

From: ARTEMIS SINGERS @artemissingers
Chicago's Lesbian Feminist Chorus
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News Release

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For Immediate Release

5th annual Pride concert/dance

Artemis Singers presents "Proud to be...Me!" June 6 on Chicago's North side; June 13, South side

CHICAGO — For the first time, Artemis Singers, www.artemissingers.org, Chicago's lesbian feminist chorus, will present its annual Pride concert and dance on both Chicago's North and South sides.

This year's theme, "Proud to be...Me!" showcases songs about individuals' inherent worth and dignity. Open to the public, "Proud to be...Me!" will be held at:

- 7 p.m. Saturday, June 6, at Broadway United Methodist Church, 3338 N. Broadway, Chicago. Concert and dance are accessible.
- 7 p.m. Saturday, June 13, at Beverly Unitarian Church, 10244 S. Longwood Drive, Chicago. Concert is accessible.

The dance with live DJ immediately follows each concert.

The 40-member Artemis Singers, celebrating its 35th anniversary, specializes in performing music written or arranged by women.

"This concert expresses the importance of women being seen and appreciated as whole people, instead of some narrow view of a woman's body shape or a woman's place," said Sue Dunmore, artistic director, "Proud to be...Me!" In 2011, Dunmore originated the idea for the chorus' Pride month concert and dance, which was so successful it became an annual event.

On the "Proud to be...Me!" program is the hit "All About that Bass," by Meghan Trainor. "This song explores holding on to a positive self-image in spite of destructive societal pressure," said Dunmore, who serves on Artemis Singers' board of directors as secretary. She also is the chorus' graphic artist.

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Artemis Singers will perform the Wyrd Sisters song, “Warrior,” about using inner strength to change the world. The “Proud to be...Me!” program also features “Proud” by Heather Small, “Big-Boned Gal” by k.d. lang and “Try” by Colbie Caillat.

The nonprofit chorus will premiere “Whispering of Angels,” a song that expresses the importance of listening to one’s inner voice for validation instead of letting outside voices define how to be perfect. “Whispering of Angels” lyrics are by the Reverend Pamela Rumancik and music is by her wife, the Reverend Karen Mooney, minister, Beverly Unitarian Church, Chicago, and Artemis Singers member.

“It’s a song that speaks to the challenges we face every day,” said Rev. Mooney. “We hear negative talk about how we are acting, what we should be doing or that we are not good enough. These external criticisms could diminish our feeling of self-worth. But, if we listen to the voice within ourselves, we will realize we do have power.”

On a lighter note, the chorus will perform “I Enjoy Being a Dyke,” a parody of Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein’s “I Enjoy Being a Girl,” from the musical, “Flower Drum Song.” Artemis Singers treasurer Loraine Edwalds and chorus member Ruth Clark wrote the parody lyrics, which include:

...I am proud that my silhouette is sturdy,
That I walk with a sure and steady gait,
Not afraid to be outdoors and get dirty...
...Despite all the memos I've been dropping,
Rachel Maddow won't do stories about me!

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. Fourteen chorus members have been legally married to women or are engaged to women. Artemis Singers performed at Illinois’ Marriage Equality signing ceremony, Nov. 20, 2013, and the March on Springfield (Illinois) for Marriage Equality rally Oct. 22, 2013.

To purchase tickets online, visit <http://artemisproudlakeview.brownpapertickets.com> for the North side venue and <http://artemisproudbeverly.brownpapertickets.com> for the South side venue. Tickets are a suggested donation of \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door for adults. Tickets for seniors age 65 and older and for children age 12 and younger are a suggested donation of \$10. The ticket price includes admission to both concert and dance. Tickets may be purchased by mail with a check payable to Artemis Singers, P.O. Box 578296, Chicago, IL 60657. Tickets also are available from any Artemis Singers chorus member.

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Artemis Singers will donate a portion of the proceeds from the June 13 Beverly concert and dance to Affinity Community Services, www.affinity95.org, a social justice organization which serves LGBTQ and Black communities.

The June 6 venue, Broadway United Methodist Church, is located on the corner of Broadway and Buckingham in Chicago’s East Lakeview. Traveling to the north side June 6 should be easier since the Chicago Cubs are out of town. Several pay parking lots are within a few blocks of the church. Check Artemis Singers’ website for parking information.

Skokie’s Stephanie Larenas and Chicago’s Laurie Lee Moses are the piano accompanists.

Artemis Singers is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization.

As a self-directed chorus, Artemis Singers holds song selection meetings where chorus members determine which songs will be part of a given concert. Artemis membership is open to all women singers. The chorus also provides creative opportunities for women interested in aspects of choral production: musical accompaniment, choral directing, songwriting and arranging, choreography, audio, performance lighting, artistic direction and stage management.

Artemis Singers is on Facebook and Twitter.

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