



**unison**  
CANADIAN CHORAL FESTIVAL  
MAY 21-24 MAI 2010  
FESTIVAL CHORAL CANADIEN

PRESENTED BY

**RAINBOW  
HARMONY  
PROJECT**

WINNIPEG'S GLBT CHORUS

**Fourth Canadian Choral Festival of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Two-Spirit and Friends Choruses**

April 20, 2010

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WINNIPEG WELCOMES LARGEST CHORAL FESTIVAL IN 20 YEARS!**

On May 21 – 24, the Rainbow Harmony Project will welcome nearly 500 choral singers from across Canada to the 2010 Unison Canadian Choral Festival, at Knox United Church, 400 Edmonton Street.

First time in Winnipeg, Unison 2010 marks the fourth festival of choruses consisting of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, two spirit and straight (but happy) singers from across Canada. Like the Olympics, the festivals occur every four years alternating with the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA) in the USA.

At the previous festivals in Edmonton, Toronto and Vancouver, participants and audiences from all walks of life descended upon the respective cities and were overwhelmed by the talent and pure joy of the Festival. "We expect no less here in Winnipeg", notes committee chair, Ray Desautels. "Our participants will be featured in concert, trained at workshops and treated to a traditional Manitoba Social and a gala banquet with keynote speaker Manitoba's own Heather Bishop".

In the spirit of celebrating diversity, the Festival kicks off with an opening night concert on Friday, May 21 at 8:00 p.m. Featured is Winnipeg's own Rainbow Harmony Project along with seasoned song and dance man, designer and director, Edward Ledson and high school biology teacher/massage therapist/ singer/ songwriter, Deborah Romeyn.

Five extraordinary honourees will be recognized that evening for their pioneering efforts towards the advancement of human rights in Canada:

Heather Bishop – Order of Canada recipient, musician, instrumental in first Winnipeg Pride Festival  
Ruth Krindle – First federally appointed lesbian judge and counsel for the first gay club in Winnipeg  
Chris Vogel & Richard North – First couple to challenge marriage laws in Canada  
Glen Murray – First openly gay mayor of a major Canadian city

On Saturday, May 22 and Sunday, May 23, 14 choruses from British Columbia to Nova Scotia will perform during 30 minute concert blocks. Closing Exercises on Monday, May 24, at 11:00 a.m. will feature the Soprano/Alto, Tenor/Bass and Mixed Unison Festival Choruses conducted by Marg Stubington (Ottawa), Spencer Duncanson (Winnipeg) and Scott Leithead (Edmonton).

Tickets are \$15.00 for each concert and each of the 3 concert blocks and are available at the door. Opening night concert tickets are also available at The Happy Cooker, Kustom Kulture, McNally Robinson Booksellers, Rainbow Resource Centre, online at [www.KwikTix.ca](http://www.KwikTix.ca) and from members of Rainbow Harmony Project. Please visit [www.unisonfestival.ca](http://www.unisonfestival.ca) for further information and detailed schedules.

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