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HMC Announces 24th Season

Kansas City, MO—Following record-breaking attendance during its 2008-2009 season, Heartland Men's Chorus has announced an upcoming season featuring holiday treats, popular music, and a collaboration with special guests from the West Coast.

The season begins with *Fruitcake* (December 4-6, 2009), a blend of traditional Christmas music and the outrageous humor for which the Chorus has become known. "I like to think of it as a little spicy, a little fruity and a little nutty," artistic director Dr. Joe Nadeau said.

The Chorus has joined with six other gay men's choruses to commission a major work which will serve as the concert's second act. Entitled, "A Very Special Christmas Special," the piece will highlight music from vintage television Christmas specials. "It's very much in the vein of the Broadway musical *The Drowsy Chaperone*," Nadeau said. "A narrator who absolutely adores old Christmas specials shares that love with the audience and the musical numbers from the various specials come to life as he describes them." The piece will be simultaneously premiered in Kansas City, Seattle, Dallas and four other cities in December 2009.

For its spring offering, the Chorus travels across the pond for *British Invasion* (March 27 & 28, 2010). Highlighting British popular music, the concert will feature numbers made famous by The Monkees, Elton John and Spice Girls, among others.

"Our recent popular concerts such as *Divas!* and *HeartThrobs* have been so well received by our audiences," Nadeau said. "This spring we hope to continue the trend as we combine music, dance and production elements for another high-energy show, but one with a decidedly English flavor."

In summer, HMC welcomes Portland Gay Men's Chorus as its special guests for the joint concert *Go West, Young Man* (June 12 & 13, 2010). More than 200 singers will take the stage for a celebration of American music and classic American composers. Among the offerings will be a new commission of three American folk songs arranged by Greg Gilpin.

"After a concert showcasing the best musical imports, I wanted to come back home and focus on Americana," Nadeau said. "Portland Gay Men's Chorus will be celebrating their 30th anniversary at the time of the concert and we're thrilled they've agreed to share the stage with us." The men of HMC will travel to Portland the week after their Kansas City performance to present the same program to Oregon audiences.

All of HMC's 2009-2010 performances will take place at the Folly Theater, 300 West 12th Street. Season tickets, ranging from \$56 to \$81, are available online at www.hmckc.org or by calling (816) 931-3338.

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