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Interview availability: PLC Artistic Director Mary McCarty.

Portland Lesbian Choir (PLC) kicks off Pride with June concert: *Draw the Circle Wide*

PORTLAND, OR – **April 15, 2023** – *Draw the Circle Wide*, A performance by the Portland Lesbian Choir (PLC) will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2023, at 7 p.m. and Sunday June 11, 2023 at 3pm. Concert will be held at the Performing Arts Center at Parkrose High School.

"*Draw the Circle Wide*" is PLC's opportunity to explore music that looks at how we draw our circles as individuals and as a community," said PLC Artistic Director Mary McCarty. "We are featuring music that welcomes all to our table while at the same time challenging us to examine our own biases that limit us in our personal interactions. We look forward to sharing this amazing music and message with our audience."

*Draw the Circle Wide* will also feature guest artist Ara Lee James, a Portland State University Alumni. She will be accompanied by Jamie Stillway, a brilliant acoustic guitarist who recently was praised in “Acoustic Guitar” Magazine. James brings musical influences from both Nina Simone and Aretha Franklin into her work on *Nasty Woman*, an anthem in the wake of the #MeToo movement. She was inspired to write it after watching the presidential debate between Hillary Clinton and Donald J. Trump in 2015.

Ara Lee James grew up in Sweetwater, Tennessee. Much of her early exposure to singing was in church where no musical instruments were allowed. Her voice became her way of expressing her thoughts and emotions. James said “Music done in the service of a person’s ego makes you leave a performance thinking about how great that person was. Music done in the service of music makes you leave feeling something you needed to feel, makes you more human, more open. That’s the kind of music I want to make.”
PLC is an all-inclusive non-audition choir founded in 1986. PLC is one of Portland’s best kept secrets. “It’s amazing how many people I meet who don’t know that our choir exists,” said McCarty. “We hope to change that.” The choir performs twice a year in the Winter and Spring in Portland as well as outreach performances throughout the Pacific Northwest to cities that do not have access to LGBTQ-positive arts.

The choir will be performing music by Brandi Carlile, BTS, Carrie Newcomer, Tracy Chapman, Billy Porter, and others. The concert will feature a contrast in styles that will delight our audience! Join us for a night of expansion with Draw The Circle Wide. The show will begin promptly at 7 p.m. The venue is ADA accessible and the concert will be ASL interpreted.

Tickets and more information are available at plchoir.org.

The Portland Lesbian Choir is dedicated to creating community and harmony through musical excellence, service and advocacy, and has been singing out in Portland, OR since 1986.

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