



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

5 June 2008

Calgary Men's Chorus has the strength to dream

Calgary, AB - With *The Strength to Dream*, the Calgary Men's Chorus turns a spotlight on the strength of those who are still fighting to gain equal rights for the Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, and Bisexual (GLTB) community.

For this concert, the Chorus draws upon the imagery and story of St. Sebastian – a metaphor that is familiar to the GLTB community. Legend has it that St. Sebastian, a third Century captain of the Praetorian Guard, was tied to a tree and shot with arrows, but miraculously survived.

"Many times throughout history, queer society has felt the pain of arrows aimed at diminishing who we are as individuals and as a collective community," says Artistic Director, Jean-Louis Bleau. "But thanks to a persistent spirit and unshakable dreams, we have not only survived this barrage, but also rallied and returned ever stronger. Our struggles have improved conditions not just for our own communities, but for all marginalized groups."

The Chorus is excited to present three works commissioned specifically for this concert. The first is the painting of St. Sebastian created by Calgary visual artist, **J. Georgeadis** that has been used on all the posters and in the print advertising for this concert. Second, is the world premiere of a work by Calgary composer, **John Bouz**, called *Homage á Sébastian*, with choreography by Jennifer Mahood.

This unique work, inspired by the story of St. Sebastian, was made possible through the assistance of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and GALA Choruses. Finally, the concert features the world premiere of a work by the Chorus' own composer-in-residence, **Greg John**, a wonderful work that celebrates the resolve and unity of voice that has taken our community forward.

The Strength to Dream

Friday, June 20 at 8 pm

Rozsa Centre, University of Calgary

\$20

Tickets are available from Choir members, at the door or by e-mailing info@calgarymenschorus.org



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The Calgary Men's Chorus Society is a dynamic non-profit society dedicated to excellence in the teaching and performance of a broad spectrum of men's choral music. The Society is open to all men regardless of socio-economic status, physical ability or musical experience. We promote Canadian musicians and artists, and music written by Canadian composers and arrangers. Through choral music, we encourage a sense of community and positive self-image among gay men and lesbians, and to building important bridges of understanding with the public.

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For more information or to arrange an interview, contact:

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NEWS RELEASE

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Calgary Men's Chorus presents *A Christmas Carol*

20 November 2008 (Calgary, AB) – The Calgary Men's Chorus will welcome film director, actor and professor, Seth Donsky, as their special guest storyteller on December 20 for their concert, *A Christmas Carol*. Man has used stories to explain the world around him, to explore the past, to view the present, and to talk about the future. While the nature of storytelling has evolved to include a variety of media, the importance of storytelling still remains.

The queer community may sometimes feel justified in harbouring resentment and hatred towards those individuals and groups that have propagated the exclusion and hatred of them, but to do so only results in engaging in a similar hypocrisy.

"This concert is about drawing from the stories of the past, to inspire and energize us as we continue to destroy past prejudice and build a better world for future generations," says artistic director, Jean-Louis Bleau. "If we cannot find it in ourselves to show compassion for others how can we ever hope to move forward in our fight for acceptance? The message of *A Christmas Carol* resonates with me and I hope will do so with you: one person can make a difference."

A Christmas Carol

Saturday, December 20 at 8 pm

Rozsa Centre, University of Calgary

\$20 - Tickets are available by phoning 403.263.0079, at PumphouseTheatre.ca, from Choir members, or at the door.

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