

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

News Release

Contact: Joanne Swanson pr@artemissingers.org (708) 336-8927

For Immediate Release

Artemis Singers presents “We Sing What Sparkles” June 15 Pride Concert/Dance

CHICAGO—Artemis Singers, www.artemissingers.org, Chicago's lesbian feminist chorus, will present “We Sing What Sparkles,” Pride concert and dance, Saturday, June 15, in Hyde Park, at First Unitarian Church, 5650 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago.

“This is an incredible time,” said Joy Culver, artistic director, Artemis Singers “We Sing What Sparkles” Pride concert and dance. “We have so much to celebrate. Chicago just elected its first Lesbian mayor, who is African-American and legally married to a woman. Plus, it is the 50th anniversary of Stonewall and next year will be Artemis' 40th anniversary. We have made enormous progress and the future is so promising.”

The nonprofit chorus specializes in performing music written or arranged by women.

At the June 15 concert, Artemis Singers will present the world premiere of “Lesbian Feminist Boogie” by Allison Downing, chorus member. “This upbeat, fun song communicates a strong current of woman empowerment,” said Culver.

The chorus will sing the foot-stomping “What Happens When a Woman” by Chicago-based vocal trio Artemisia, plus the chorus' long-standing audience favorite, “Fishing with the Lesbians.” The audience will hear Andra Day's inspiring song about relationships, “Rise Up.” Also on the program are “Seven Day Kiss,” “The Earth is Singing My Name,” “Con El Viento” and “Sweet Sorcery,” plus a few small group pieces.

Focus of the concert is interconnectedness. “We will sing about the sparkles of life that, when shared, build us up individually and together,” said Culver. “Body percussion will be utilized in several compositions.”

Featured guest artist is e nina jay, who recently released her new book Bricks, Blood & Water. e nina jay is a Black, Lesbian, Woman Writer who uses poetry as a tool of survival & to break silences around all forms of violence against gurls & womyn, with particular focus on the intersections of race, sexuality & poverty.

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“The dance after the concert provides the opportunity for women to socialize,” said Culver, noting the popular DJ “OCD” (Wanda Rodriguez) returns this year.

“We Sing What Sparkles” begins at 7:00 p.m. Concert and dance are both accessible. Street parking is available near First Unitarian Church.

Tickets are a suggested donation of \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Tickets for children 12 and younger, students (with ID) and seniors age 65 and older cost \$15. The ticket price includes admission to both events. For more information, call (773) 764-4465. Visit <https://sparklesartemis.brownpapertickets.com> for tickets. Email info@artemissingers.org to request June 15 tickets be held at the door.

Founded in 1980, Artemis Singers has been a mainstay in lesbian feminist cultural life. The chorus takes its name from the Greek goddess Artemis, who is a symbol of independence among lesbian feminists. The chorus was inducted into the City of Chicago’s Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2008. Audiences have seen Artemis Singers at the Chicago History Museum, the Jay Pritzker Pavilion at Millennium Park (Gay Games), at Women & Children First bookstore and at numerous universities.

Artemis Singers is comprised of women with diverse backgrounds who are dedicated to effecting positive change in cultural attitudes toward women and women artists. Performances highlight historical, political and personal events common to women.

Artemis Singers is a non-audition chorus open to all women singers, regardless of experience level or music reading ability. Each singer should be able to hold a melody and be excited to sing with a lesbian feminist chorus that performs music written or arranged by women.

Artemis Singers provides creative opportunities for women interested in all aspects of choral production: song writing and arranging, performance lighting, choreography, audio, artistic direction, stage management and vocal instruction.

Alicia Case and Mary Rapp are the “We Sing What Sparkles” production managers.

Artemis Singers is on Twitter and Facebook.

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