

PRESS RELEASE

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**MEN ALIVE – THE ORANGE COUNTY GAY MEN'S CHORUS
PERFORMS FOR MEMORIAL AT CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL**

Memorial for Christian Humorist & Author Barbara Johnson

GARDEN GROVE, SEPTEMBER 21, 2007: Men Alive – The Orange County Gay Men's Chorus performed today at one of the country's best known evangelical churches, the Crystal Cathedral. Responding to the performance, The Reverend James Kok, Minister and Executive Director of Care Ministries at the Crystal Cathedral, said to the Chorus, "You are a spiritual gift."

Men Alive was an invited part of a public memorial service for Christian humorist and best-selling author Barbara Johnson. Johnson counseled evangelical parents of lesbian and gay children to continue to love their children unconditionally after learning of their sexual orientation. She titled her work the "Spatula Ministry," because, she said, a spatula was usually needed to pry parents off the ceiling after their children come out to them.

The service included video of Johnson's speaking appearances, tributes from Christian musician Gloria Gaither, friend Lynda Wigren, physician Jeffrey Bodwin, and son David Johnson.

Men Alive Director Rich Cook was also a friend of Johnson's, and he provided a personal tribute. The chorus performed two well-received hymns: "How Great Thou Art," and "I'll Fly Away."

Following the service, Cook commented, "This outreach appearance by Men Alive is a perfect example of our mission, 'Through music, men's voices unite as a vehicle to entertain, educate, bring healing, joy, community and build bridges to the public at large.' I believe that we touched a number of hearts and opened some minds today."

More than 70 singers from the 100-voice Men Alive attended and performed at the service.

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About Men Alive – The Orange County Gay Men’s Chorus: Founded in September 2001 by Artistic Director Rich Cook, Men Alive is currently celebrating its seventh season. Focused on the vision of being a positive voice and influence in Orange County and Southern California, Men Alive is dedicated to the following mission: “Through music, men’s voices unite as a vehicle to entertain, educate, bring healing, joy, community and build bridges to the public at large.” Membership in the Chorus currently numbers more than 170 members and 110 singers. More information can also be found on line at <http://www.menalivechorus.org/>

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