

PRESS RELEASE

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**MEN ALIVE – THE ORANGE COUNTY GAY MEN'S CHORUS
TO PERFORM "SECRET SANTA!" AT THE BARCLAY THEATRE**

Holiday Spectacular Features Singing, Dancing, with Reality TV Show Twist

Three Performances on Friday December 5 & Saturday December 6

Men Alive - The Orange County Gay Men's Chorus opens its eighth season with a very special and uniquely themed holiday show: the audience goes inside Santa's Workshop while the TV Reality Show cameras are rolling. "Secret Santa" takes the audience behind the scenes at the North Pole for a hilarious holiday musical, showing all the antics, frolicking, conflicts and nostalgic moments. Under the direction of Artistic Director Rich Cook, Men Alive presents three performances of "Secret Santa!" on Friday, December 5 at 8:00pm and Saturday, December 6 at both 3:00 & 8:00pm. The beautiful Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Drive, Irvine, serves as the venue for this holiday spectacular.

"Seeing the real life of those in the 'public eye' seems to be interesting in our present culture," said Cook. "So with the desire to include the traditions of the Holiday season, we decided to ride that current wave, and imaginatively take our audience to Santa's Workshop where they'll experience Holiday fun, spirit and nostalgia along with Santa and his Elves. The result will be a happy ending for all on Christmas Eve!"

Musically, the show will feature a very diverse range of holiday music: from the modern choral classic "O Magnum Mysterium" by Morten Lauridsen to Aaron Tippin's country hit "Big Boys Toys", from the traditional favorite "Joy to the World" with a hot gospel arrangement to the recent pop hit "When You Believe" from *The Prince of Egypt*, the show has something for everyone of all ages.

In addition to great music, Men Alive promises a whole host of its trademark surprises, skits and dance numbers: See our dancing elves take *Riverdance* to whole new level, complete with our Celtic Fiddler. Watch in disbelief as our hilarious Ballerina Dance Troupe shock & awe. And imagine the trials & tribulations as Santa's Mother-In-Law creates havoc spending Hanukah away from her warm home of Boca Raton.

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Men Alive's holiday shows are its most popular ones of the season, and ticket sales are already brisk. Advance tickets may be purchased at the Irvine Barclay Box Office, by phone at (949) 854-4646, or online at <http://www.thebarclay.org>.

Concert: ***Secret Santa!*** holiday show, with **Men Alive - The Orange County Gay Men's Chorus**, Rich Cook, Artistic Director

Date/Times: Friday, December 5, 2008, at 8:00pm, and two (2) shows on Saturday, December 6, 2008, at 3:00pm and 8:00pm

Location: Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Drive, Irvine CA 92612

Tickets: Reserved seating. \$47.50 / \$37.50 / \$25.00. Tickets are available on line at <http://www.thebarclay.org>, or by calling The Barclay at (949) 854-4646

Additional information about Men Alive and the concert can be found at the Chorus' website: <http://www.menalivechorus.org/>.

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 8th season. Focused on the vision of being a positive voice and musical 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 180 members with more than 120 singers. More information can also be found on line at <http://www.menalivechorus.org/>