

HeartSong Notes



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THE RIGHT WORDS

Congratulations to PR's *Mary & Liz* for starting this newsletter. We've long looked for the easiest way to keep most of us informed with the least amount of trouble. Perhaps this will be it. Committees, let's do our part to help them keep us informed. No telling how many minutes we might shave off our business meetings. *Good Luck!*

I don't know about you, but being invited to sing for Ann Richards' Inauguration is just about the best gift I could receive this holiday season. How did we come to be invited, you may ask? Well, from what I understand, Glenn Maxey, a paid gay lobbyist for Texas, worked very hard to get votes for Ann in the final weeks of the campaign, and got them. She was so appreciative she asked him to get the Inauguration ceremony organized. He asked "his people" for ideas and when all the suggestions were in, so were we. Apparently the HIV concert we did at the Multi Service Center impressed some of the numerous political types in the audience. To narrow the field, they asked the two women's choruses and two men's choruses they felt to be the strongest, both musically and organizationally. The final selection was HeartSong, the Dallas Women's Chorus, Turtle Creek Chorale, and the Austin's Men's Chorus. Ah yes -- we are in very good company. It just goes to show you, you never know who's out there. Let's remember this story and always put our best foot forward.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for a really good year. I remember a CORE meeting about this time last year when we took a strong look at ourselves and decided we wanted to do things differently. We wanted to balance the "chores" of keeping the choir going and get everybody, not just some, involved. We wanted to respect each other's time and effort. We wanted to make more music at rehearsals. We've all worked very hard as individuals to do this and, if you look back for a moment, I think we were successful. Our rehearsals are much more efficient now than they were a year ago; and they are getting better all the time. We put on the best annual concert yet. We have elected a Board of Directors.

Our Committees are working. All in all, I think we have improved a great deal. Yes, we still have our problems, but they are getting more high class all the time. We must remember that life is about making progress, not perfection.

Thank you for your trust. Thank you for your commitment -- as individuals and as a group. Who would have ever thought singing our heartsongs could make so much difference. Get ready, women. We're about to make a difference Statewide!

Umoja, Ya'll

Lynne



NEW HEARTSONG MEMBER

Lisa T, age 31, is a second soprano who has lived in Houston for 19 years. She attended Spring Branch schools and Texas A & M University. Lisa has been employed by the State Department of Highways and Transportation for over eight years. Her Department designs freeways, and she has designed a frontage road system and a storm sewer. Lisa owns a home in northwest Houston. She has a platonic roommate and a black toy poodle named Ragamuffin. The first time Lisa heard HeartSong was when we opened for Kate Clinton. More recently, she heard us sing at the Living With HIV conference in October. *For all of you nosy nellys: NO, Lisa is not dating anyone now!*

WARMEST HOLIDAY GREETINGS

from the inimitable "Second Soprano SongBird
of your dreams!"

I am extremely honored to have the opportunity to pen this column and would like to thank those of you who believe in my ability to spread gossip. I will try to present all of our dirt in as elegant a manner as possible.

TRASH & FLASH

Debbie H & Connie M (Thank you for inviting HS to your very elegant holiday bash; the eggnog was superb.) jetted to New York City on December 12 - 16 for LGBA (Lesbian/Gay Bands of America) Business. MM and her two kitties have a new roomie, whose initials are MHM. Our fondest wishes go out to both of them for a happy life together. I will not tell you what MHM is giving MM for Christmas, but it's a good one. They join HS' delicate sorority of couples: TW & JB, GG & LW, KS & KJ, MB & DB, CB & SH, and all of those who are seeing each other on the sly but are too chicken to come clean.

And speaking of chicken, I'd like to propose to the Fund Raising Committee that an easy way to make money would be to sell raffle tickets to find out the goods on some of the women in the choir. *What would you like to know?* Well, there are two members, a second sop and a first alto, who are endowed with very generous upper body assets. Everyone could buy chances to guess their sizes. Only the winners would be told what the real deal is, but would be sworn to secrecy. Also, what in the world do the initials TW stand for? Sell raffle tickets to win the right to be told her **TRUE NAME**; but again, the winner must keep her lip zipped!

I have one more fund-raising idea: to sell dates with certain choir members who are otherwise unencumbered by significant others. I am personally aware of certain "low-lives" (second altos) who don't have girlfriends, not to mention all those in other sections. And I know they would be thrilled to help HS raise money by selling themselves for dates. I mean, it's not as if they have to sell their bodies. Only a date -- no kissing or other familiarities required (unless they have a mind to); and they get to keep all their clothes on. Hey, I'd do it if I wasn't already involved with Snow White.

About our newest members, the HS dirt patrol tells me one plays the flute, two play piano, two play guitar, and Ava plays around. Ava would be very delighted to give details if you ask her.

Jan M is leaving HeartSong around the first of January and moving to Albuquerque to begin her residency in Internal Medicine at the University of New Mexico. Her SO, Pat, is moving with her. It will be a sad day when the second sops lose Jan and we don't want to think about it. **SOB, SOB.**

However, their Section Leader will have one less mouth to muzzle, a big problem she continually battles because *Mary H* talks incessantly to anyone who looks her way. She isn't quite as bad as some of the second altos, though. **NOW, they really do talk A LOT !!**

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

Why does *Sue* (who wears nasty French maid costumes) have a lower voice than *Claire*? I mean *Denise* is lower than *Melissa*, *Lynne* is lower than *Gayle*, *TW* is lower than *Jamie*, *Kim* is lower than *Kathy*. *Shouldn't the "fluffier" half of the duo sing lower?*

higher?

Why don't the first sopranos ever have to have their parts played separately during a rehearsal? Are they all perfect? Or are the other sections slow???

Hey, what has *Melissa* been doing to *Denise* these days? Poor *Denise* can't even stand up at rehearsal anymore. Who would ever think that *Ms B* was such a tiger! **What a woman!!**

COLUMN NAME !!!

I received 20 suggestions! I almost asked the group to vote, but I decided against it because voting in HeartSong is too much like travelling through Hell. So I spared you all this holiday season. My choice is -- **Drum Roll, Please -**

Minding Everybody Else's.....

I am selling raffle tickets if you'd like to guess who came up with this name. They cost \$1 each and all of the proceeds go to the Festival Fund Raising Committee.



HEARTSONG DATE POLL

How revealing! Kate Clinton and k.d. lang tied for first place with six votes apiece! What is wrong with you women? How could anyone in her right mind pass up a date with k.d. lang, that big-boned gal with the voice from heaven? Martina came in second, with four votes. What are you four into: leg muscles or forearms?

The most interesting thing about this date poll is that most women chose their own mates, not one of the three choices. Let's hear it for freedom of choice. However, I was devastated that not one person wanted a date with me! *Boo-Hoo!*

Instead, some of our little Hearts pine for:

Jodie Foster (excellent choice)
Sharon Gless (Hold me up, I'm weak)
Susan Sarandon (Gee, it's so hot in here!)

&

*Jacqueline Bisset, Enya, Anne Murray,
Adrienne Barbeau, Shari Belafonte, Lynn
Lavner, Basia, Phranc, Adrienne Rich, Norma
Jean (who?)*

and last but certainly not the least in Texas, our future Governor, *Ann Richards!* Wouldn't she be a kick at The Ranch!

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS



(...or whatever)

I thought it might be fun to make it our business to tell where everyone is going so that after the New Year we can ask each other if we had a good time. *MM* is going to Sarasota, Florida to visit with her family. *Johanna* will also be in Florida (Pensacola) to visit her mother. Another visitor to Florida will be *Laurie J*, where she will meet up with her twin Lynne, hubby and nephew, Stephen, age 2. *Loretta* will travel the farthest - to Seattle - with her 5-year-old son, Andy, and her Mom to see her sister. Yours truly and her lovely raven-haired beauty, *Kathleen* (keeper of the checkbook), will fly to Michigan on 12/18 to visit Kim's very pregnant sister, *Debi*, and her husband. They will arrive back in Houston on 12/25

if anyone wants to invite them over for dinner. They eat anything and love leftovers. *Marian* flies to Virginia to see her sister; and *Gretchen*, one of the new second sops, will visit teeth-chattering New England. Jackson, Mississippi will welcome *Kat* when she visits her Mom and Dad.

STAYING IN TEXAS,

Yee-Haw & Howdy!

Sharon S & Cindy F will motor to Athens, Texas to visit S's brother. *Elaine* will visit Big D to see her Mom. *Claire, Sue & Neeley* plan a fun-filled excursion to the thriving metropolis of Beeville to visit Claire's mom. *Jamie & TW* are bound for Alvin to see J's mama. *Gayle's* family of origin is coming to Houston. And *Valerie and Catherine* will be home with their Christmas ham. I won't tell what Valerie plans to do to Catherine during the holiday season. If you want to know ask her.

'Till Next Time, Dah-lings

Kim



ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS MY TWO FRONT

On the whole, we seem to be a rather warm fuzzy group when it comes to our wants and needs. Only one person asked for money & a girl. She asked big, a cool million! And someone wanted to win the Publishers' Clearing House. I won't tell who, but she's a second alto, plays guitar and teaches English!

We want new jobs, lots of peace on mama earth, laughter, happy creditors, more sex, sincerity, the drive to finish my thesis, my family's acceptance, a new pair of tennies, more Trager clients, and a new pair of flannel jammies because the elastic wore out on the old ones and they keep falling down and my bottom hangs out.

EVERYBODY !

**PLEASE HAVE A HAPPY , SAFE
HOLIDAY**

&

**COME BACK READY TO SING
FOR GOVERNOR RICHARDS !**

MNEMONIC DEVICES FOR MELODIC INTERVALS

(No, Claire, they aren't marital aids!)

JUDI M

When you see a jump in the melody coming up, don't you wonder how it sounds? You won't wonder any more after learning a set of MNEMONIC DEVICES (familiar tunes) to take care of such circumstances! For instance, when you write this:



What familiar tune could help you? ?



"Twinkle Twinkle Little Star". The jump between the first "twinkle" and the second "twinkle" is the same as the above examples. The distance between those two notes, or the "interval", is called a fifth (5th), because if you numbered those notes, and the lines and spaces in between, it would total five notes. Notice there's an extra line between the two line notes, or like below, an extra space between the two space notes. You've sung 5ths up in other songs:



TWIN-KLE, TWIN-KLE

(My Country 'Tis of Thee): ...of thee I sing. Land where...

or

"So Far Away" by Carole King.

A 5th down sounds like the underlined words or syllables in these songs:

(Hark the Herald Angels Sing):...joyful all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies...

At the Copa, Copa Cabana, the hottest spot north of Havana.

(Evergreen): Love, soft as an easy chair..(and other places)

September Morn by Neil Diamond

Someone to Lay Down Beside Me by Karla Bonhoff
or Linda Ronstadt

Try singing just under the underlined words or syllables, jumping from song to song, to get the sound in your ear. Each interval should feel the same, perhaps just lower or higher from song to song. Here are some 5ths to get your EYES accustomed to SEEING them as well:

