



9 November 2023

PLC is Gettin' Ready

Portland, OR—Get ready ‘cause here they come! The Portland Lesbian Choir (PLC) enters its 38th season with a concert that is sure to have the audience dancing in the aisles.

Feelin' Good will feature guest artist **LaRhonda Steele** on January 27th and 28th, 2024 at Parkrose Performing Arts Theater. Steele is known around town as the “*First Lady of Portland Blues*.”

PLC, under the direction of Artistic Director Mary McCarty, continues its legacy of musical excellence with a show designed to make you move and feel good all over. PLC will showcase their diverse musicality with R&B songs from the 1970s, soulful music from the 1980s and 1990s, and tunes from contemporary artists Keb' Mo' and Lianne La Havas.

“In 2020, PLC signed the Black Voices Matter Pledge committing us to program music by artists of color and engaging arrangers and orchestrators of color as well,” says PLC Artistic Director, Mary McCarty. “In this concert, over 75% of the music sung by the choir was composed by black artists including Nina Simone, The Temptations, Cheryl Lynn, and Mary D Watkins. We have a long way to go, but continue to work toward honoring this amazing legacy of music.”

LaRhonda Steele, our featured guest artist, grew up with R&B and gospel music, listening to her mother and aunts performing at churches and revivals. “My mother has always been an influence on me musically. She has this beautiful tenor gospel voice,” said Steele. Other vocal inspirations include Oleta Adams, Roberta Flack, Gladys Knight and Shirley Caesar.

Steele is a three-time Cascade Blues Association Best Female Vocalist Muddy Award winner and a 2021 inductee into the Oregon Music Hall of Fame.

We're excited to share this energetic, soulful music with our audience. Our goal is for everyone to leave the concert Feelin' Good! Tickets are on sale online now at plchoir.org/concerts. The cost for advance purchase is \$25 for general admission (\$30 at the door), \$15 for seniors and students (\$20 at the door). PLC also offers Arts for All (RACC) tickets for \$5 at the door. Our concerts are ASL interpreted.

This concert is made possible, in part, by grants from the Oregon Cultural Trust, the Oregon Community Foundation, the Miller Foundation, and the Collins Foundation.