

Milwaukee Choristers schedule first fund-raising gala

The Milwaukee Choristers, a community chorus founded in 1933, has announced plans for its first-ever public fund-raising event. The gala, "September Serenade," will take place on Saturday, Sept. 24, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Ozaukee Country Club, 10823 N. River Rd., Mequon.

The evening will include entertainment by popular Milwaukee chanteuse Robin Puer, hors d'oeuvres, raffles and a silent auction. Tickets are \$35 each and can be ordered from any member of the chorus or by calling 414/354-1933.

"It's a source of great pride to those of us who sing in the chorus to realize that we're carrying on a tradition more than 70 years in the making," said Patrice Hargarten, an alto and president of the choral group. "It's become much more difficult for performing arts groups to deal with ever-rising costs, but we're committed to making certain the Milwaukee Choristers will be around for at least another 70 years."

Towards that end, the chorus in 2001 created the Milwaukee Choristers Foundation, Inc., an endowment fund with the choral group as its beneficiary.

Robin Puer

During her career, Puer has performed with the R&B Cadets and Paul Cebar and the Milwaukeeans. In the mid 1990s, she developed a fascination with and love for French music and has developed an act that she's performed at Milwaukee's Bastille Days every year since 1996, and which she's taken on tour throughout Europe.

She has also been featured on Garrison Keeler's "Prairie Home Companion" and National Public Radio's "World Café."

Puer has won many Wisconsin music awards over the years including Milwaukee's Best Female Vocalist for 3 years and 6 WAMI (Wisconsin Area Music Industry) awards.

Raffles to include Caribbean cruise

A seven-night cruise aboard a Royal Caribbean ship is the prize for one of several raffles that will be conducted at "September Serenade." Raffle tickets will be available at the event.

Silent auction

A wide variety of items has been donated for a silent auction. They include gift certificates from other Milwaukee area performing arts groups; a one-hour flight for three on a private aircraft; a certificate for the Lake Express Ferry; items for the home and collectibles; jewelry; tax preparation certificates; sports paraphernalia; wines; and tutoring in Spanish. The complete list of items is posted at the choral group's website – www.milwaukeechoristers.org, and is updated on a regular basis.

Persons attending "September Serenade" will have the opportunity during the evening to bid on as many items as they want.

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