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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINDY CITY PERFORMING ARTS
Center on Halsted
3656 North Halsted St.
Chicago, IL 60613
773.661.0928

**WINDY CITY GAY CHORUS AND WINDY CITY TREBLE QUIRE PROUDLY
PRESENT OUR 2021 ANNUAL PRIDE CONCERT: *AFTER THE RAIN***

CHICAGO (June 14, 2021) – Windy City Performing Arts (WCPA), the not-for-profit parent organization of Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire, is proud to announce its annual Pride concert, ***After The Rain: A virtual concert experience***, which will air free to all viewers on **Saturday, June 26**, at **7:30 p.m. CT** over **YouTube**.

The concert will feature music full of positivity and hope as Chicagoland emerges from the metaphorical rain cloud that characterizes the last year; our collective ability to step out, step into the light and celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride.

The Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire will be joined by the Lakeside Pride Symphonic Band to perform music composed and arranged by revered choral composer and conductor **Mark Hayes**, including the world premier of ***Joy***, a new work commissioned by WCPA and written by Hayes for this concert.

About Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles: Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles is Chicago's premier family of performance groups for members and friends of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community. Home to four major ensembles – Jazz Orchestra, Marching Band, Pops Ensemble, and Symphonic Band – plus over a dozen chamber ensembles, the organization offers a diverse musical experience for both its audience and members. For more information visit <https://lakesidepride.org/>.

About Composer Mark Hayes: Mark Hayes is an award-winning concert pianist, composer, arranger and conductor. His personal catalog, totaling more than 1,500 published works for solo voice, solo piano, multiple pianos, orchestra, jazz combo, small instrumental ensembles, and choruses of all kinds. Hayes received a Bachelor of Music degree summa cum laude in Piano Performance from Baylor University in 1975.

Hayes has conducted the SWACDA & MCDA Community & Church Honor Choir and served as guest conductor at Carnegie Hall, featuring his *Te Deum* and *Magnificat*. In 2010, Baylor University Center for Christian Music Studies awarded Hayes the Award for Exemplary Leadership in Christian Music. He arranged and orchestrated the music for *Civil War Voices*, which won six awards including "Best Musical" in the 2010 Midtown International Theatre Festival in New York. He conducted the world premiere of his work for chorus, orchestra and narrator, *The American Spirit*, at Lincoln Center in May 2011 and the world premiere of his *Requiem* at Lincoln Center in May 2013. In October 2014, Hayes conducted his *Requiem* at St. Ignatius Basilica in Rome, Italy, as part of The Festival Pro Musica E Arte Sacra, sponsored by the Vatican. Hayes is regularly commissioned by churches, universities, children's choruses,



and community choruses to write original choral works. St. Paul's Co-educational College in Hong Kong commissioned Hayes to write a work for treble voices, mixed voices and orchestra for their 100th anniversary, and he conducted the world premiere in Hong Kong December 2015. Hayes regularly conducts his works for chorus and orchestra at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center.

Whether concertizing on the other side of the globe or composing at his home in Kansas City, Mo., Hayes is blessed to live out his mission "to create beautiful music for the world."

CONCERT INFORMATION:

"After The Rain: A virtual concert"

Saturday, June 26, at 7:30 PM. CT

[YOUTUBE.COM/WINDYCITYSINGS](https://www.youtube.com/windycitysings)

Free for all to attend.

Donations to help WCPA continue to offer outstanding choral singing in the Chicagoland community are always welcome and may be made by visiting WCPA online at

[windycitysings.org](https://www.windycitysings.org).

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About William Southerland, Ph.D.

Dr. William Southerland joined WCPA following a seven-year run as artistic director for Triad Performing Arts in Greensboro, N.C., where he directed roughly 80 volunteer singers across the organization's three ensembles: Triad Pride Women's Chorus, Triad Pride Men's Chorus, and the small ensemble, Counterpoint.

Southerland holds a bachelor's degree in music from Florida State University, a master's degree in choral conducting from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNC Greensboro), and a doctorate in music education from UNC Greensboro, where he presented his dissertation, Factors of Motivation to Participation in LGBTQ-Identified Chorus. His background includes certifications in professional music training and service capacities, conducting and performing roles, and teaching and advising positions across the southern U.S.

About Windy City Performing Arts

Windy City Performing Arts (WCPA) was incorporated in 1983 as the independent not-for-profit umbrella organization for Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire. Windy City Performing Arts sings to inspire change, celebrate diversity, and honor the dignity of the LGBTQ+ community. WCPA can be found online at [windycitysings.org](https://www.windycitysings.org).

Contact Us:

Windy City Performing Arts

773.661.0928

info@windycitysings.org

www.windycitysings.org

Media inquiries:

Mark Hein

224.283.4421

boardchair@windycitysings.org