

[STRANGE SOUND]

JIMMY CARPER: The following program contains language or images of the frank or sensitive nature--

SPEAKER 1: Oh, frank.

JIMMY CARPER: --which may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Oh, yes. You've tuned in to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude, right here on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM. The crew of *After Hours* is ready to bring you news, interviews, dialogue, and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people and their friends.

Here at *After Hours*, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common-- we are all out of the closet, and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life, and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we not everyone can do that because of age, job, or frame of mind. That's OK. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of *After Hours*.

Hello Houston, and College Station, and the world. And welcome to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude. And this is the March 2nd edition. I'm Jimmy Carper. I'll be your producer for the evening. We've got a lot of folks in here tonight, and I've got a couple of things I want to do real quick.

So music, music, music. Always music. First of all, that last song you heard was brand new-- sort of. It's from Mark Weigle's *Out of the Loop* CD. And that CD-- ta-da! Toot toot. His new CD *Out of the Loop* is officially available. The best way to get it is on www.cdbaby.com/markweigle W-E-I-G-L-E. And the name of it is *Out of the Loop*. We're-- I did that song out. And that's a duet with Steven Grossman, which is kind of interesting because Steven Grossman did probably-- I believe JD says is the first out gay album. Yes, yes. And he did this, like, way back. '70s, maybe early 80s, I forget.

But if you had listened to *Lesbian and Gay Voices* last Monday, you would have found that out. Because JD had a interview with Mark on queer music heritage, and he played that song. I think it's really a beautiful song. Steven Grossman died several years ago of AIDS complications. But through the magic of our equipment-- their equipment, we were able to have a modern version and a duet with Mark Weigle and Steven Grossman. And before that, we had another old one by Blackberri, and that was from the film *Tongues Untied*, which was done in 1991. It was called *Come Out Tonight*. And-- yes, and that was a pretty incredible film, and that's a pretty incredible piece of music.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY CARPER: It had chanting, all the act up, and the come out, and all of that chanting in the background.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, yeah. That was great. Absolutely great. And let me get the music stuff here out of the way, because we've got a lot of different music stuff. Sweet Mama Cotton and the Sugar Daddies-- she was on the show last week, by the way. You missed her.

SPEAKER 1: Of course, the week I'm gone.

JIMMY CARPER: Sorry. Well she came in to donate her CDs to the Gulf Coast Archives and Museum for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender history, to go into the time capsule.

SPEAKER 1: Hey!

JIMMY CARPER: That will be opened up in 25 years. So that is going to be really incredible.

SPEAKER 1: Somebody remembers it's there.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. I'm going to remember it's there because I'm going to be around, honey. That's right.

SPEAKER 1: You're going to be an old thing [INAUDIBLE]

JIMMY CARPER: Well yeah, I'm already old. I'm going to be a lot older.

[LAUGHS]

That's how that works. Sweet Mama Cotton will be playing so low on Thursday, March the 14th at the Vintage Bar. And prepare for the Ides of March with her on Mid Lane just north of Westheimer. And of course, every Wednesday at The Briar Patch and every Saturday at the Hollywood Hotel in Galveston, and every Friday and Saturday at Brothers Petronella in Galveston.

And also, True Soul, who gets some airplay here-- and would get more if I had more of their new music-- they're going to be at The Bar Houston on March 26th, Helios, formerly The Mauseoleum 3/23. The Travis Cafe on the 9th, and Epoch Fusion-- whoops, they were already there. They were there tonight. Oops, oops, oops.

SPEAKER 1: I remember The Mausoleum when they had milkshakes there.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, my. And let's see, a benefit for Bearing Omega. CD release party, Charlie [? Puccio ?] CD release party for *You're in Love with the Wrong Man*. That's going to be held March 9th at 8 PM at EJ's on Ralph, introducing the cowboy pastoral cowboy divas, Vanessa Hunter, Angie [? Lada, ?] Selena Saint John, Connie [? Guisada, ?] and special appearances by the Empress 18, Shelby St. John, and Alan Cole. So that that'll be fun, and a fundraiser for Bearing Omega.

Now, we have a special guest we're starting out the show with. And let's see if you can figure out who it might be.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Yes indeed, that's the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston.

TONY: Ah, it's us.

JIMMY CARPER: And that's from the CD *To Friends and to Life*, which is the only CD I have to play from.

TONY: Well, we're planning another one.

[LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: The last concert I went to, there seemed to be a table with lots of tapes and things out there.

TONY: Oh, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: That was just itchy. But my lover was with me, and so that means no spend money.

TONY: Aww.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, I know.

TONY: Well, you could have come back later.

JIMMY CARPER: I should have.

TONY: Or you can order them through our website.

JIMMY CARPER: I didn't know that.

TONY: Yes, you can-- we have a whole merchandise mart up there now.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

TONY: [Www.gmch.org](http://www.gmch.org).

JIMMY CARPER: OK, wait a minute.

TONY: I know.

JIMMY CARPER: W cubed, what?

[LAUGHS]

TONY: Cubed, yeah. Dot G-M-C-H

JIMMY CARPER: G-M-C-H,

TONY: Gay Men's Chorus Houston.

JIMMY CARPER: Uh-uh.

TONY: Dot O-R-G.

JIMMY CARPER: Gotcha. OK.

TONY: Yes, we're an organization.

JIMMY CARPER: Gay Men's Chorus Houston.

TONY: And we accept all the-- well, the big credit cards.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

TONY: Visa, and things like that, and PayPal.

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh.

TONY: Oh yeah, we're very big on PayPal. We love our PayPal.

JIMMY CARPER: So do I.

TONY: Oh yes, yes. Get on there, and you can make donations to us and everything.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow. PayPal is the deal. I'm telling you.

TONY: Oh yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: My, my, my.

TONY: Good [INAUDIBLE].

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

TONY: Mm.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, we're kind of featuring you at the beginning of Gigi's segment, which means Gigi's going to run later.

GIGI: Oh, yes.

[LAUGHS]

TONY: Oh, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Because he's not just the first Saturday.

GIGI: Baby, I don't run, I bend.

[LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: I know, honey.

[LAUGHTER]

The first Saturday means that the bisexuals are on in the first half. In the second half, we've got Big Roy with "After Hours News Magazine," and he's featuring the-- oh, I'm going to get this wrong-- the slag--

TONY: It's the lawyers, I think, that I--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, StoneWall lawyers.

TONY: StoneWall lawyers, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: They have been that energy tonight working the crowd, and getting some information out. I think they've got a big fundraiser planned, and they'll be here in the second half to talk about immigration laws.

TONY: Oh.

JIMMY CARPER: I believe. Yes, so that'll be interesting. Yes. However, you're not here to talk about that, Tony.

TONY: Oh no, but--

[LAUGHTER]

--you know me, I'll just jabber on about anything for a while.

JIMMY CARPER: Well good. Good, good, good.

GIGI: He's here to sing.

TONY: Sing.

JIMMY CARPER: Sing! So are you singing?

TONY: Well, not tonight. But we are singing very soon. We've got our March concert coming up.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

TONY: And-- well, it's called Sophistication.

JIMMY CARPER: I saw that ad.

TONY: Yeah. So yeah, we've got our lovely ad.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

TONY: You saw the back of "Outsmart?"

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

TONY: The back cover? Oh yeah, beautiful full page ad on that one.

JIMMY CARPER: They are so nice.

TONY: Oh, yes. Oh, good people. But this concert is a special one.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh?

TONY: We are doing the Houston premiere of most of--

[LAUGHS]

--because it's not the whole thing, because there's a lot of solos that we put out-- a work called naked man.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, which parts are you leaving out?

TONY: Oh, we're leaving out the solos. There's a whole-- about half of it's solos, and about half it's actual choral works. And as we say, this has nothing to do with naked boys singing.

JIMMY CARPER: No, no, no, no.

TONY: This is a completely different concert.

JIMMY CARPER: Completely different. There are-- no clothes will be shed.

TONY: No. No clothes be shed.

GIGI: Aww.

TONY: This is a serious piece,

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

TONY: Premiered by San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus some years ago. I saw it in Tampa--

JIMMY CARPER: Did you?

TONY: --the first time,

JIMMY CARPER: I have not.

TONY: I think about four years ago.

JIMMY CARPER: How did it hit you when you first heard it?

TONY: Oh, it's-- the impact is tremendous with this thing. Some of it's very moving, some of it's very political. There's one-- my favorite number, "Dance on Your Grave," which you can only imagine. It's a danse macabre.

JIMMY CARPER: Uh-huh.

TONY: Xylophones, and all kinds of things going on.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

TONY: We will be performing with a small orchestra.

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh.

TONY: Something in that line.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

TONY: I think about 8 to 12 pieces, somewhere in there. I don't know all the details, but--

JIMMY CARPER: That's getting into orchestra sized.

GIGI: Oh, yeah.

TONY: Well, when you're looking at we're-- I'm not sure how many we're going to have on stage for this concert because there's still the usual ups and down at the last minute. But--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

TONY: --I think we're looking at least to anywhere between 65 and 80 on stage for this one.

JIMMY CARPER: Whoa!

TONY: Oh yeah. Count them.

JIMMY CARPER: You know, I noticed that at the last concert, you know? You've got new management going on.

TONY: Oh yeah. James Knapp, our new director.

JIMMY CARPER: And it seemed like the chorus was much bigger.

TONY: Oh yeah. We had 48 on stage.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah!

TONY: We would've had 49, except somebody decided to get sick at the last minute, and I never will let him live that one down. He better be on stage this time, if he's listening.

JIMMY CARPER: I hope he didn't have a solo.

TONY: No, no, no solos on that one.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 1: That can complicate things.

TONY: Yeah, that can complicate things a lot.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

TONY: But yeah, I think we're going to have-- we did have about 85 singers registered--

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

TONY: --at one point this go around, but--

JIMMY CARPER: That is really wonderful.

TONY: Oh yeah, it's been tremendous.

JIMMY CARPER: You know, we've been chatting up, you know, when you put out the word for new singers.

TONY: Oh yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: And when you met, and I thought oh, well, I hope they get more. And evidently, you did.

TONY: We thought-- well, you never know with something like this. We figured, oh, well we assumed, oh, we're going to get a few more. But we never expected growth like we've gotten.

[LAUGHS]

SPEAKER 1: Surprise!

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

TONY: Oh yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: And as a side note, I'm sure that in an organization like yours, you could use a lot of people who really can't sing for other things.

TONY: Oh yes, yes. We have a whole volunteer support group.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

[LAUGHS]

TONY: Headed by a wonderful woman, Jane Smith. We're always in need of people to do everything from just one little thing, like maybe ushering at a concert to development work, because there's fundraising. If you're in an arts organization, or a radio station, or anything, it's money, money, money, money, all the time.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, our is coming up in two weeks.

TONY: We've got contracts to deal with, we've got insurance to pay for.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

TONY: We've got human resources. It's--

JIMMY CARPER: It's incredible.

TONY: Marketing, advertising, newsletters, community outreach-- there's so much going on, and so many things we want to do. Like I say, the more help we get, the better.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

TONY: But we have quite a few women I think, right now, who are associated with us.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, good.

TONY: I think we have nine actually on the rosters right now. We had a retreat. That's-- I remember, the first weekend of February, I think it was, up at Round Top.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh yes.

TONY: Oh yeah. You know, the lovely classical music center up there, and we spent a couple of nights up there. And I think we had almost everybody showed up.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

TONY: I mean, it was absolutely amazing how many people were there. And we worked-- we did a lot of singing. We actually got to sing in their performance hall, did a few songs there. And it's-- I mean, they're so nice to us, so we're hoping to get back up there very soon, and may do some other fancy things with them. But it was nice just getting everybody together, some spouses, and significant others, and oh, just friends and family.

JIMMY CARPER: It's good to hear all of this because it's like with Seattle, or LA, or New York, these are groups-- or even Dallas-- these are groups who put out a lot of CDs so they get a lot of press. And people may think, well, Houston's not really doing anything. And that's not it at all.

TONY: Oh, that's not it at all. We're one of the oldest in the country.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, that's right.

TONY: And this is our 23rd season. We're already making plans for 25. 25 will also be the year we attend the gala, whatever it's going to be, six or seven, I can never remember the numbers on these things up in Canada.

JIMMY CARPER: Ah. Now, that's the chorus--

TONY: Yeah, that's the International Choral-- Gay and Lesbian Choral Association. So we'll have probably up to at least 120 choruses from all around the world.

JIMMY CARPER: That's a lot of folks.

TONY: Oh yeah. It's a lot of folks, and we will all be heading up there.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, but it's probably a great thing that you-- exchange of ideas,

TONY: Oh yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: And see what people are doing.

TONY: And this is where we hear a lot of the new music and we say oh, that is really great. We want to do that. That really stinks. I hope that never--

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Well,

TONY: We talk a lot of gala commissions, or a lot of new composers will premiere their works.

JIMMY CARPER: Arrangements.

TONY: Arrangements, things like that.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, because that's very important too. I mean, you can sing the same song 100 different ways depending on the arrangement.

TONY: But you also see costuming, and staging, and you get a whole lot of ideas, and-- but it's amazing to see--

JIMMY CARPER: Minor choreography.

TONY: Minor choreography. But sometimes you'll see, well, here's maybe like, Atlanta, a whole batch of men up on stage, and they're being led by a woman.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm.

TONY: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

TONY: Yeah. There's more and more choruses where-- oh yeah, it's a crossover.

JIMMY CARPER: That's terrific.

[LAUGHS]

TONY: About the only place, but oh yeah, it's great. It's great. So we're all cooperating and being nice to each other, like we should.

[LAUGHS]

Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: So this is happening--

TONY: This is happening-- I even brought along the dates--

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you.

TONY: --in front of me, because I never remember anything these days.

(SINGING) Ha,

[TOGETHER] (SINGING) Mm.

[LAUGHTER]

TONY: Well, we're actually having four performances of this one. The first performance will be Tuesday night. That'll be March 19th.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

TONY: It's coming up real fast at 8 PM. That one's actually a benefit performance.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, good.

TONY: It'll be benefiting Bering Support Services, Montrose Clinic, and I cannot think of the other one right now. It's three different groups. You can buy \$35 select tickets in advance, and you'll be getting specialized seating, and things like that. But you can still buy tickets at the door and stuff like that.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah but I mean, 35 bucks is really not that much for a big fundraiser.

TONY: Oh no, no.

JIMMY CARPER: Because you would pay-- what's the usual ticket price, 20, 25?

TONY: Oh no, no, no. Usual ticket price is 15 in advance from any chorus member. 18 at the door.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

TONY: And those prices will still be in effect.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

TONY: The 35 will give you a few little extras.

JIMMY CARPER: That is cheap!

TONY: And plus, that's nice support.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

TONY: Oh, well-- yeah. And we're nice people. The--

JIMMY CARPER: And it's a great evening.

TONY: It's a great evening. Oh, and this one will be spectacular, I think. The second show is Friday night, March 22nd, which is also my birthday. So they'd better be doing something special for me that day, if anybody's listening.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, happy early birthday.

TONY: Yes, it's-- no, just as long as I forget that it's my birthday, it's gonna be OK. And then there will also be a--

JIMMY CARPER: Which one is it?

[CLEARS THROAT]

TONY: That one. That one.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. I just celebrated-- I just had the silver anniversary of my 29th birthday.

TONY: Oh, yeah. Yeah. I've been having those.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes!

TONY: Yeah, yeah. Well put it this way-- I can take off my shoes, and count on my fingers, and borrow somebody else, and it still doesn't add up.

[LAUGHTER]

Oh, retirement's not that far away.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh my goodness.

TONY: And then we have two shows on Saturday. They'll be March 23rd, first show will be 3:00 PM, and--

JIMMY CARPER: That must be a Sunday.

TONY: No, that's a Saturday.

JIMMY CARPER: Oops.

TONY: That's a Saturday. Saturday, Saturday.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, 22nd is a Friday then.

TONY: 22nd is a Friday. And Saturday the 23rd, 3:00 PM and 8:00 PM.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

TONY: The big deal is Sunday.

JIMMY CARPER: Sunday, Sunday, Sunday!

TONY: If you look on your calendar, Sunday is Palm Sunday.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

TONY: Oh, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Oops!

TONY: And when you're doing this, as we are, at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, or Bering, as we all love to call it, 1440 Harold, they will be in preparation, obviously, for their service on Sunday, so--

JIMMY CARPER: There are things going on there.

TONY: Yeah. It's kind of a busy time of year.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

TONY: Now you can order tickets, like I say, through our web page. You can even do it through PayPal, things that very easy to do.

JIMMY CARPER: And that again is-- I've got that down. www.gmch.org.

TONY: Yes. And you'll see exactly where it says order tickets.

JIMMY CARPER: Ah.

TONY: Or you can also order them directly through Box Office Tickets Inc,

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

TONY: At 1-800-494-TIXS.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

TONY: So they're good people. If you want more information about the concert, if you're web savvy, just visit our website. If you're not, you can give us a call at our office number, 713-521-7464. We should note also that this concert is being underwritten in part by a grant from the Tom Moore Community Music Foundation.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

TONY: And we also need to acknowledge our very first corporate sponsor.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

TONY: Galliano Liquors.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow!

TONY: [INAUDIBLE] Yes, we just signed the contract.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow. Galliano.

TONY: Galliano.

JIMMY CARPER: We used to have to make that strange drink where you put it in the--

[LAUGHS]

--with orange juice, and it floats on top, and it's a--

TONY: Oh yeah, they have a whole range of products.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes, yes, yes.

TONY: So they are first--

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

TONY: They are our first, so--

JIMMY CARPER: That's good.

TONY: --we want to be sure to give them a lot of credit for this one.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, because the Gay Men's Chorus is not just in the gay community. You do a lot of-- you do stuff outside the community, and you're sort of like ambassadors for our community to other groups, and churches, and all kinds of--

TONY: And more and more of our support staff, especially our volunteers, are straight.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

TONY: Sometimes they might have a gay relative. Sometimes not, just uh, gay supportive and friendly.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY CARPER: And I hear that maybe there's one or two straight singers.

TONY: I'm not sure if we have any now, but--

JIMMY CARPER: OK. You have had.

TONY: My-- if we have had, I feel don't ask, don't tell.

JIMMY CARPER: I see.

[LAUGHTER]

Well, he was straight when he signed on, is that it?

TONY: Yes, uh,

GIGI: Do ask, do tell.

TONY: Oh, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh my.

TONY: No, um--

SPEAKER 1: And by the way, before you go complaining about your birthday and all that,

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

TONY: Mm-hmm.

SPEAKER 1: All I got to say is think about the alternative.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

TONY: That is true.

SPEAKER 1: Having a birthday is not a bad idea--

TONY: That is true.

JIMMY CARPER: No it isn't.

SPEAKER 1: --when you consider the alternative.

TONY: That is true. But like I said, I think this one will be a very hot concert. "Naked Man" is a spectacular piece. That will take up at least one half of the evening or the afternoon.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

TONY: Like I say, very moving at times and very exciting. So there's a little bit of something for everybody in that one. The rest of the show will be much lighter. The usual, we've got a Broadway medley,

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

TONY: As always, there's always a Broadway medley.

JIMMY CARPER: I thought the whole thing was going to be "Naked Man."

TONY: Oh, no, no, no.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

TONY: No. "Naked Man" is the stress of this show. But no, we will toss in a few others. So it will be some small group work, things to break it up a little bit. So it's not all going to be, oh,

JIMMY CARPER: So you show cap--

TONY: Heavy duty.

JIMMY CARPER: --you showtune queens, there's going to be something there for you.

TONY: Yes, there will be. There's way too much Jerry Herman for my liking, as always, but--

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Show tunes!

TONY: Show tunes. But we finally have a show tune medley that has some of William Finn in it. "March of the Falsettos."

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

TONY: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

TONY: Woo hoo! It's a-- from our friend-- I think it's a very gay-- well, except for "The Sound of Music."

[LAUGHTER]

Which if you haven't seen that, folks, if it's still going on, is a true hoot.

JIMMY CARPER: I went to the benefit.

TONY: Oh.

JIMMY CARPER: It was incredible. People were just screaming. It's like turning it into "Rocky Horror."

TONY: Oh, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Of course you sing all the songs, but there's all kinds of wonderful comments because when you see it again-- you know, I saw it many, many years ago. But when you see it again, you realize how truly dreadful the acting was in that thing.

TONY: Oh, yeah. Well honey, poor Christopher Plummer just hated it from start to finish. I mean, he didn't want to do it, but it's money, but--

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

TONY: A bunch of us from the chorus went last Sunday, and--

JIMMY CARPER: Christopher Plummer had a hoot.

TONY: Had a hoot. Oh, yeah. What a--

JIMMY CARPER: One of the biggest laughs I had was in the scene where the Baroness and Christopher Plummer are on the balcony and he's telling her that it's off. And she's wearing this red dress with this little kind of half--

TONY: Oh yeah, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Somebody screamed out, so how did the bullfight go? It's this very Spanish looking thing. It just-- you had to be there.

TONY: It's a very funny, funny show all together.

JIMMY CARPER: [? Alp! ?]

TONY: [? Alp, ?] yes. Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Every time you see an Alp, you have to--

[MEOWING]

Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

All kinds of wonderful things.

TONY: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

SPEAKER 1: Do you bring--

TONY: Well, you get a little goody bag of stuff.

SPEAKER 1: --objects like you do for the "Rocky Horror?" Toilet paper,

TONY: Well no, they give you a bag.

JIMMY CARPER: For the benefit, they give you bags.

TONY: For all the shows, they do.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, they do?

TONY: They do for all the shows, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: There's a little piece of fabric for the curtain.

TONY: The curtain--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY CARPER: --the curtains!

TONY: Yeah. Look behind you, Julie! Look behind you. Oh, you get the little popper for-- not that kind of popper.

JIMMY CARPER: No, no, no, no.

TONY: Get your mind out of the gutter.

JIMMY CARPER: A little champagne bottle when their lips touch.

TONY: Yes. Yes, everybody pops it and--

JIMMY CARPER: And everybody pops their cork.

TONY: And some of us scream because we realize we're pointing it the wrong way.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, that happened to me.

TONY: Oh yeah, yeah. Yes.

[LAUGHTER]

No, no that's not stigmata, that's--

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Really. That was a big surprise.

TONY: Yeah, it's-- woo!

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: I've never seen one of those things before. In fact, I couldn't even find my string. I had to ask the woman next to me. I figured she would know about that.

[LAUGHTER]

Yeah, it's like "Rocky Horror," only with lederhosen instead of fishnets.

SPEAKER 1: There you go.

TONY: Oh yeah, yes. And they urge people to dress up, we must have had at least 40 people. We had whole families come dressed up.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, really?

TONY: Oh, it was very-- one of our chorus members was the big hit.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh?

TONY: He came as Ray, a drop of golden sun.

[SNORT]

JIMMY CARPER: How did he do that?

TONY: It was just some little tinsel hanging from his glasses, and he had kind of a big ray on his sweatshirt. But he's also a very large guy. He's about 6 foot 12, one of these things. And--

[LAUGHTER]

He was the big hit. I mean, people were congratulating him afterwards. Oh, we loved you, Ray! It was great. Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: There was a guy at ours who had antlers on and this green jacket with monopoly money stapled all over.

TONY: Ah.

JIMMY CARPER: He was--

TONY: Dough.

JIMMY CARPER: Dough a deer.

TONY: Yeah. And I came as me.

[LAUGHTER]

Of course, we're all sitting there, we're saying, well OK, we know what to do for all these different syllables. What do you do for la?

(SINGING) La!

It's just, raise the hands, and the gates will-- la!

JIMMY CARPER: Just do that Queen thing.

TONY: Yeah. But no, it's a very funny night. And it was great that the benefit was for the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

TONY: If I was right.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

TONY: Which is coming up.

JIMMY CARPER: It's coming up at the end of May.

TONY: End of May, yeah. Yeah. So good stuff there.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes it is. So--

TONY: Oh, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: We got off on a tangent, and GiGi is sitting there very patiently, coughing every now and then.

TONY: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: So let's go to a piece of music and come back with Gigi, and I'd like you to hang on.

TONY: Oh, sure.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

You're listening to "After Hours," queer radio with attitude, on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. The voice of the many who have no voice.

[MUSIC - JANIS JOPLIN, "DOWN ON ME"]

TONY: There we go. Oh, yes.

[LAUGHTER]

GIGI: And before we start, I'm going to give a little preview of next month.

TONY: All right.

GIGI: I don't know how many people are aware, but this weekend is a very special weekend.

TONY: Oh, you're right.

GIGI: It's a kickoff for the San Francisco grand opening of GLBTs multimillion dollar building center.

TONY: Whoa, I didn't know that!

GIGI: Yes. And Carol Queen is the emcee.

TONY: OK.

GIGI: And they are having all kinds of events, starting tonight and all week long.

TONY: Hmm.

GIGI: Into next weekend. And for people that want to know more about it, there is a web-- a couple of websites, actually. There's www.sfcenter.org dot-- well, slash --um-- dot htm.

[LAUGHS]

And then Carol Queen has a site. It's www.carolqueen.com/pages/bi_party.html

TONY: That sounds like the SF center.org is going to be the easier one.

GIGI: Yeah.

TONY: Or just do a Google search, a gay husband whatever.

GIGI: But it is really quite an event because they are honoring bisexuals all over the country that are the unsung heroes.

TONY: Oh, pretty cool.

GIGI: That have never been recognized before, or very seldom recognize.

JIMMY CARPER: That is incredible. Yes.

GIGI: And--

JIMMY CARPER: That is good. I didn't know anything about this. That wasn't on [? hand ?] [? net ?] or anything.

GIGI: Oh. It's been downplayed. I don't know why.

JIMMY CARPER: I don't know why either.

GIGI: It's that bi thing.

[LAUGHTER]

TONY: It's-- yeah.

GIGI: We're invisible.

TONY: It's not this way, it's not that way. Yeah. No.

GIGI: But they are having Andy Sprinkle kick off stuff,

TONY: Oh, cool.

GIGI: And all kinds of people lined up for all week long. I mean, it is going to be incredible. So that's going on, and--

JIMMY CARPER: That is incredible.

TONY: That's very good.

GIGI: And next week,

JIMMY CARPER: Yes,

GIGI: I'm going to be interviewing Barry Safe and our new executive director in BiNet USA, Benita Porter--

TONY: OK.

GIGI: Live here at the gala tonight.

[TOGETHER] Oh!

[LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

GIGI: And we're going to be talking a little bit about the opening of the center, and about BiNet, and the launching of the new Blnet USA.

SPEAKER 1: Great.

GIGI: Where we're going, what's happening, and the new programs coming up.

SPEAKER 1: Mm-hmm.

TONY: Good.

GIGI: So that's next month. And--

JIMMY CARPER: That's terrific.

GIGI: And I tell you, it's some good stuff coming. I mean, the world is changing and we're making a move.

TONY: Mm-hmm.

GIGI: But tonight, we're going to talk about a little bit more somber subjects.

TONY: Mm-mm.

GIGI: Something that hurts deep down.

SPEAKER 1: Very deep.

GIGI: Very deep. We'll be talking about circumcision.

JIMMY CARPER: What?

GIGI: Yes, circumcision.

JIMMY CARPER: No! Ouch.

GIGI: Yes.

TONY: No, it's not a how to do it.

GIGI: No. Actually, we're going to wrap up the show on de-circumcision.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

GIGI: Restoring it.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

GIGI: But-- and that-- because--

JIMMY CARPER: Now that's something I know that you've done personally.

GIGI: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: To yourself.

GIGI: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

GIGI: And this is something I did a show on long, long ago.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

GIGI: But I thought--

JIMMY CARPER: And that was right in the-- when you were right in the middle of doing it.

GIGI: Yeah. But you know, I thought it's time we revisit this because while I'm getting ready for Beltane, and for some other pagan and semi-pagan events, one of the things I do is I run the temple of Aphrodite.

TONY: Hmm. OK.

GIGI: And in the temple, one of the things I work on is breaking taboo.

TONY: OK.

GIGI: Because we have so many taboos in our culture.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

GIGI: Well, I think circumcision-- if it isn't taboo, it's very close to one.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes it is. But I'm hearing more and more about young mothers who are not having their boys circumcised--

GIGI: Yeah.

TONY: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: --these days, and

[SIGH]

I think it's a wonderful idea.

GIGI: Well, I've got this book. It's called "Decircumcision."

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

GIGI: It's by Gary M Griffin. G-R-I-F-F-I-N. And he did a very good history of where circumcision started, why, the how to's, the wherefores, the whole bit.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

GIGI: And--

JIMMY CARPER: Can we cover that just for a quick minute?

GIGI: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Because people, I think they have in their back of their minds, well, you have to do that because it's-- have to do that for health reasons.

GIGI: Yeah.

TONY: Yeah.

GIGI: Well, he goes into some of that in this book, and that's part of the myths that are around circumcision. It's like, there's this one myth, if you don't get circumcised, it leads to penile cancer.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. But that's very, very, very low. And it's usually found in third world countries where hygiene is not a top priority.

GIGI: Well, they did some research and they found that--

JIMMY CARPER: Am I right?

GIGI: It's not whether you're circumcised or not. That's not what the cause is. It's all about hygiene.

JIMMY CARPER: Ah.

TONY: Right.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

TONY: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: That stands to reason.

GIGI: If you don't wash,

JIMMY CARPER: Well if you don't wash, nobody's gonna--

TONY: Yeah, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: --wanna play with it, so you know--

GIGI: And it doesn't matter if you're circumcised or not.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

TONY: Now, has circumcision been a-- oh, how to put it-- has it been kind of on a wave pattern over the years, like oh, for 100 years we do it, 100 years, no, it's not a good idea.

GIGI: It comes and goes.

TONY: It comes and goes?

GIGI: Yeah.

TONY: So is there a modern period of circumcision.

GIGI: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: This is the modern period. During World War Two, a lot of men were circumcised in the service.

TONY: Right.

JIMMY CARPER: And it was, I believe, for health or hygiene reasons, or--

GIGI: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Because they thought that--

GIGI: And during the Vietnam era,

JIMMY CARPER: A lot of the--

GIGI: A lot were-- because they felt that if you were circumcised, it made you less prone to catching venereal disease.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

TONY: No. OK.

GIGI: Which is not true.

JIMMY CARPER: Not true at all.

TONY: No.

GIGI: But before we go there,

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah?

GIGI: I kind of want to start with where circumcision is, and how it's practiced in this country.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

GIGI: And this was written by a nurse. And this made me cry the first time I read it.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, hold on there.

[LAUGHS]

GIGI: So I'm going to try to get through this. I didn't know what circumcision was until-- no-- was when I consented to have my three sons circumcised. My doctor told me the surgery was a necessary health measure, that it didn't hurt, and that it only took a moment to perform, like cutting the umbilical cord. I thought, I certainly wasn't prepared when in nursing school several years later, I saw the surgery for the first time.

We students filed into the newborn nursery to find a baby strapped spread-eagled to a plastic board on a countertop across the room. He was struggling against his restraints, tugging, whimpering, and then crying helplessly. No one was tending the infant but when I asked my instructor if I could comfort him, she said, wait till the doctor gets here. I wondered how a teacher of the healing arts could watch--