





presents

B . E . F . O . R . E
S . T . O . N . E . W . A . L . L

During

a hot June weekend in 1969, when a police morals squad executed what they had believed at the outset would be just another routine raid of a homosexual club, the Stonewall Inn at 53 Christopher Street, the gay men and women of Greenwich Village spontaneously rose up and fought back. The three days of rioting that ensued — our equivalent of the shot heard 'round the world — is now considered the beginning of the gay liberation movement.

But there had been a gay history and rich culture long before the Stonewall uprising, although all too often tragically punctuated by discrimination, harassment and persecution. Ours has been a culture marked especially by aestheticism reflecting a profound artistic sensibility; a *joie de vivre* growing out of a delight in, not shame of our sexuality; and a compelling democratic politics bespeaking our determination to move ourselves and the society beyond the ignorance, bigotry and hatreds that divide and threaten our world. Much of this has been reflected in our music.

So join with us as the Cream City Chorus celebrates the gay community extending on either side and far beyond the dramatic moment, twenty years ago, that has come to be known as Stonewall.