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December 17
Winter holidays service

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Pagan solstice ritual



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**LOVE IS
LOUDER**

A Note From the Director...

The question was asked of us: How are we raising our voices in our community to benefit all and promote good?

So tonight, we raise our voices in celebration - singing a variety of faith and winter holiday traditions to lift all spirits.

Featured as part of tonight's performance, is the premier presentation of the new choral arrangement "Hope Song", by Ariella Forstein. Ariella shared this with us concerning "Hope Song" and herself:

"I am a World Music Songstress and Vocal Empowerment Coach. My business, The Ariella Approach, helps people find their authentic voices for speaking, singing and communication. I'm so very honored and excited that you're premiering my piece, "Hope Song", as a choral arrangement. Your doing this has opened a new door for me that I've always wanted to walk through, so I humbly thank you! I believe world peace is possible, but that it won't come solely come from words-it will come, piece by piece, as we help people open their hearts, and feel their suppressed emotions in a safe space; and that some of that safe space can be music. And, as we heal ourselves, we do actually heal the world. Thus, let's sing because it feels so healing, and good. I wrote the vocals for "Hope Song" and Jason Soderlund composed the instrumental parts using Ableton Live, thus, it was by our band, Vox Svara, and was a collaboration between us."

"There is only one non-English word in "Hope Song": Amal. It's traditionally sung as Mawal (Arabic vocal improvisation), often at the opening or in between verses and Taqsim (Arabic instrumental improvisation.) It is sung in a prayer and often can mean "God". It can also mean 'trust', 'safety', 'protection', 'tranquility', 'hope'.

The Music of other faith and winter holiday traditions honored in tonight's performance:

Native American poetry and prayer attributed to Chief Yellow Lark of the Lakota Sioux is featured in the choral arrangement of "A Native American Prayer" composed by Nolan E. Schmit. Chief Yellow Lark reportedly translated the prayer into English around 1887.

Harmonies and sounds of Native American traditions are incorporated in the round by Linda Kroon, "Beauty All Around", while the text is inspired by Celtic, Buddhist and Native American spiritual traditions.

The delight of Chanukah, the time to celebrate light and all the miracles around us, is joyfully heard in "Bidi Bom" when we sing "Holiday is here, it's a happy time of year!" "Ose Shalom" features the following beautiful words from the Jewish liturgy: "May the One who makes peace in the heavens Make peace for us and all Israel, And let us say: Amen."

Winter Solstice, an ancient tradition known as Yule, gave us mistletoe and the yule log, is a festival of light and the rebirth of the sun.

Kwanzaa is honored by our singing of "Kwanzaa Spirit". In this selection, the 7 principals of Kwanzaa Holiday are honored:

- **Umoja** – Unity
- **Kugichagulia** – Self Determination
- **Ujima** – Collective Work and Responsibility
- **Ujamaa** – Cooperative Economic
- **Nia** – Purpose
- **Kuumba** – Creativity
- **Imani** – Faith

We feature the holiday, Martin Luther Jr. King Day, as we sing several selections from our upcoming spring performance, *The Man Behind the Dream*, composed by Steve Milloy, honoring the life of Bayard Rustin, mentor to Martin Luther King, Jr. and organizer of the March on Washington in 1963. We will be one of several Gala choruses who are part of a co-commission performance of this exciting composition in spring of 2018. "Lift Every Voice and Sing" is the Black American National Anthem. "Blessed Are the Ones of Peace" is adapted from traditional hymn tunes and sung in the American tradition of Sacred Harp style.

Christian traditions are honored in the selections "African Noel", "Grace", and "The 23rd Psalm". "Grace" features the words of "Amazing Grace", set to the folk song tune of "The Water is Wide", or "Waly, Waly". We sing Bobby McFerrin's feminine setting of the 23rd Psalm, which he wrote to honor his mother.

A mish-mash of all traditions is heard in the treble-voice arrangement of Sacred Circle. Ruth Huber composed this piece, and used the symbol of the wreath to unite, and include the connection between Winter Solstice and traditional holiday carols.

Finally we hope our singing of "Organ Fugue", "Winter Song", and "Ashokan Farewell" bring you joy and uplift your spirit.

Gayle Hartwig

P R O G R A M

Lift Every Voice and Sing (from *The Man Behind the Dream*) J. Rosamond Johnson, arr. Steve Milloy
(Please stand as we enter singing the Black American National Anthem.)

Beauty, All Around

Linda Kroon

African Noel

arr. Andre J. Thomas

The 23rd Psalm (Dedicated to my Mother)

Bobby McFerrin

Winter Solstice Song

Elat Ophidia Alekner

Sacred Circle

Ruth Huber

Bidi Bom

David Eddleman

Hope Song

Ariella Forstein

Michael Stokes, soloist

(Premiere Performance as a choral arrangement, written for The Quire.)

I N T E R M I S S I O N

Organ Fugue, BWV 578

J.S. Bach, arr. Ward Swingle

A Native American Prayer

Nolan E. Schmit

Grace (Early American Melody)

arr. Mark Hayes

Winter Song

Sara Bareilles, Ingrid Michaelson, arr. Mac Huff

Marie Raven, Dixie Cassady, Rachel Austin, soloists

Ose Shalom (Traditional Hebrew Text and Tune)

arr. Michael Larkin

Blessed Are the Ones of Peace (from *The Man Behind the Dream*)

Tune adapted from Hymn tune *Aylesbury*, with original refrain by Jane Ramseyer Miller,
lyrics adapted from traditional Hymns, arr. Steve Milloy

Kwanzaa Spirit

Ginger Starling

Ashokan Farewell (from the PBS Series *The Civil War*, by Ken Burns)

Grian McGregor, Jay Ungar, arr. Carole Stephens

The Quire: Eastern Iowa's GLBT Chorus

Dr. Gayle Hartwig, director – Leslie Hyland, accompanist, percussion

Rick Chambers, drums – Jon Cryer, bass – Peggy Garrigues, violin – Erin Moses, cello

Soprano

Janet Ashman
Nancy Bell
Liz Bouma
Mary Nuebel
Marie Raven
Elisabeth Ross
Cate Sheller
Vilia Tarvydas

Alto

Laurie Aude
Rachel Austin
Peggy Garrigues
Sophie Joly
Lorrie Metcalf
Laren Savich
Sharon Smith
Trina Weiland

Tenor

Kai Bouma
Jill Cronbaugh
John Crosheck
Audra M. King
James Miller
Lindsay Alan Park
Nolan Petersen
Jessica Westin
David Wilson

Bass

Jon Chown
Andy Mills
Richard Olson
David Roe
Michael Stokes
Matthew Tombaugh

A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

The Quire wishes to thank...

- **Dr. Gayle Hartwig**, for musical leadership
- **Leslie Hyland**, for accompanying us this semester
- **Jonny Stax**, for invaluable assistance with sectional rehearsals
- **The Quire Board** (*Rachel Austin, Nancy Bell, Kai Bouma, Liz Bouma, Peggy Garrigues, Audra M. King, Jeffrey Allen Mead, David Roe, Michael Stokes*), for year-round organization
- **Jeffrey Allen Mead**, for poster and program design
- **Christopher Ingram**, for serving as sound technician
- **Zion Lutheran Church**, for rehearsal and performance space
- Our generous donors and sponsors, for making this all possible
- **YOU**, for attending our performances and supporting us!

Please join us after the concert for a reception in the Fellowship Hall

The Quire is a member of **Iowa Shares**, a coalition of social change, environmental, and cultural nonprofit organizations throughout the state of Iowa. Iowa Shares makes a direct impact on local communities through research, education, advocacy, and direct service.



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www.iowashares.org

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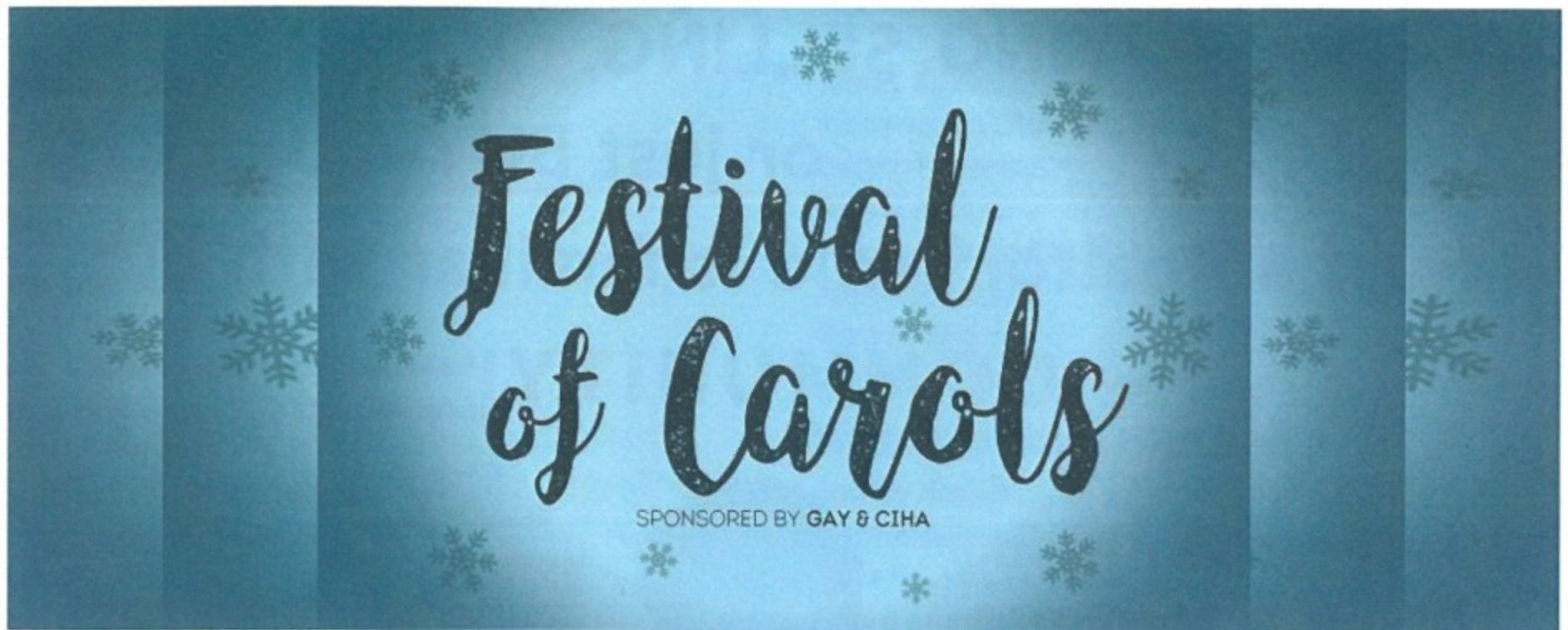
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This family-friendly event is FREE and open to the public – tickets are not required. Get into the holiday spirit with this festive cornucopia of carols, cocoa and stories, including special performances and a visit by Santa!

This year's celebration will include performances from **Old Capitol Chorus of Iowa City**, **Jeff Charis-Carlson**, a reading of *T'was the Night Before Christmas* by actor **Barrington Vaxter**, **The Quire: Eastern Iowa's GLBT Chorus**, **Vandello**, **Tempestt Farrar**, and **Friends of Fire** poi dancers.

More information can be found online at www.englert.org.



Like to
sing?
 **The Quire**
Eastern Iowa's GLBT Chorus
wants
YOU!!

We will resume rehearsals on Sunday, January 14th, at 6pm,
to begin preparing for our upcoming events:



"There's No Place Like Home"

March 3, 2018

Old Brick Auditorium

"Bayard Rustin: The Man Behind The Dream"

June 9, 2018

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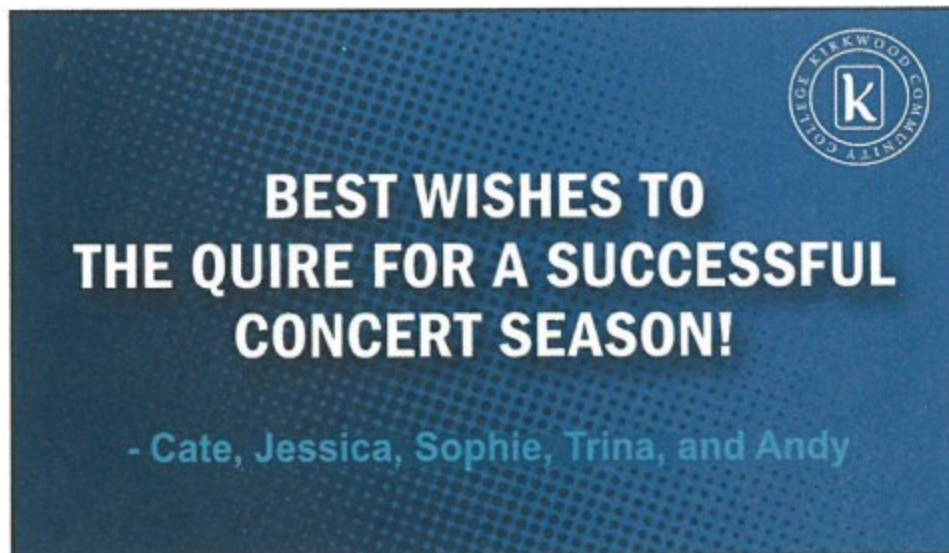
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- Cate, Jessica, Sophie, Trina, and Andy



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February 23 - March 4, 2018

A Man of No Importance

Music and Lyrics by **Stephen Flaherty** and **Lynn Ahrens**

Book by **Terrence McNally**

Directed by **Krista Neumann**

April 20 - April 29, 2018

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