

Welcome to Quarter Time

Patrons of the Cincinnati Men's Chorus give us strong feedback about our performances. Audiences love our shows. But we keep hearing from subscribers, donors and others interested in CMC that they want to hear more about the chorus and what it is doing between concerts. So the chorus has restarted a quarterly newsletter, which will be sent out via e-mail as well as being available at the chorus' Web site.

Spotlight Photo:

Members of AcoustiCool perform this month at an HRC fundraiser featuring comedians Bruce Vilanch and Poppy Champlin.



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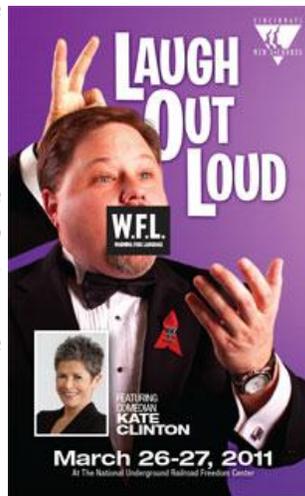
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It's time to 'Laugh Out Loud'

The Cincinnati Men's Chorus announces its spring concerts, "Laugh Out Loud," on March 26 and 27 at the Harriet Tubman Theater at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in downtown Cincinnati. The concerts begin at 8:07 p.m. on March 26 and 3:07 p.m. on March 27.

"Walk away from the blogs, drop the acronyms and the emailed cartoons. It's time to laugh out loud at some of the funniest and most sophisticated adult humor you can imagine happening on a Cincinnati stage" said **Dr. Patrick O. Coyle**, now in his 16th season as CMC's artistic director.

CMC's special guest at the concerts, part of its 20th anniversary season, will be comedian **Kate Clinton**, described by the New York Times as "the first lady of gay and lesbian comedy... a legend in and out of the GLBT community." The Los Angeles Times says "Clinton's appeal runs deeper than quotable lines, to a buoyant, bemused attitude that can connect seemingly distant dots."



The show will feature two favorites of Coyle's – "Class" from the musical Chicago, a bawdy lament about the loss of manners by a prison inmate and guard, along with "Carmina

Ricotta," which Coyle described as "a spoof on one of my favorite choral pieces of all time, 'Carmina Burana.'"

Other songs on the concert will include:

- *Schadenfreude*, from the Broadway musical Avenue Q.
- *In These Shoes*, a tale of a scandalous dancer performed by CMC's close harmony ensemble, AcoustiCool.
- *Sordid Lives*, the title song from the eponymous 2000 musical film that starred Olivia Newton-John.

Single tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 on the day of the performances. Tickets are available through the chorus' Web site, www.cincinnati menschorus.org, or by calling 513-542-2626.

"Laugh Out Loud" is sponsored by Janice Flanagan, vice president – investments at Wells Fargo Advisors LLC.

CMC searching for artistic director

The Cincinnati Men's Chorus is completing a national search for an artistic director.

"We hope to find a new artistic director who will build on the solid and outstanding traditions of the past 20 years, yet who will feel free to bring some new concepts and ideas to an already exceptionally fine chorus," said **Dr. Terence Milligan**, a former CMC president who is chairman of the search committee.

CMC artistic director **Dr. Patrick O. Coyle** announced last summer he would be stepping down at the end of the 2010-2011 season after 16 years on the CMC podium.

A seven-member search committee reviewed 13 applicants that sought the AD post. The committee will make a recommendation to the CMC board, which will then appoint a new AD later this spring.

The artistic director's job is to develop and execute both the creative and social justice visions of the chorus of gay and gay-supportive men. He or she is expected to: strive for musical excellence; grow membership; increase audience attendance and loyalty; increase CMC's

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David Lyman: The Straight Guy

I wanted to sing.

I sang all through my youth and into my college years. But then I stopped. It seemed that there was never enough time. Work. Marriage. Travel. More work.

But last year, I determined to find a way to sing again. I'd always dreamed of being part of a men's choir. So I went online and searched for a men's singing group in Greater Cincinnati. There was just one. The Cincinnati Men's Chorus.

I checked out the web site. I found information about performances and rehearsals and commitment. And then, there was the line – "for gay and gay-friendly men." I'm straight. But I'm definitely gay-friendly, so I decided to find out more. I friended CMC on FaceBook. A few days later, a message popped up informing me that the final auditions were that week.

I chickened out. I convinced myself it would be too time-intensive.

But a week later, there was another FaceBook message. The audition period had been extended. I had another chance. So I emailed the membership chair.

An hour or so later, he called. After a little hemming and hawing, he said "you know – at the moment, you will be our only straight member. Are you comfortable with that?"

I suppose this is where I could be very dramatic and say that this was a watershed moment for me. But honestly, I didn't have a moment's hesitation. Like I said, I wanted to sing. And this group offered what I wanted.

I auditioned. I was accepted. And I went to my first rehearsal.

I had no trepidation about being the only straight guy there. But in retrospect, I realize that the other members walked on eggshells the first couple of weeks I was there. Was there banter that would be unacceptable with me in the room? Was I a handshake man or a



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hugging sort of guy? No one wanted to offend me.

You see, CMC is not about being gay. It's about friendship and sharing and being part of a community. Our music isn't "gay," whatever that might mean. You could come to a CMC concert and have no idea that you'd just been entertained by a group of gay men. Or, more correctly, a group that is nearly all gay men.

That, in many ways, is the most wonderful aspect of all of this. We are a group of men who love to sing. (And incidentally, most of us are gay.)

Artistic director **Patrick Coyle** says that every time

we perform, we make a statement that will change somebody's life. During the past year, I have come to understand what he means. But to me, what makes our statement so profound is that we aren't making an in-your-face, preachy, proselytizing proclamation.

We refuse to fit into any stereotype of "gay." We are football lovers and ballet lovers.

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*"We are football lovers
and ballet lovers. We
are Republicans and
Democrats and
everything in between.*
◆◆◆

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20 for 20 update

The chorus' strategic plan for its 20th anniversary season includes ambitious goals revolving around the number 20. And we're close to reaching one of them!

Specifically, they include luring 20 new or returning singers into the chorus, adding 20 non-singing volunteers, boosting attendance at our subscription concerts by 20 percent and finally, 20 performances by the chorus or its ambassador small ensemble AcoustiCool.

We reach that last goal this month. The full chorus appeared in late February at the beautiful new School for the Creative and Performing Arts as part of the ArtsWave sampler weekends. AcoustiCool continues to be busy, appearing most recently at a fundraiser for HRC held at Below Zero Lounge and at the Friday concert series of Middletown's First United Methodist Church.

You'll see both new and returning singers for the spring concert, although we haven't reached our goal so far. Auditions for the next concert session will be April 7, 14 and 21. If you are interested in joining the chorus, contact vice president for membership **C. Ransom Hudson** at cransom_hudson@hotmail.com

We also need more volunteers. Join our BRAVO team by contacting board member **Pamela Rees** at bunnygrl@me.com

Finally, you can help us meet our attendance goal by buying tickets for our two remaining concerts. Remember, they're a little cheaper in advance than at the door — and these upcoming concerts just may sell out. Just call (513) 542-2626 or visit our website, www.cincinnatienschorus.org

Artistic Director, continued from p.2

exposure; select music, with input from a committee of singers, that addresses the social mission of CMC; and maintain an accepting, nurturing haven for all.

In addition to the planning, coordination and execution of CMC rehearsals and concerts, the job's responsibilities include acquisition and storage of music; supervision and education of singers; and serving as a spokesperson and publicity/communications advisor for the chorus.

Candidates were required to have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant area, such as conducting, music education, music performance, or church music; ability to teach any part and to teach correct vocal technique; basic piano skills; knowledge of all voice types; broad knowledge of music, including traditional and vernacular styles; and conducting experience, with a preference for choral conducting.

David Lyman, continued from p.2

We are Republicans and Democrats and everything in between. We are computer geeks and car aficionados and, in every way, are just like the community around us.

Yes, I'm the straight guy. But I have found a group where I belong, where I am welcome. And so are my wife and child. CMC is made up of men who are smart, worldly, clever, connected and thoughtful. They are men who are serious but know how to laugh. My year-old son is fortunate to have so many kind and loving uncles.

Cincinnati Men's Chorus is a group to be celebrated, to be appreciated, to be heard and seen because, if I do say so myself, we can be fabulously entertaining. We make Greater Cincinnati a better and richer place to live.

For 20 years, CMC has enriched the cultural landscape of this community. My only regret is that I did not find them and join them earlier.

Our Mission

Through our music, we strive for excellence; support and nurture our members; entertain our audiences; and work for justice, inclusion and harmony between the gay community and the community at large.

Staff

Dr. Patrick O. Coyle
Artistic Director

Russell Winters
Principal Accompanist

Board of Directors

Brian Reynolds
Craig Doolin
Tom Crawford
C. Ransom Hudson
Craig Brinkman
Eric DeForest
Pamela Rees
Stephen Brown
Dr. Patrick O. Coyle

Get in touch

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CMC is a non-profit organization under IRS code 501(c)(3). Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

**Thank you for your support of CMC!
Our final concerts with Dr. Coyle will
be June 4-5, 2011. Don't miss this special occasion,
which features MUSE and the premiere of
a new commissioned work by the CMC!**