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MenAlive concert thanks divas for their support

IRVINE, CA — “We want to say ‘Thanks’ to the divas we love, and who have loved us in return,” says James Vaughn, President of MenAlive, the Orange County Gay Men’s Chorus. “And we’re doing it the best way we know how... in song!”

MenAlive’s “She Got the Beat” concert in March will honor rock divas, including Aretha, Beyoncé, Cher, Katy, Lady Gaga and P!nk, who have gone out of their way to promote gay acceptance. According to Bob Gunn, the chorus’s Creative Director, “For the past 50 years, these women have had our (the gay community’s) backs. Their uncompromising support has encouraged talented men and women to move out the closet and into the spotlight.”

Gunn notes that gay icon Cher received a GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) Media Award in 1998. After Cyndi Lauper’s “True Colors Tour” in support of gay rights and to fight hate crimes, she founded the ‘True Colors Fund’ to end homelessness among LGBT youth.

“Madonna borrowed Vogue from New York nightclubs and made it mainstream. And Lady Gaga proudly promotes gay rights from the stage,” adds Vaughn



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The “She Got the Beat” concerts will be held Friday, March 27 at 8 pm and Saturday, March 28 at 3 pm and 8 pm at the Irvine Barclay Theater. Tickets start at \$35 and are available at thebarclay.org or 949/ 854-4646.

Gunn, a founding member of MenAlive, had served as the group’s assistant Artistic Director since 2002. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Piano Performance, Music Theory and Education from Azusa Pacific University, and has more than 25 years experience as a pianist, keyboardist, singer, producer, conductor, arranger, orchestrator and even recording artist. Bob spent his post-college years on the road performing with several rock groups, and currently lives with his partner in Aliso Viejo.

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, MenAlive’s mission is “Through music, men’s voices unite as a vehicle to entertain, educate, bring healing, joy, community and build bridges to the public at large.” Since its founding in 2001, the group has grown from about 30 members to be one of Orange County’s largest and most respected choruses, and is an integral part of the southern California arts scene.

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