

From: ARTEMIS SINGERS
Chicago's Lesbian Feminist Chorus
Chicago, Illinois 60657
www.artemissingers.org

News Release

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For Immediate Release

7:30 p.m. at 7574 N. Lincoln Avenue, Skokie, Ill.

Artemis Singers "Many Voices Create the Song" concert Jan. 19, 2013 celebrates individuality, diversity

CHICAGO — Artemis Singers (www.artemissingers.org), Chicago's Lesbian Feminist Chorus, will present "Many Voices Create the Song: Artemis Singers in Concert," at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013, at the Ethical Humanist Society, 7574 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, Ill. (south of Howard Street, west of Skokie Blvd.)

In an unusual twist to concert programming, each chorus member selected a song relating to her own personality and experiences. Some songs reflect a milestone in life, such as falling in love, coming out as a lesbian or giving birth. Many individuals proposed songs or written works which speak to their relationships.

"The chorus has a diversity of ages and experiences," said artistic director Loraine Edwalds, Chicago. "The result is a beautiful mosaic of music and poetry."

Songs include "On the Street Where You Live" from My Fair Lady; "Lullabye" by Cris Williamson; "Something About the Women" by Holly Near; "Testimony" by Ferron; and "Gambda Adisa" by Chicago-born Joan Szymko about Audre Lorde.

Edwalds will present "Wonderland," a poem she wrote when coming out. Production coordinator Meta Hellman will present an original spoken word piece.

Edwalds hopes to give the audience a better sense of who Artemis is as a collection of individuals instead of simply as an integrated whole.

Founded in 1980, the 29-member Artemis Singers specializes in music written or arranged by women.

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“Our older members came out of an era where they were harassed for speaking up as women,” she said. “We were told to be quiet, to know our place in society. In contrast, it is a totally different era for women coming out today.

“The question is not ‘Why do you need to speak up?’ but rather ‘What’s the point of speaking up?’ since the battles appear to have already been won,” said Edwalds, noting that the chorus recently added new members, many of whom are younger.

Skokie, Ill.’s Stephanie Larenas is Artemis Singers’ piano accompanist.

“Many Voices Create the Song” tickets in advance are a suggested donation of \$10. At the door, tickets are a suggested donation of \$15. Tickets may be purchased by mail with a check payable to Artemis Singers, P.O. Box 578296, Chicago, IL 60657. Visit www.artemissingers.org to purchase tickets online.

Inducted into the City of Chicago’s Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2008, Artemis Singers has been a mainstay in lesbian feminist cultural life. Artemis has performed at Lincoln Center in New York City, the State of Illinois Building, Chicago Cultural Center, as well as Sister Singers Network festivals throughout the U.S. Audiences have seen Artemis at the Chicago History Museum, the Jay Pritzker Pavilion at Millennium Park (Gay Games), at Women & Children First bookstore and at several universities.

The chorus takes its name from the Greek goddess Artemis, who is a symbol of independence among lesbian feminists.

Artemis membership is open to all women singers. The chorus also provides creative opportunities for women interested in aspects of choral production: songwriting and arranging, performance lighting, choreography, audio, artistic direction, stage management and vocal instruction.

The concert venue, near Oakton Community College, is one-half mile north of the Touhy Avenue I-94 (Edens Expressway) interchange. Parking is available in the lot adjacent to the Ethical Humanist Society or on the street. The building is accessible. The concert will take place in the auditorium.

With advance notice, a free shuttle ride from the CTA Yellow Line’s Oakton-Skokie station to the concert venue will be available. To make a reservation or for concert information, email info@artemissingers.org or call 773-764-4465.

Artemis Singers is on Facebook.