

PRESS RELEASE

Immediate Release 2-1-2008

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**Men Alive – The Orange County Gay Men’s Chorus Presents
Vegas Gold! on March 7 & 8 in Irvine**

Concert Spotlights Legendary Entertainers of Las Vegas

Friday performance added to accommodate demand

Men Alive – The Orange County Gay Men’s Chorus continues its season-long tour of the U.S. glamour capitol by bringing Las Vegas to the stage of the Irvine Barclay Theatre on Friday & Saturday, March 7 & 8 with its spring concert ***Vegas Gold!***

Artistic Director Rich Cook promises the audience lots of favorite pop music and nostalgic moments from many of Las Vegas’ best loved entertainers from the 1950s through the present day. Music from such Vegas icons as Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley, to contemporary stars Celine Dion & Elton John will highlight a show that is sure to appeal to all ages.

“I am always looking for a unique way to present choral music; to make choral music a show stopping, block buster experience even for people who are not into choir music,” Cook said. “Just as our last July hit show, *Rock Star*, was an unusual stretch for a chorus to sing rock & roll, *Vegas Gold!* has the same stretch. It is another opportunity for a choral group to perform with lots of production and spectacular showiness.”

In addition to the icons mentioned above, the show also spotlights many other great names from Las Vegas’ glamorous heydays, including Wayne Newton, Liberace, Tony Bennett, Peggy Lee, Bobby Darin and more. In addition the show will also honor the “unsung heroes” of The Strip: the dancers who nightly become the showgirls and showboys of legend. And, while the chorus won’t be re-creating the Bellagio Hotel’s dancing waters, audiences might think of them during one of the more classically-driven numbers on the program.

To add to the excitement, Broadway veteran Michael Misita will provide choreography for numbers such as Celine Dion’s “River Deep, Mountain High” and Fergie’s “Glamorous,” while stage director Jeffery Rockey will find new ways of tickling the audience’s funny bones. There will also be beautiful solos from some of the Men Alive members and striking ensemble pieces from the chorus’ small group, Bel Canto.

Ticket sales have been heavy for *Vegas Gold*, and so a Friday evening performance has been added. There will be three performances altogether: Friday, March 7, at 8 pm, Saturday, March 8, at 3 pm, and Saturday, March 8, at 8 pm. All performances will be held at the Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Drive, in Irvine. Best seating is available for the added Friday performance.

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 *Holly Jolly Hollywood*, at the Irvine Barclay Theatre, and its glamour capitol season will conclude on May 31 with *New York City Rhythm*, featuring special guest artist Bernadette Peters, at the Segerstrom Hall of the Orange County Performing Arts Center. Men Alive will also travel to Miami this July to perform in the quadrennial Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses festival.

Concert: *Vegas Gold!* by Men Alive - The Orange County Gay Men’s Chorus, Rich Cook, Artistic Director

Date/Times: Three (3) shows on Friday, March 7, 2008, at 8:00 pm, and Saturday, March 8, 2008, at 3:00pm and 8:00pm

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

Tickets: Reserved seating. \$45/\$35/\$25. Tickets are available on line at <http://www.thebarclay.org>, or by calling The Barclay box office 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 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 110 singers. More information can also be found on line at <http://www.menalivechorus.org/>

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