

PRESS RELEASE

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Men Alive – The Orange County Gay Men’s Chorus Will Leave its Audiences “Laughing All The Way”

Chorus Invites Everyone to Share some Happiness during the Holidays

Three Concert Performances on Friday, December 4, and Saturday, December 5

Men Alive - The Orange County Gay Men’s Chorus will kick off its ninth successful season with a very special holiday concert that combines traditional songs of the season with modern musical numbers – not to mention that unique Men Alive humor – for one spectacular show you won’t want to miss! Under the direction of Artistic Director Rich Cook, Men Alive presents three performances of “Laughing All The Way” on Friday, December 4, at 8:00pm and again on Saturday, December 5, at both 3:00 and 8:00pm. The beautiful Irvine Barclay Theatre at 4242 Campus Drive in Irvine serves as the venue for all three performances of this holiday treat.

“Laughing All The Way” will feature well-loved standards like Judy Garland’s heart-felt “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,” Melissa Etheridge’s beautiful new song “Glorious,” and even “Christmas in California” as made famous by the Cheetah Girls. Audiences will also recognize classics like “Ave Maria” and “The First Noel,” and then will want to sing along with the Chorus during “Let it Snow” and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.” But only Men Alive can perform all these selections with its trademark combination of artistic excellence, campy comedy bits, dazzling dancing, professional production values, and wonderfully whimsical costumes.

Cook explained, “Everyone likes good news but we have had very little of that for months now. An ancient writing says, ‘Laughter is a good medicine for the heart.’ So as we gather for this season’s concert, our intent is to laugh together, let off steam, lighten some burdens, and lift our spirits – even if for a few moments – as we journey on. The audience will laugh many times, but will also have moments of reverence and meditation as the Chorus takes our audiences from hilarity to sweet repose. I hope everyone will join us for this magical ride!”

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Men Alive's holiday concerts are among its most popular shows of the season, and tickets for "Laughing All The Way will go on sale on September 28. Season subscriptions are also available for the entire 2009-2010 season. Advance tickets for any Men Alive concert may be purchased in person at the Irvine Barclay Box Office, by phone at (949) 854-4646, or online at <http://www.thebarclay.org>. .

Concert: ***Laughing All the Way*** holiday show, with **Men Alive - The Orange County Gay Men's Chorus**, Rich Cook, Artistic Director

Date/Times: Friday, December 4, at 8:00pm, and again on Saturday, December 5, 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 online 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 9th 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 190 members with more than 130 singers. More information can also be found online at <http://www.menalivechorus.org/>