

PRESS RELEASE

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**Men Alive – The Orange County Gay Men’s Chorus
Takes a Magical Journey from “Wicked to Oz”**

130 Voice Chorus Celebrates the Music from “Wizard of Oz”, “Wicked”

Three Performances on Friday, July 17, and Saturday, July 18

Men Alive - The Orange County Gay Men’s Chorus will wrap its eighth season with a very special summer concert that transports its audiences over the rainbow to the merry old Land of Oz. “Wicked to Oz” combines favorite selections from the classic “The Wizard of Oz,” the beloved “The Wiz,” and the Broadway smash hit “Wicked” with a specially written story for one over-the-top extravaganza. Under the direction of Artistic Director Rich Cook, Men Alive presents three performances of “Wicked to Oz” on Friday, July 17, at 8pm and Saturday, July 18, at both 3pm and 8pm. All performances are at the Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Drive in Irvine.

Cook explained, “We have created an original story that ties together the best-loved songs from these three beloved musicals. Along with several fully-staged production numbers, a specially-built set, and more than 300 costumes, this will be our most elaborate production to date. Our summer shows have become known for their light and exciting music with a spectacular visual approach. What could be more spectacular than traveling to both ends of the Wizard of Oz spectrum – contemporary music and beloved standards – and mixing them together with lots of visual excitement?”

This completely original summer show will feature witches, wizards, munchkins, flying monkeys, and plenty of special surprise guests. In addition to all the spectacular singing, dazzling dancing, playful props, and super special effects that Men Alive audiences have come to expect and love, audience members will also recognize all the well-known standards from the classic “The Wizard of Oz,” the groovy tunes from “The Wiz,” and the contemporary Broadway show-stoppers from “Wicked.” But folks will have to attend Men Alive’s concert to find out what really happens to Glinda, Elphaba, the Scarecrow, the Tinman, the Cowardly Lion, the Wizard of Oz, Dorothy (and her little dog too!) in this special production.

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

Concert: ***Wicked to Oz*** summer show, with **Men Alive - The Orange County Gay Men's Chorus**, Rich Cook, Artistic Director

Date/Times: Friday, July 17, at 8:00pm, and two (2) shows on Saturday, July 18, 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 190 members with more than 130 singers. More information can also be found on line at <http://www.menalivechorus.org/>

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