

PRESS RELEASE

Immediate Release 3-10-2008

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**Bernadette Peters Joins Men Alive - The Orange County Gay Men's Chorus
At Orange County Performing Arts Center on Saturday, May 31**

Show Spotlights Music & Magic of New York City, Including Opera & Broadway

Two Performances at Orange County Performing Arts Center's Segerstrom Hall

Broadway legend **Bernadette Peters** will join **Men Alive – The Orange County Gay Men's Chorus** in the Chorus' season finale *New York City Rhythm!* on Saturday, May 31 at the Orange County Performing Arts Center. The show will re-create the magic & music of New York City on stage in two performances at Orange County's largest and most prestigious venue, the 3000-seat Segerstrom Hall.

Throughout her illustrious career, Tony Award-winning actress Bernadette Peters has dazzled audiences and critics with her performances on stage, on television, in concert, and in the recording industry. In 2003, she received a record-breaking seventh Tony Award nomination, for her electrifying portrayal of Momma Rose in Sam Mendes' Broadway revival of *Gypsy*. And prior, she won the Tony Award and her third Drama Desk Award for her show-stopping portrayal of Annie Oakley in the smash hit Broadway revival of *Annie Get Your Gun* in 1999. She has starred in more than 10 Broadway musicals, and won two Tony Awards.

A New York native and a Broadway legend, Bernadette Peters was Men Alive's first choice for its guest star at its season finale celebrating the music & magic of the Big Apple. "She is truly the epitome of all things musical and wonderful about New York City," said Men Alive's artistic director, Rich Cook.

"New York is a center for just about every musical style imaginable, but it is especially well known for hosting the best of opera and for being the birthplace of musical theatre," said Cook. "Ms. Peters' stature as a Broadway icon will bring a unique authenticity to the Broadway music we will be performing together."

The 120 voice chorus will present the concert in its own unique style, with dancing and movement, hilarious skits, and unique approaches to traditional musical genres. Asked for concert highlights, Cook cited music from the long-running Broadway show *Dreamgirls*; a hilarious and unique approach to the "Figaro song" (Largo al Factotum) from *The Barber of Seville* by Rossini; another very funny song, "There! Right There!" from the current Broadway hit, *Legally Blonde*; and an important song for the lives of many gays & lesbians, "We Kiss in a Shadow," from Rogers & Hammerstein's *The King and I*.

***Through music, men's voices unite as a vehicle to entertain, educate,
bring healing, joy, community and build bridges to the public at large.***

The chorus will also feature its ensemble, Bel Canto, as well as a corps of dancers choreographed by Broadway veteran Michael Misita.

Men Alive – The Orange County Gay Men’s Chorus is in its seventh season of entertaining Orange County audiences. The chorus recently concluded performances of holiday and springs shows, *Holly Jolly Hollywood* and *Vegas Gold!* respectively at the Irvine Barclay Theatre. Men Alive will also travel to Miami this July to perform in the quadrennial Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses festival.

Concert: *New York City Rhythm!* with Men Alive - The Orange County Gay Men’s Chorus, Rich Cook, Artistic Director, and special guest Bernadette Peters.

Date/Times: Two (2) shows on Saturday, May 31, 2008, at 3:00pm and 8:00pm

Location: Segerstrom Hall, Orange County Performing Arts Center, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Tickets: Reserved seating. \$55 / \$45 / \$35. Tickets are available on line at <http://www.ocpac.org>, or by calling The Orange County Performing Arts Center box office at 714.556.ARTS

Add’l Info: 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 sixth 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 120 singers. More information can also be found on line at <http://www.MenAliveChorus.org/>

About Bernadette Peters: A Broadway legend without peer, Ms. Peters has been nominated for a record-breaking seven (7) Tony Awards, and has won two. Over her distinguished career, she has starred in ten (10) Broadway musicals, including *Gypsy*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, Andrew Lloyd Webber’s *Song and Dance*, Jerry Herman’s *Mack and Mabel*, *The Goodbye Girl*, and two noted productions by Stephen Sondheim: *Sunday in the Park with George* and *Into the Woods*. She has also starred on television and on film, including *Pennies From Heaven*, *The Jerk*, & *Annie*. More info can also be found at the Chorus’ website <http://www.MenAliveChorus.org/>

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