you'd like to share, please give us a call at our new phone number (234-4825) and we will be happy to welcome you to the Womyn's Chorus family!

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Our apologies to those whose contributions we may have overlooked here.

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The Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus

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Theresa Alberici Donna Bowers Kathy Clark Kathy Darrow Sarah Hopkins

Sandy Westerman

Soprano Two

Jan Davis Gini Greenhalgh Lee Melchior

Cathy Nelson (on leave) Shirley Tannenbaum

Alto One

Linda Murphy Linda Mussoline Joanne Senier Susan Swope Yvonne Wilson

Alto Two

Chris Bilger
Pam Desch
Donna Gomboc (on leave)
Jan Frye
Ellen Roane (on leave)

Kate Williams

Artistic Director
Tom Tiehel

Accompanist

Dawn Grib

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The Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus is a member of GALA Choruses, an international alliance of women's, men's, and mixed choruses. For more information, please call or write:

GALA Choruses, Inc. PO Box 65084 Washington, DC 20035 Phone 202-467-5830

The Chorus is also a member of the Sister Singers Network of women's choirs.

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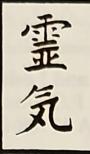
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We sponsor bimonthly events which offer networking, social, and community service opportunities for members and friends.

Prospective members are encouraged to attend their first event free of charge. Membership is open to any person who pays the \$25 per year fee. Dues help to defray the costs of each event and surplus yearly dues are donated to local charities.

For more information:

- Call The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg 234-0328 (6-10 pm M-F) or
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Kay Gardner

At age four, Kay Gardner performed her first composition. Her first large work was a full-length musical, *Tcartsba*, written as a teenager while a music student at the University of Michigan.

After eleven years of marriage and children, she returned to the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where she studied flute with Samuel Baron and Jean-Pierre Rampal in master class.

In 1974, after receiving her M.Mus. degree, she began composing again and, active in the women's movement, released her earliest compositions on womenowned record labels.

To date Kay has thirteen recordings of original compositions, the most well-known of which are *Mooncircles* (Urana Records), *A Rainbow Path* and her oratorio *Ouroboros* — *Seasons of Life* (Ladyslipper Records).

An authority on the healing properties of music, Kay is the author of *Sounding the Inner Land*scape: Music as Medicine (Element Books, London), and will soon release a six-cassette teaching series, *Music as Medicine* (Sounds True, Boulder).

Since 1976, Kay has travelled throughout the world as a composer / performer and as leader of workshops on music and healing.

Today, she spends less time on the road and more time composing, receiving commissions from performance groups nationwide. Her orchestral works *Rainforest, Quiet Harbor*, and *The Rising Sun* have been performed by symphonies in California, Texas, Missouri, Maine, Minnesota, Michigan, Washington, D.C., Indiana, Illinois, and England.

At home in Maine, Kay leads the Bangor women's chorus, Women with Wings, is Music Director of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Bangor, and is an active member of the Maine Composers' Forum.

The winner of numerous awards, grants, and prizes, in May, 1997, Kay Gardner was awarded an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Maine.

In 1983, she received Boston's Oasis Award for the "Lesbian tradition of pride, humor, and integrity."

Kay lives with her partner of nineteen years on the coast of Maine (in Stonington), where they share a home, three cats, three fish, and a parakeet, and run a rooming house for womyn.

She has researched her ancestors in her motherline back to the Mayflower. Her favorite is Deborah Sampson, who fought in the Revolutionary War disguised as a man.

Some of Kay's CDs will be available for purchase during the intermission.

Song of the Dying Amazon

Shirley Tannenbaum is the Executive Director of Survivors, the domestic violence and sexual assault program in Adams County. She sings soprano two in the chorus, and serves on the board of directors.

She has been writing poetry since her childhood. Song of the Dying Amazon was born many years ago, at a difficult time in her life. It has always been a favorite of her partner, Susan Swope.

In the summer of 1996, Susan won a raffle. She decided to fulfill a dream, and commission Kay Gardner to put that poem to music for the Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus.

She was sure Kay was the right woman for the job. Much of her music is written in pentatonic scales that evoke the ancient music of the eastern Mediterranean, land of the Amazons, and Kay already had considerable experience writing women's choral music.

Kay decided to write the piece in what mainstream musicologists now call the Mixolydian mode, and she calls the "Lesbian" mode, because of its origin on the island of Lesbos, during the age of Sappho.

Chapter VI, Melody: Heart and Soul of Music, in Kay's book, Sounding the Inner Landscape: The Healing Power of Music, explores scales, modes, and ragas (terms that are synonymous). She points out that the Lesbian mode survives today in the music of Scotland and Ireland as well as in the songs of American Appalachia. It was used often in religious chants during the Middle Ages, for open and joyful music. She characterizes it as a healing mode.

The full text of the poem appears on the inside of the back cover of this program book.

To Shirley and Kay, to
Tom and Dawn, to Amy,
Marti, and Mary, and to
all the wild and wonderful
women of the chorus —
Thank you for making
a dream come true!

with love from Susan



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Program

Come, Let's Begin

Thomas Weelkes (pub. 1608), arranged by Clifford M. Shipp

Maidens Fair, of Mantua's City

Giovanni Gastoldi (d. 1622)

Young Rider

Source unknown

Appalachian Round

American folk song

Harriet Tubman

Walter Robinson, arranged by John Coates, Jr.

A Prairie Woman Sings

Composed by Eugene Butler, text by Thelma Largent

The Stove

Composed by Zae Munn, text by Ann Kilkelly

Joan of Arc

Ruth Huber

Song of the Dying Amazon

World Premiere of a piece specially commissioned by the chorus Composed by Kay Gardner, text by Shirley Tannenbaum Martha Pineno Hess, oboe; Mary Roth, celtic harp; Amy S. Tyler, cello Conducted by the composer

Sky Dances

Music by Roy Brown, text by Jimmy Durham Arranged by Jennifer E. Stasack

Wild Women Don't Get the Blues

Ida Cox, arranged by the chorus
Soloists: Theresa Alberici, Donna Bowers, Lee Melchior,
Joanne Senier, Kate Williams

- Intermission-

Common Woman

Based on a poem by Judy Grahn

Ancient Mother

Traditional, Native American

Lady of Spain

Music by Tolchard Evans, words by Erell reaves arranged by Victor Lamont Accordion player: Kathy (Shoes) Fillman

Early One Morning

Folk Song Lee Melchior, soloist

Three Little Maids

Music by Arthur Sullivan, words by William Gilbert Arranged by Sally K. Albrecht from The Mikado

Comin' Into My Years

Betsy Rose, arranged by J. David Moore

Wanderlust

Connie Kaldor, arranged by J. David Moore

The Perfect Night

Music by Jeff Langley and Holly Near, arranged by J. David Moore

Big Dogs, Music, and Wild Wild Women

Ruth Huber
Dancer: Yvonne Wilson

Big Legged Woman

by Marla Beth Elliott and the Righteous Mothers
Arranged by Pamela Gerke
Choreographer: Lee Melchior

Dancers: Theresa Alberici, Lee Melchior, Linda Murphy, Joanne
Senier, Shirley Tannenbaum, Sandy Westerman, Kate Williams

Our Artistic Director

At the tender age of eleven, **Tom Tiehel** was already the organist for his church. He holds a Master of Sacred Music degree from Southern Methodist University and Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas, with a concentration in choral and instrumental conducting and organ performance. Tom earned his undergraduate degree at Towson State University, in organ performance, and has also studied at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey.

The Director of Music at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Harrisburg (which has a congregation of more than 3000 members), he is responsible for all of the Cathedral's choirs and ensembles (including handbell choirs) and the entire music program at the school. He has directed community choruses as well.

Tom served as our interim director in the summer and fall of 1996. A year ago, after an exhaustive search and interviews with numerous strong candidates, the chorus members selected Tom as our artistic director.

Our Accompanist

Dawn Grib graduated from Indiana State University in Terre Haute in 1981, with a degree in music theory and composition. She has served as organist, accompanist, and/or choir director in a variety of churches throughout the Midwest and mid-Atlantic regions, and has also performed with the Ron Freeman Chorale, an early music choral group based in Arlington, Virginia. Currently, she is organist/choir director of Barrens United Lutheran Church in Dillsburg. Early in 1997, she was hired as our first accompanist.

American Sign Language Interpreter

Susan Leviton is a Jewish cultural worker. She researches and gives performance workshops on Yiddish music of the turn of the century and the Holocaust, and particularly music of and about women. Susan sings with The New (New World Folk Band, whose first CD is about to be released (see their ad), and is also a visual artist (see the ad for Levworks). She has sung soprano two with the chorus, and serves on our board of directors.

Guest Accompanists

Martha (Marti) Pineno Hess is both a visual and musical artist. She earned her B.S. in art education from Millersville University. A former member of the Pottsville Symphony, she plays oboe with numerous area ensembles. Marti teaches drawing, painting, pottery and oboe at her studio (Cygnet Studios) in Elizabethtown. She looks forward to the debut of her world wide web page, at www.cygnetstudios.com.

Mary Roth earned her B.A. in music at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia. She is the organist at Twenty-Ninth Street Methodist Church in Harrisburg.

Amy S. Tyler played cello with the York Symphony from 1986 to 1996, and has performed concerts with Natalie Cole, Henry Mancini, and Engelbert Humperdinck. She is a graduate of the American Institute for Paralegal Studies.

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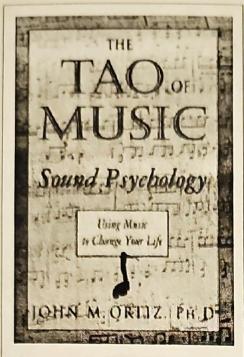
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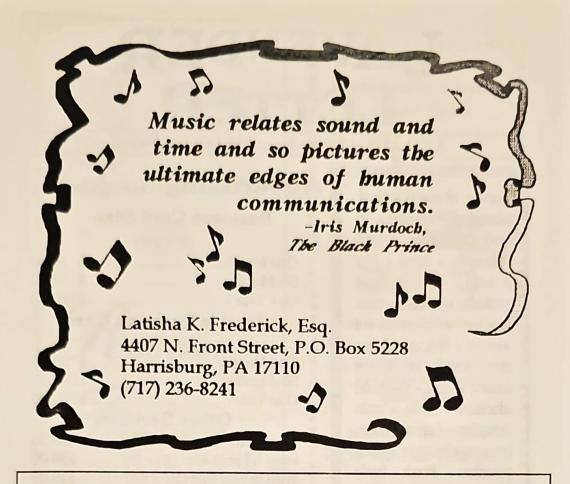
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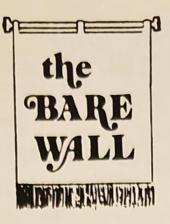
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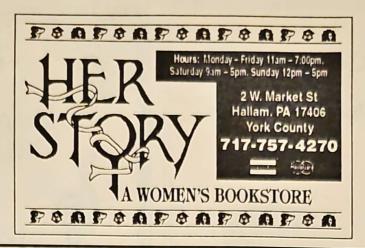
The fact that so many have said yes to our request that they advertise in our program book is a tribute to their respect for the Womyn's Chorus. Please patronize these businesses, and when you do, tell them it is because they placed an ad in our program book.

Thank you!

Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus from the Gay and Lesbian Book Discussion Group!



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DONALD GARNETT

Song of the Dying Amazon

Hear! My Beloveds Hear me singing in the dust. Mine is a voice caught in a web of time and place.

As I go down to that river and cross over to lie down with my sisters I will sing a new song.

From my mountain top I look down and see my death Calmly, I descend to meet it.

Powerful as living, in my communion with life, I have consumed the host of pain in unflagging drafts, tenacious as my passion for love. And, my Beloveds, I am true to my passions.

There are lost loves abandoned loves new loves and dead loves still singing from the grave. Beloveds,
out of my dust,
I tell you of one life,
particular and peculiar,
set in time and place
and not long enough
to dry the springs of love.
And, if in winding sheets,
I am still singing,
My voice will send praise
into the air
into the sky
into the forests
and glens.

Saying:
All glory to the time
and life
Praise be to the pleasure
and the pain
the wounding
And healing.

And, my loves, even knowing that life is brief and the end is always death, I would say yes again yes to life yes to flesh that burgeons and decays and ask again to die.



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The Harrisburg Men's Chorus

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