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**HOLIDAY
SHOW**

DECEMBER 7, 14 & 15, 2024
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OF WASHINGTON, DC

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Dear GMCW Family,

Welcome to *The Holiday Show*. As we celebrate musical traditions from around the world, we invite you to lose yourself in our lush harmonies, soaring melodies, and fabulous dance numbers. We're so glad and grateful that you are here!

For many of us in the LGBTQ+ community, the results of the election continue to be troubling, perplexing, and, frankly, hurtful. No matter what the future brings, GMCW will always choose love over hate, joy over fear, and togetherness over division. We will continue to raise our voice to challenge the status quo, advocate for the marginalized, and work towards a society where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

As we turn the page into December and the New Year, let's raise a toast to four more years of singing and building lasting friendships and an even stronger community. Four more years of raising our voice to fight for a more just and empathetic world, and four more years of making our voice heard by creating beautiful art that inspires change and lifts hearts.

Thank you for joining us and for your unwavering support. We wish you a joyous holiday season and a new year filled with peace, progress, and justice.

In joyful protest,
Thea & Justin

PS To keep our voice going strong no matter what the future brings, please give today at www.gmcw.org.



Thea Kano
Artistic Director



Justin Fyala
Executive Director



Wishing you happy holidays!



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PROGRAM

The HOLIDAY SHOW

PRESHOW: WORLD MUSIC COLLECTIVE

Ishkar.....Music by Deepak Ram
Longing.....Music by Cristian Perez
Treseros son.....Music by Noah Getz
Caravan.....Music by Juan Tizol

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC, WORLD MUSIC COLLECTIVE, AND 17TH STREET DANCE

Christmas Isn't Christmas 'Til You Get Here.....Music and lyrics by
Kylie Minogue, Steve Anderson,
and Karen Poole
Arranged by Chad Weirick

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC AND WORLD MUSIC COLLECTIVE

Feliz Navidad.....Music and lyrics by José Feliciano
Arranged by Tim Sarsany

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Winter Proverbs.....Music by Frances Farrell
Texts from Chinese, English, German,
Guinean, and Irish proverbs
"Ode to the West Wind" by Percy Bysshe Shelley

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC AND 17TH STREET DANCE

Paso Na Sintá Ko.....Traditional Filipino Christmas Carol
Music and lyrics by Francis Dandan
and Aureo Estanislao
Arranged by Bobby Buchanan
Ang Pasko Ay Sumapit.....Traditional Filipino Christmas Carol
Music and lyrics by Vicente Rubi and Levi Celerio
Arranged by Bobby Buchanan

GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS

Speaker: Anjali Murthy

Sanna Sannanina.....South African Folk Song/African Folk Song
Arranged by Catherine DeLanoy
I'll Be Home For Christmas.....Music and lyrics by Walter Kent
and Kim Gannon
Arranged by Paul Langford

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC AND GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS

Speaker: Joseph Levin-Manning

Peace, Salaam, Shalom.....Music and lyrics by Pat Humphries
and Sandy Opatow

You are invited to join in singing: *Peace, salaam, shalom.*

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Speaker: Samilet Lee

- Silent Night.....Music and lyrics by Franz Gruber
Soloist: Samilet Lee Arranged by Dan Forrest
- Betelehemu.....Music and lyrics by Via Olatunji
Soloists: Dorian Amero, Arranged by Wendell Whalum
Alex Bowen, Perry Medlin,
and Micah Yarbrough

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC AND 17TH STREET DANCE

- The Man with the Bag.....Music and lyrics by Irving Taylor,
Dudley Brooks, and Harold Stanley
Arranged by David Maddux

POTOMAC FEVER

Speaker: David Treacher

- My Grown-Up Christmas List.....Music and lyrics by David Foster
Soloists: Gia-Ninh Chuang, and Linda Thompson Jenner
Jay Malavé, and Cooper Westbrook Arranged by Pentatonix
- 12 Days of Christmas/Africa.....Music and lyrics by Frederic Austin,
Soloists: Steven Shi, David Paich, and Jeffrey T. Porcaro
Shawn Morris, Kevin Arranged by Richrd Gregory
Thomason, and Jack Marsh and Ken Purchase

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC AND 17TH STREET DANCE

- Favorite One.....Music and lyrics by Cy Coleman, Betty Comden,
and Adolph Green

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

- Hanukkah Rhapsody.....Based on Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2
Soloists: Alex Domini by Franz Liszt
and Will Prater Arrangement and lyrics by
Eric Lane Barnes

ROCK CREEK SINGERS

- Cold Moon.....Music and lyrics by Nicholas Ryan Kelly

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC AND ROCK CREEK SINGERS

- See Amid the Winter's Snow/Lo How A Rose.....Music and lyrics by
Edward Caswall
Additional Lyrics by S.K. Hill
Arranged by Eugene Butler
Adapted for TTBB chorus by M. Howarth

Speakers: Thea Kano and Justin Fyala

SEASONS OF LOVE

- Give Love on Christmas Day.....Music and lyrics by Freddie Perren,
Soloist: Gabriel Lopez Alphonso Mizell, Christine Yarian,
Piano: Kevin Huang Berry Gordy, and Deke Richards
Arranged by Ronté Pierce

(continued on next page)

PROGRAM

Now Behold the Lamb.....Music and lyrics by Kirk Franklin
Soloists: Chris Murphy and Freddie Quimbley Arranged by Ronté Pierce
Piano: Kevin Huang

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Speaker: Drew Hastie

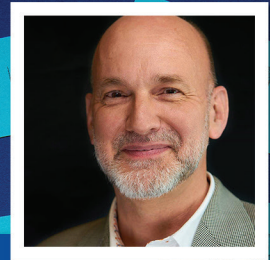
Love is Christmas.....Music and lyrics by Sara Bareilles
Soloist: Valerie Flores

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC AND 17TH STREET DANCE

TeXmas Hold 'Em.....Music and lyrics by Beyoncé Knowles, Brian Vincent Bates, Raphael Saadiq, Elizabeth Boland, Megan Buelow, and Nathan Farraro
Arranged by Charles Beale
Parody lyrics by Zac Barger

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Josh Millson-Martula
Shawn Morris

Paul Negron
Steve Shi
Michael B. Smith
Kevin Thomason
David Treacher
Cooper Westbrook

ROCK CREEK SINGERS

Michael Aylward
Zachary Barger
Billy Barry
Eric Belkengren
Jarrod Bennett
Rick Bennett
Javon Byam
Jonathan Chaffin
Alex Chan
Ethan Chiang
Bob Dragoset
Robert Finn

Anthony Gipson
Rob Hall
Andrew Harmon
Ben Harris
Michael Hughes
Henry Johnson
Paul Kelsch
Sean Link
Armando Loney
James Madigan
Joval Martin
Keygan Miller

Patrick Nelson
Trevor Partridge
Joshua Peterson
Larry Poole
Jack Reiffer
Sean Robinson
Craig Ruskin
Lonny Smith
Drew Thatcher
James Turner
Brian Watts
Chuck Willett

SEASONS OF LOVE

Tommie Adams
Brent Almond
Memory Bowman
Derrick Brown
Marcus Brown
Christopher Daniels
Alex Domini
Michael Dumlaou
Jeffrey Fleming
Valerie Flores
Timothy Foley
Johnny Geth

Christopher Gillespie
Kevin Huang
Neiko James
Joseph Levin-Manning
Gabriel Lopez
Michael Makardish
James McMaster
Donald Medor
Jaylan Monroe
Chris Murphy
Ronté Pierce
Freddie Quimbley

Mikal Rasheed
Tyson Reed
Simon Regenold
Christian Rodney
Jacques Rozier
Colin Smith
Lamar Smith
Matthew Teubert
Jahdiel Torres Cabá
Dennis Vonasek
Monté Willis Jr.
Micah Yarbrough

17TH STREET DANCE

Sean Cator
Craig Cipollini
Iván Dávila
James Ellzy
Adam Greczkowski
Jeffrey Hollands

Cole Jaconski
Daniel Kingsley
Franky Lieder
Julia Murcia
Jayson Phuah
Darryl Pilate

Jamey Sadownick
Brook Urquhart
Yuri Velasquez
Chris Weaver
Matt Williamson
Matt Zagorski

GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS

Cal Ausema
Maysen Bedsole
Ben Biggs
Zach Briskin-Watson
Anya Cardiff
Victor Kidwell

Avani Konek
Gail McKinney
Anjali Murthy
Ailsa Ostovitz
Callum Seay-Lee

Birch Shea
Hannah Sisema
Ziv Stuart
Ezra Thomas
Asher Wise



Rock Creek Singers



Potomac Fever



17th Street Dance



GenOUT Youth Chorus



Seasons of Love

WHO'S WHO



Thea Kano (Artistic Director) (she/her)

Dr. Thea Kano, a Northern California native, became active in the arts at an early age. She started playing piano at age four and began taking ballet soon after, a background that has a strong influence on her conducting. Dr. Kano's graceful yet commanding presence on stage and the robust performances she obtains from her musicians have basis in her formal training as a dancer.

Dr. Kano has conducted an extensive range of repertoire with several ensembles, including the Angeles Chorale, The Washington Chorus, and in 2014 assumed the position of artistic director of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC, for which she also directs its acclaimed ensembles Rock Creek Singers and Potomac Fever. In addition, she oversees GMCW's outreach efforts, including its GenOUT program. A champion of music education, Dr. Kano has devoted countless hours

to students of all ages and backgrounds. She believes in the power of music to nurture and believes that classical music should be accessible to all. Dr. Kano's substantial experience in this arena includes: building partnerships with organizations serving disenfranchised adults, hosting workshops with at-risk youth, leading youth arts programs of many sizes, as well as directing award-winning high school and collegiate choruses.

In addition to her work with GMCW, Dr. Kano founded the New York City Master Chorale in 2005 and served as the artistic director until spring 2019. The 80-member group is recognized as one of the finest vocal ensembles in New York City and has performed to sold-out audiences on two continents. Dr. Kano is known for her expressiveness and dynamic conducting, and the Chorale has been praised for its balance and richness in tone in performing a variety of musical styles. Under her direction, the Chorale made its debuts at Lincoln Center (2006) and Carnegie Hall (2009), as well as its international debut in Paris, France (2011).

Dr. Kano has prepared choruses for Zubin Mehta, Esa-Pekka Solonen, Emil de Cou, David Hayes, Craig Fleischer, Victor Vener, and Paul Salamunovich. Dr. Kano's various ensembles have performed at the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Disney Hall, Église Saint-Sulpice (Paris), and on the National Mall for the 2009 inaugural ceremonies.

Dr. Kano received her doctorate in choral conducting from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2004. At UCLA, Dr. Kano studied under Donald Neuen, her professional mentor. For her dissertation on Duruflé's *Requiem*, Dr. Kano completed research with L'Association Duruflé in Paris and studied privately with Paul Salamunovich. Dr. Kano holds a Master of Music degree from UCLA and a bachelor's degree in choral music education and piano performance from Arizona State University. Dr. Kano speaks French and actively conducts ensembles in New York City, Paris, and Washington, DC.



Theodore Guerrant (Principal Accompanist) (he/him)

Now in his 40th season as GMCW's principal accompanist, "Dr. Teddy" is arguably the longest-tenured collaborative pianist for a single chorus within the entire GALA Choruses network. He has traveled with the Chorus to various cities across the United States, two Canadian provinces, three Scandinavian countries, and can be heard on many GMCW recordings. Dr. Teddy received degrees in keyboard performance from the University of Georgia (B.M. piano cum laude; M.F.A. harpsichord), the University of Wisconsin (M.M. piano), the University of Maryland (D.M.A. piano), and the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University (G.P.D. organ), and studied piano in Buriton, England, with Denise Lassimonne. Dr. Teddy is also organist-choirmaster at Christ Church Parish Kensington (Episcopal), accompanist for the National Philharmonic Chorale, and associate

director-accompanist for the Central Maryland Chorale. He also teaches on the staff of the University of Maryland School of Music as a coach-accompanist.



C. Paul Heins (Associate Conductor) (he/him)

C. Paul Heins joined the GMCW artistic team as associate conductor in the 2014 – 2015 season. Dr. Heins's principal role with GMCW is directing the GenOUT Youth Chorus, an outreach ensemble for LGBTQ+ and allied youth founded in 2015. Since its inception, more than 150 students from over 80 schools have participated in GenOUT Youth Chorus and camps, and notable performance venues have included the Kennedy Center, the Library of Congress, the Washington National Cathedral, and the White House for President Obama. In addition to its regular performances with GMCW, GenOUT presents an annual *Youth Invasion* show plus around 20 outreach events around the DMV area.

GenOUT participated in the 2016 and 2024 GALA Choruses Festivals and was featured as an Insight Choir at the 2023 national conference of the American Choral Directors Association.

Dr. Heins's previous appointments include Georgetown University (Concert Choir director) and the Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington (director). Before joining the GMCW artistic staff, he was a guest musical director for three GMCW musicals (*Ruthless*, *When Pigs Fly*, and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*). Dr. Heins is a frequent guest pianist, flutist, and conductor in the DC area. He was trained in piano and flute at Bowling Green State University (B.Mus.), flute at the University of Maryland (M.Mus.), and choral conducting at the University of Maryland (D.M.A.).

His doctoral work centered around Lukas Foss's cantata, *The Prairie*. Dr. Heins has presented at conferences of the American Choral Directors Association and Chorus America, and has served as guest clinician for DCPS music festivals and teacher workshops.



Ronté Pierce (Assistant Conductor) (he/him)

Ronté Pierce brings over 33 years of singing, performing, and directing experience with faith-based, community, academic, and choral vocal ensembles, as well as experience with musical theater and opera to his position as the director of the Seasons of Love ensemble.

Ronté's musical journey began in Durham, NC, where he participated in the children's choir of his childhood church. It was there that his love of singing and directing gospel music was cultivated and he eventually started a successful singing group, served as a worship leader, and directed three choirs at his home church.

Ronté's musical experiences with his childhood church inspired him to study voice at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in Durham, NC. He was a member of the NCCU Concert Choir, NCCU Touring Choir, NCCU Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and NCCU Opera Workshop. Upon receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Music, he began a teaching career with the hopes of inspiring others to express themselves with music.

Ronté currently serves as one of three music teachers at Jackson-Reed High School in Washington, DC, where he directs a successful choir program. He believes that the best teachers are those who continue to engage in the learning process, which has led him to pursue and receive a Master of Music degree from Boston University (2012) and an Education Specialist degree from Grand Canyon University (2021).

WHO'S WHO



Solomon HaileSelassie (Stage Director) (he/him)

Solomon HaileSelassie is a director, stage manager, designer, and film maker. Since 2021, he has served as GMCW's resident stage director. He attended the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, where he trained in both vocal music and theater, Winston Salem State University, and New York Film Academy. He received his substantive professional training at the Studio Theatre and 2nd Stage. He is the Resident Production Designer/Manager for the Library of Congress, the Resident Stage Manager for Longacre Lea, where he is a company member, and is the Founding Director of Artistic Collaboration for Annexus Theatre Company. His directing credits include *The Passage*, *Phones*, *Lunch Dream*, *Girls*, *Waiting for Godot*, *The Shape of Things*, *Three in a Hallway (Ebenezer's Ghosts)*, *Punching People You Never Met*, and *Sonata; Carrie: The Musical* (assistant director).



Danny Aldous (Tap Choreographer) (he/him)

Danny Aldous grew up in Hershey, PA and started tap dancing at age eight. He and his six siblings all danced, sang, and performed. Danny graduated from Brigham Young University and was in the Men's Chorus & Young Ambassadors, a musical theater performing group. Danny has performed in numerous musicals and dance shows over the years, most often as Don Lockwood in *Singin' in the Rain*, and was the understudy for a national tour. Fifteen years ago, Danny started his own dance school, E-Dance Center, located in Elizabethtown, PA. He teaches tap, clogging, and pop video classes to all ages. He's happy to be a part of 17th Street Dance!



Craig Cipollini (Choreographer) (he/him)

Craig Cipollini is a director and choreographer based in DC. As a dancer, he toured with productions of *A Chorus Line* and *42nd Street*, in addition to many regional, summer stock, and dinner theater credits. Some musicals he has directed and/or choreographed include *Cabaret*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Will Rogers Follies*, *Carousel*, *Anything Goes*, and *West Side Story*, to name a few. He directed and choreographed *One Night in New York!* at the 2013 Capital Fringe Festival where the show won Best Overall Production and Best Choreography. He directed and choreographed GMCW's productions of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* and *The Rocky Horror Show*, as well as *Men in Tights: A Pink Nutcracker* (2010), *Seven, Divas*, *A Gay Man's Guide to Broadway*, and *That '80s Show*.



James Elzy, II (Choreographer) (he/him)

James Elzy began his dance training at Northwestern University in 1989. He performed primarily in musical theater until starting with modern dance in 1999 in San Diego. While in San Diego, he danced primarily with San Diego Dance Theatre and the California Ballet Company. He also performed with Butterworth Dance Company and LaDiego Dance Theater. He directed the Gay Men's Chorus of San Diego's productions of *Oliver Button is a Sissy* and *Nutcracker: Men in Tights*, and was invited to serve as an international judge for Showcase!, the Australian national dance competition. Since moving to DC in 2008, James has performed with Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh Dance Company and the DC Cowboys. By day, James is a family physician at the Defense Health Agency.



Matt Zagorski (Choreographer) (he/him)

Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Matthew discovered his passion for dance at the age of 10. Following in the footsteps of his sister, he began taking classes in ballet, tap, and jazz. He danced competitively throughout high school and began instructing and choreographing at local dance studios in 2012. After relocating to Washington, DC, Matthew was thrilled to continue his dance journey when he joined GMCW's dance ensemble, 17th Street Dance, in 2023. Matthew has a Bachelor of Science in Business and Juris Doctor from Duquesne University. He currently works as an attorney within the Federal government. Matthew lives in northeast DC with his husband of six years.



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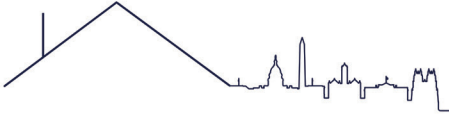


The **World Music Collective** is a mixed instrumentation chamber ensemble representing diverse musical heritages with improvisation as a common theme. Each member is an internationally recognized performer, composer, and improviser based in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Performing a blend of jazz, world music, and contemporary styles, their focus includes entertainment, education, and social justice.

- **Noah Getz** is a Grammy-nominated artist who has been hailed as a “highly skillful and an even more highly adventurous player” (*Washington City Paper*). He has performed and lectured worldwide, including appearances at the Melbourne Recital Centre, Carnegie Hall, and The Royal Conservatory of Brussels, to name a few.
- Sitar player **Sneesh Nag** has received international acclaim, having performed for audiences across multiple cities in India, the US, and Canada.
- **Cristian Perez** is an Argentine-American guitarist/composer/arranger who has performed internationally (Bulgaria, Canada, South Korea, Bolivia, China, Dominican Republic) and continues to be very active in the local music scene. He graduated from GMU with a Bachelor’s in classical guitar and a Master’s in jazz studies and he is an adjunct professor at NOVA Community College.
- Drummer **Advait Shah** received advanced training from Ustad Tari Khan in Chicago, IL, and has performed with Nisar Bazmi, Ustad Nafiz, Ali Khan, Arun Ramamurthy, Pandit Subroto, and Roy Choudury. Through his training and self study, Advait has developed a unique style which creatively blends a mix of East and West.
- **Zoë Jorgenson Speirs** is a bassist, composer, and educator whose music is deeply rooted in jazz, indie, folk, and ambient genres. She has been hailed for her innovative approach to melodic bass and vocal lines, using both to weave throughout the space of a modern jazz quartet.



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GAY MEN'S CHORUS
OF WASHINGTON, DC

IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN E. PERKINS

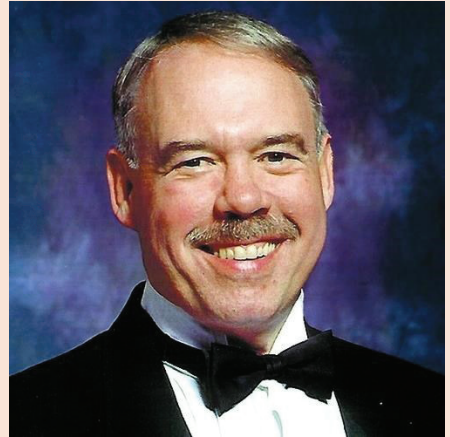
March 3, 1942 — February 8, 2024

John Perkins was a staunch supporter and friend of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC for more than 40 years.

He was involved with the Chorus since its founding in 1981, serving as Chairman of the Capital Club and Secretary of the Board of Directors, and the second full-time Executive Director of GMCW (1997-2001).

He received the GMCW President's Award in 1994, and was inducted into the GMCW Circle of Excellence in 2001.

In 1982 John played a key role in persuading the George Washington University Board of Trustees to allow GMCW to perform at Lisner Auditorium after the Board of Trustees disapproved of GMCW renting the venue because GMCW is a gay organization. Simply put, John's diplomacy, intervention and superb negotiation skills in that matter avoided a lawsuit (or at a minimum a civil rights complaint by GMCW with the DC Commission on Human Rights). And it is a significant milestone in the history of the Chorus.



Born in Piqua, Ohio, John and his family moved to Orlando, Florida, in 1948. He received bachelor's and master's degrees in music history and literature from Florida State University, where he also played trumpet and produced and directed programs for WFSU-FM and TV.

Following college, John served two years in the U.S. Army. He settled in Washington, DC, where he held senior management positions with the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation, Trade Communications, Inc., the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, and at George Washington University, where he was the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs.

John also served on the Mayor's Advisory Committee on GLBT Affairs in Washington, DC, and on the boards of directors for the Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry and the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts.

John moved to Orlando in 2001 to care for his parents at the end of their lives. While there, he co-founded The Orlando Chorale and served as the Executive Director for eight years. He was also an organizational consultant for the Orlando Children's Chorus and a volunteer for Mad Cow Theatre.

John also read and traveled extensively and, in 2011, returned to his beloved Capitol Hill neighborhood in Washington, DC, where he spent the last years of his life enjoying music, theatre, and friends.

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Special thanks to Silvio Weisner and to the Lincoln Theatre crew.

IN MEMORIAM

We remember our members who have been lost to us over the years. Their spirits live on with us and we honor their memory. Respectfully, we request if you know of anyone whose name has been omitted from this list, please contact us at 202-293-1548 so that we may continue to celebrate and honor the contributions of all of our members.

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SL = Section Leader

PROGRAM NOTES

Winter Proverbs Text Origin

By Canadian composer Frances Farrell

Texts from Chinese, English, German, Guinean, & Irish proverbs and Shelley's "Ode to the West Wind"

Cited as a Chinese proverb, the lyrics to this first movement, "The pine stays green in winter; wisdom in hardship," speak to the steadfastness of winter, ice, and pine trees. These sentiments are underscored by the austere treatment of voices and rhythms, as though the voices themselves were frozen. The second movement is a playful realization of the word "dance" that is found in this English proverb: "They that sing in summer, must dance in winter."

The third movement is based on the [German] proverb "Those who don't pick roses in the summer, won't pick them in winter, either." This tongue-in-cheek treatment of the lyrics asks choristers to confront the thorny issue of how to pronounce the word "either." The final movement comprises several proverbs: "O wind, if Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" (from Percy Bysshe Shelley's "Ode to the West Wind"), "No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow" (Guinean proverb), and "The snow melts the soonest when the winds begin to sing" (Irish proverb). This movement is punctuated by sweeping vocal lines meant to emulate the movement of the wind. The last few measures of this piece recall the opening idea of the first movement.

Texts:

Proverb I: "The Pine in Winter" (Chinese proverb)
The pine stays green in winter.
Wisdom in hardship.

Proverb II: "Winter's Dance" (English proverb)
They that sing in summer
Must dance in winter.

Proverb III: "Cold Comfort" (German proverb)
Those who don't pick roses in the summer
Won't pick them in winter, either.

Proverb IV: "How Long the Winter"
(Shelley's "Ode to the West Wind" and Guinean & Irish proverbs)
O Wind, if Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?
No matter how long the Winter, Spring is sure to follow.
If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?

O, when the winds begin to sing,

Snow melts soonest when the winds begin to sing.

No matter how long the Winter, Spring is sure to follow.
If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?

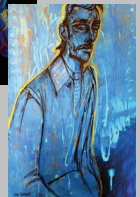
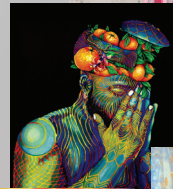
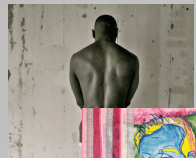
O, Wind, O!

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SONG LYRICS

Christmas Isn't Christmas 'Til You Get Here

It's been a long time to
Be missing you, you, you
You're on your way now lover
And I'm over the moon
Everything's all in place
But there is one thing clear
Christmas isn't Christmas
'Til you get here

Those sleigh bells ring, ring, ring
Whole room is bling, bling, bling
So many fairy lights are busy sparkling
They glimmer and they glow
It's all for you my dear
Christmas isn't Christmas
'Til you get here

There's a present by the fireplace
Wrapped especially for you
All I want is just to see your face
That's how you make
My wish come true!

The second hand ticks by,
Giving me butterflies.
You're getting close now baby,
I can feel it inside!
And when you're holding me,
That's when you make my year!
Christmas isn't Christmas
'Til you get here.

Christmas isn't Christmas without you
Christmas isn't Christmas without you
Christmas isn't Christmas without you

There's a present by the fireplace
Wrapped especially for you —
All I want is just to see your face
That's how you make
My wish come true!

I hear the doorbells chime.
Baby you're right on time.
That little taste is it.
I'm looking right in your eyes.

I better run run, run,
Because it's all so real.
Christmas isn't Christmas
'Til you get here.
Christmas isn't Christmas
'Til you get here.
Christmas isn't Christmas
'Til you get here
Get your fine self here!

Feliz Navidad

Feliz Navidad
Feliz Navidad

Feliz Navidad
Prospero año y Felicidad

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas!
I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas!
I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas
From the bottom of my heart!

(repeat)

Winter Proverbs

Proverb I: "The Pine in Winter"
The pine stays green in winter.
Wisdom in hardship.

Proverb II: "Winter's Dance"
They that sing in summer
Must dance in winter.

Proverb III: "Cold Comfort"
Those who don't pick roses
In the summer
Won't pick them in winter, either.

Proverb IV: "How Long the Winter"
O Wind, if Winter comes,
Can Spring be far behind?
No matter how long the Winter, Spring is
sure to follow.
If Winter comes,
Can Spring be far behind?
O, when the winds begin to sing,
Snow melts soonest
When the winds begin to sing.
No matter how long the Winter, Spring is
sure to follow.
If Winter comes,
Can Spring be far behind?
O, Wind, O!

Paso Na Sinta Ko

Pasko na, sinta ko
Hanap-hanap kita
Bakit nagtatampo't
Nilisan ako?
Kung mawawala ka
Sa piling ko, sinta
Paano ang Paskong
Inulila mo?
Sayang, sinta
Ang sinumpaang
At pagtitinginang tunay
Nais mo bang
Kalimutang ganap
Ang ating suyuang at galak?
Kung mawawala ka
Sa piling ko sinta
Paano ang Paskong
Alay ko sa 'yo?

(Translation)

It's Christmas Now, Love

*It's Christmas now, love
I've been looking for you
Why'd you get mad and
Leave me?
If you'll disappear
From my side, love
How will Christmas be
Now that you've left me alone?
What a waste, love
The vows
And real understanding
Do you want
To completely forget
Our wooing and joys?
If you'll disappear
From my side, love
What's going to happen to
the Christmas I dedicate to you?*

Ang Pasko Ay Sumapit

Ang Pasko ay sumapit
Tayo ay mangagsiawit
Ng magagandang himig
Dahil sa ang Diyos ay pag-ibig

Nang si Kristo'y isilang
May tatlong haring nagsidalaw
At ang bawat isá ay nagsipaghandóg
Ng tangang alay.

Bagong Taón ay magbagong-buhalan
Nang lumigayà ang ating Bayan
Tayo'y magsikap upang makamtán
Natin ang kasaganaan!

Tayo'y mangagsiawit
Habang ang mundó'y tahimik.
Ang araw ay sumapit
Ng Sanggól na dulot ng langit.

Tayo ay magmahalan,
Ating sundín ang Gintóng Aral
At magbuhát ngayon,
Kahit hindi Paskó ay magbigayan!

(Translation)

Christmas Has Arrived

*Christmas has come
Come, let us go forth singing
Beautiful hymns
For God is love.*

*When Christ was born,
There were three kings who did visit,
And each one did present
A unique offering.*

*'Tis New Year,
So we must reform our lives*

*That joyful might be our Nation;
Let us strive that we might achieve
Prosperity!*

*Come, let us go forth singing,
Whilst the world is silent
The day has arrived,
Of the Infant sent from heaven.*

*Let us love one another,
May we follow the Golden Rule,
And from now on
Though it not be Christmas,
Let us keep giving.*

Sanna Sannanina (Hosanna)

Sanna sannanina,
Sanna, sanna, sanna.
Sing noel, sing noel, noel, noel,
Sing we all noel.

I'll Be Home for Christmas

Oh, I'm dreaming tonight
Of a place I know
Even more than I usually do,
And although it seems
It's a long road back,
I promise you:

I'll be home for Christmas,
You can count on me.
Please have snow and mistletoe
And presents under the tree.
Christmas Eve will find me
Where the love-light gleams.
I'll be home for Christmas,
If only in my dreams.

Peace, Salaam, Shalom

Peace, Salaam, Shalom
(repeat)
We believe in Peace
(repeat)
We will work for Peace
(repeat)
We can live in Peace
(repeat)

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, Love's pure light
Radiant beams of thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, Thy birth, Thy birth
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, at Thy birth,
Silent night, holy night,
Wondrous star, lend Thy light

SONG LYRICS

With the angels let us sing Aleluia
To the King.
Christ the Savior, Christ is born.
Christ the Savior is born.

Betelehemu

Betelehemu (repeat 24 times)
Awa yio ri Baba gbojule
Awa yio ri Baba fehinti
Awa yio ri Baba gbojule
Awa yio ri Baba fehin — Nibola
Nibo labi Jesu
Nibo labe bi i
Nibo labi Jesu
Nibo labe be — Betelehemu ilu ara
Nibe labi Baba o daju
Betelehemu ilu ara
Nibe labi Baba o daju
Iyin, iyin, iyin nifun o
Iyin, iyin, iyin nifun o
Adupe fun o, adupe fun o,
Adupe fun ojo oni
Baba oloreo
Iyin fun o Baba, Iyin fun o Baba
Iyin fun o Baba anu
Baba toda wasi

Betelehemu (repeated)

Awa yio ri Baba gbojule
Awa yio ri Baba fehinti
Awa yio ri Baba gbojule
Awa yio ri Baba fehin – Nibola
Nibo labi Jesu
Nibo labe bi i
Nibo labi Jesu
Nibo labe be — Betelehemu ilu ara
Nibe labi Baba o daju
Betelehemu ilu ara
Nibe labi Baba o daju

The Man with the Bag

Up on the house top reindeer pause,
Out jumps good old Santa Claus
Down through the chimney
With lots of toys,
All for the little ones' Christmas joys
Ho, ho, ho, who wouldn't go

Old Mr. Kringle, is soon gonna jingle
The bells that'll tinkle
All your troubles away
Ev'rybody's waitin'
For the man with the bag
'Cause Christmas is comin' again

He's got a sleighful,
It's not gonna stay full
He's got stuff to drop
At ev'ry step of the way
Ev'rybody's waitin'
For the man with the bag

'Cause Christmas is comin' again

He'll be here
With the answers to the prayers
That you've made through the year
You'll get yours if you've done
Ev'rything you should
Extra special good
He'll make this December
The one you'll remember
The best and the merriest
You ever did have
Ev'rybody's waitin'
For the man with the bag
'Cause Christmas is comin' again

Come on and bring it Santa!
Ho, ho, ho, ho, ho
You need to bring it Santa!
Dashing through the snow
Ho, ho, ho who wouldn't go?
Ho, ho, ho who wouldn't go
Up on the house top click, click, click
Down through the chimney with
Good Saint, good Saint,
Good Saint Nick!

He'll be here
With the answers to the prayers
That you've made through the year
You'll get yours if you've done
Everything you should
Extra special good

He'll make this December
The one you'll remember
The best and the merriest
You ever did have
Everybody's waitin'
For the man with the bag
'Cause Christmas is comin' again

Ev'rybody's waitin'
For the man with the bag
'Cause Christmas,
Christmas, Christmas
Is comin' again!
Christmas is comin' again!

My Grown-Up Christmas List

Do you remember me
I sat upon your knee
I wrote to you
With childhood fantasies
Well I'm all grown up now
And still need help somehow
I'm not a child
But my heart still can dream

So here's my lifelong wish
My grown up Christmas list
Not for myself but for a world in need

No more lives torn apart

That wars would never start
And time would heal all hearts
And everyone would have a friend
And right would always win
And love would never end, no
This is my grown up Christmas list

As children we believe
The grandest sight to see
Was something lovely
Wrapped beneath the tree
But Heaven only knows
The packages and bows
Can never heal a hurting human soul

No more lives torn apart
That wars would never start
And time would heal all hearts
And everyone would have a friend
And right would always win
And love would never end, no
This is my grown up Christmas list

What is this illusion called
The innocence of youth
Maybe only in our blind belief can we ever
find the truth

No more lives torn apart
That wars would never start
And time would heal all hearts
And everyone would have a friend
And right would always win
And love would never end, no
This is my grown up Christmas list
This is my only lifelong wish
This is my grown up Christmas list

12 Days of Christmas/Africa

On the first day of Christmas
My true love gave to me,
A partridge in a pear tree
On the second day of Christmas
My true love gave to me,
Two turtle doves
And a partridge in a pear tree

On the fourth day of Christ
On the third day of Christmas
My true love gave to me,
Five golden rings
Four calling birds, three french hens,
Two turtle doves
And a partridge in a pear tree

On the ninth day of Christmas
On the eighth day of Christmas
My true love gave to me
Nine ladies dancing
Eight maids a milking
Seven swans a swimming
Six geese a laying, five

You better not shout,

You better not cry,
You better not in a pear tree

On the ninth (no)
On the eighth (no)

Deck the halls with boughs of holly
Here we come awassailing
Among the leaves so
Fa la la la la la la la la
Four calling birds
Three French hens
Two turtle doves
The boar's head in hand bear
Bedeck'd with bays
And partridge in a pear tree

On the eleventh day of Christmas
My true love gave to me
Eleven pipers piping
Ten lords a leaping
Nine ladies dancing
Eight maids a milking
Seven swans a swimming
Six geese a laying
Five golden rings
Four calling birds
Three french hens
Two turtle doves
And Rudolph the red nosed reindeer

On the twelfth day of Christmas
My true love gave to me
I have a little dreidel, I made it out of clay,
And when it's dry and ready
A dreidel I shall play.
Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel

On the twelfth days of Christmas

On the twelfth day my true love gave to me
Twelve drummers drumming
Like Olympus above the Serengeti
Eleven pipers piping, ten lords a leaping

Nine ladies dancing
They were dancing for me
Eight maids a milking
They were milking just for me
I had Christmas down in Africa
I had Christmas down in Africa
I had Christmas down in Africa
I had Christmas down in Africa
I had Christmas down in Africa
Gonna deck the halls
And do the things we never had
Partridge in a big pear tree
Partridge in a big pear tree

Favorite One

We want you to know
Our holiday show
Now features our favorite ho, ho, ho

SONG LYRICS

We give you
Mrs. Claus's bouncing son.
Wherever he goes this jolly old soul
Brings presents and cheer
And love to everyone
Hooray for our favorite one.

(Repeat)

Hooray for our favorite,
Hooray for our favorite,
Hooray for our favorite one
Hooray!

Hanukkah Rhapsody

Hanukkah! Hanukkah!
Festival of lights!
Goes on for eight nights
And one recites
A blessing for the lights
Which one of them ignites
From left to right

This is my fav'rite part
Of the whole eight nights.
Baruch...
Sha-nu, Ah
Amen. Amen

A mitzvah from the heart.
But come on, dear,
So much to Hanukkah,
And that's your fav'rite part?
What about potato latkes?
Me, I like potato latkes.
Hanukkah is latkes served
With lots of applesauce.
Latkes, latkes, we love latkes.
Hanukkah is latkes with sour cream.

Hanukkah! Hanukkah!
Night number four! Night four!
Don't make this a chore! A chore!
We've done this before
Recite with me, I implore
This blessing that I adore
The blessing of the menorah.
Please sing with me.
Baruch atah hashem Eloheinu
Melech Ha-olam a-sher kidh shanu
B'mitz vo-tav vah-tzi va-nu.
Amen, Amen.

What about a jelly donut?
Me, I like a jelly donut.
Hanukkah is jelly donuts
Known as sufganyiot.
Jelly do-nut, jelly do-nut
Hanukkah as long as it's fried.
After all is said and done,
There's nothing that can beat the fun
Of spinning dreidels
'Round and 'round.

A better time cannot be found.
Are you freaking kidding me?
Some crappy chocolate's all you win.

Nun or gimel, hei or shin,
O let the dreidel game begin!
Nun or gimel, hei or shin,
O let the dreidel game begin!
Candles, I love the candles.
In the shine of candlelight.

Candles, I love the candles.
Growing brighter, brighter, brighter
With each passing night.
Candles, I love the candles.
The children's candles,
I love the candles.
I love the...
Hanukkah!
Potato latkes applesauce is...
Hanukkah! A nightly blessing,
Window-dressing.

On the first night, there's a present.
On the second night, a present.
Present, present, present, present!
It's a present every night!
Jelly donuts may be pleasant,
But admit it: it's the presents!
It's so fun to open presents
In the glow of candlelight.
Presents! Presents! We love presents!
Presents! Presents! Gifts and presents!
Aha! Voilà! Ta-da! Hanukkah!

Cold Moon

We lift a song against the winter's hush
We lift a glass against the looming cold
We lift a candle high
A fading flicker on the longest night
We carol only to the ringing dark

Hark! Hear the bells
Sweet silver bells
All seem to say
Throw cares away
Christmas is here
Bringing good cheer
To young and old
Meek and the bold

Now the cold moon paints our steps in
faded blue
We speak of last year's resolutions failed
And all our fragile hopes
We tell our sorrows to the longest night
And hear them echo
In the ringing

Hark! Hear the bells
Sweet silver bells
All seem to say
Throw cares away

Christmas is here
Bringing good cheer
To young and old
Meek and the bold

When the songs of good and cheer
Drone dismally
When the sweet silver bells
Clang endlessly on
We will walk homeward
Under frozen stars and pause
Hearing only the north wind
Seeing only our shadows on the snow
Feeling only the wonder
Of the cold moon's glow

Hark! Hear the bells
Sweet silver bells
All seem to say
Throw cares away
Christmas is here
Bringing good cheer
To young and old
Meek and the bold

And in another cold moon
May we find
Find the peace we've sung
So long about
May the waning dark attend
Our hopes this time
May the waning dark attend
Our hopes this time
And may the candle burn a little
Brighter on the longest night
May we find new songs to sing

See Amid the Winter's Snow/Lo How A Rose

See amid the winter's snow
Blossoms hiding there below
Soon the warming sun appears
Cycling life through all the years

Dormant earth is called again from sleep
Life's eternal promise keep
For from the gray and white and cold
Comes the spring foretold.

Keep me safe and guide my way
Show me goodness every day
Let the story told by earth
Kindle my renewing birth

Dormant earth is called again from sleep
Life's eternal promise keep
For from the gray and white and cold
Comes the spring foretold.

See amid the winter's snow
What seemed death so still below
Is but sleep from which we rise
To a world reborn revised.
Dormant earth is called again from sleep

Life's eternal promise keep
For from the gray and white and cold
Comes the spring foretold.

Give Love on Christmas Day

People making lists, buying special gifts
Taking time to be kind to one and all
It's that time of year
When good friends are near
And you wish you could give more
Than just presents from a store
Why don't you give love on Christmas Day
Oh even the man who has everything
Would be so happy if you would bring
Him love on Christmas Day
No greater gift is there than love

People you don't know smile and nod hello
Everywhere there's an air of Christmas joy
It's that once of year
When the world's sincere
And you'd like to find a way to show
The things that words can't say
Why don't you give love on Christmas Day?
The man on the street
And the couple upstairs
All need to know
There's someone who cares
Give love on Christmas Day
No greater gift is there than love

Now Behold the Lamb

Now behold the Lamb
The Precious Lamb of God
Born into sin that I may live again
The Precious Lamb of God

Now behold the Lamb
The Precious Lamb of God
Born into sin that I may live again
The Precious Lamb of God

Holy is the Lamb
The Precious Lamb of God
Why You love me so, Lord
I shall never know
The Precious Lamb of God

Holy is the Lamb
The Precious Lamb of God
Why You love me so, Lord
I shall never know
The Precious Lamb of God

Now behold the Lamb
The Precious Lamb of God
Born into sin that I may live again
He's the precious Lamb of God

When I always didn't do right
I went left, He told me to go right
But I'm standing right here

SONG LYRICS

In the midst of my tears, Lord
I thank You to be the Lamb of God
Thank You for the Lamb
The Precious Lamb of God
Because of Your grace
I can finish this race
The Precious Lamb of God

Even when I broke, broke Your heart
My sins tore us apart
But I'm standing right here
In the midst of my tears
I claim You to be the Lamb of God

New life can begin
For You washed away,
Washed away every one of my sins
Whom the Son sets free,
Is truly free indeed
I claim You to be the Lamb of God

Now behold the Lamb
The Precious Lamb of God
Born into sin that I may live again

The Precious Lamb of God
Oh oh oh
Oh, oh, oh,
Why You love me so, Lord
I shall never know
Why You love me so, Lord
I shall never know

Why You love me so, Lord
I shall never know
The Precious Lamb of God
Oh, oh, oh
Oh, oh, oh
Oh, oh, oh
Why You love me so, Lord
I shall never know
The Precious Lamb of God

Love is Christmas

I don't care if the house is packed
Or the strings of light are broken
I don't care if the gifts are wrapped
Or there's nothing here to open

Love is not a toy,
And no paper will conceal it
Love is simply joy that I'm home

I don't care if the carpet's stained,
We've got food upon our table
I don't care if it's gonna rain,
Our little room is warm and stable

Love is who we are,
And no season can contain it
Love would never fall for that

We sing, "Ooh

Ooh, ooh"
Let love lead us, love is Christmas
Why so scared that you'll mess it up
When perfection keeps you haunted?
All we need is your best, my love,
That's all anyone ever wanted

Love is how we do,
Let no judgment overrule it
Love, I look to you, and I sing

Ooh
Ooh
Ooh
Ooh
Ooh

Let love lead us, love is Christmas
Let love lead us, love is Christmas

TeXmas Hold 'Em

This is Christmas (woo),
Merry Christmas (hey),
So lay your cards down,
Down, down, down
So wrap your presents
And roast some chestnuts
Stick around, 'round,
'Round, 'round, 'round (stick around)

And I'll be damned
If I can't kiss on you
Under mistletoe, Santa, too
It's a real-life carol
And a real-life hoedown
Don't be a Grinch,
Come take it to the floor now, woo

We put the tree up
Ain't it pretty
Out of tinsel, it's just a pity
Sparkling lights up and we're vibin'
Sweet hot cocoa, sugar cookies,
Sparklin' wine, yeah
Ooh, on this special night
Sugar plums are dancing
And the kids are sleeping right
Ooh, put the angel on the tree
Then back under the mistletoe, boy,
Kiss me, baby please

This is Christmas (woo),
Merry Christmas (hey)
So lay your cards down,
Down, down, down
So wrap your presents (woo)
And bake some cookies (hey)
Stick around, 'round,
'Round 'round 'round

And I'll be damned
If I can't kiss on you
Under mistletoe, Santa, too

It's a real-life carol
And a real-life hoedown
Don't be a Grinch,
Come take it to the floor now, woo
And I'll be damned
If I can't kiss on you
Under mistletoe, Santa, too
It's a real-life carol
And a real-life hoedown
Don't be a Grinch,
Come take it to the floor now, woo

Woo-hoo
Woo-hoo
Woo-hoo

There's some reindeer on the rooftop
Sleigh bells are ringing
Holiday magic
Jolly old St. Nick is right back at it
And in the morning there'll be snow
And good yuletide, yeah
Ooh, on this special night
Sugar plums are dancing
And the kids are sleeping right
Ooh, put the angel on the tree
Then back under the mistletoe, boy,
Kiss me, baby please

This is Christmas (woo),
Merry Christmas (hey)
So lay your cards down,

Down, down, down
So wrap your presents (woo)
And roast some chestnuts (hey)
Stick around, 'round,
'Round, 'round, 'round
And I'll be damned
If I can't kiss on you
Under mistletoe, Santa, too
It's a real-life carol
And a real-life hoedown
Don't be a Grinch,
Come take it to the floor now, woo

And I'll be damned
If I can't kiss on you
Under mistletoe, Santa, too
It's a real-life carol
And a real-life hoedown
Don't be a _____,
Come take it to the floor now, woo

Take it to the floor now, ooh
Cheer, presents, joy
To the floor now, ooh
Bells, bows, gifts (ooh, ooh, ooh)
Come take it to the floor now, ooh

And I'll be damned
If I can't kiss on you
Under mistletoe, Santa, too
Bells, bows, gifts
Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas, shoot



Celebrating Black History Month!

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HARMONY AWARDS

The Harmony Award is GMCW's highest honor. The awards are presented by the Chorus's Board of Directors to individuals and organizations from the community, and an individual from within the Chorus family. Recipients include:

Individuals from the Community:

Peter D. Rosenstein, LGBTQ+ community activist, 2004
David Catania, DC Councilmember, 2005
Frank Kameny, Gay rights movement pioneer, 2006
Adrian Fenty, DC Mayor, 2007
Noi Chudnoff*, business proprietor and arts patron, 2008
The Right Reverend V. Gene Robinson, Episcopal bishop, 2009
John Berry, Director, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 2010
Barney Frank, U.S. Congressman, Massachusetts, 2012
Eric Schaeffer, Signature Theatre Artistic Director, 2014
Kevin Jennings, GLSEN founder & Obama "safe schools" appointee, 2015
Marsha Pearson, GMCW founder, 2016
Muriel Bowser, DC Mayor, 2018
Wendy Rieger, NBC4-TV news anchor, 2019
Phil Mendelson, DC Council Chairperson, 2022
Tammy Baldwin, US Senator, 2023
Joaquin "Jocko" Fajardo*, 2024

Organizations:

The Mautner Project, national Lesbian health organization, 2004
Holland & Knight, international law firm, 2005
Food and Friends, food and nutrition service providers, 2006
Metro DC PFLAG, education and advocacy organization, 2007
SMYAL, 2008
Washington DC Metropolitan Police Department's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit, 2009
Immigration Equality, 2010
Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, 2011
Washington Blade, 2012
Team DC, 2014
Williams Institute, 2015
National Center for Transgender Equality, 2016
NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists, 2017
Whitman-Walker Health, 2018
Casa Ruby and NBC Out, 2019
Metro Weekly, 2022
The Wanda Alston Foundation, 2023
GLSEN, 2024

Individuals from the Chorus family:

Steve "Soph" Herman, 2004
Gary Regan and Roger Bergstrom, 2005
Carl Baldwin & Gary Turner and David Streit, 2006
Phil Rogerson, 2007
Laurence Rosen, 2008
Michael Baker, 2009
Jeff Buhrman, 2010
Greg Kubiak, 2011
Mark Hennen, 2012
Joe Vignali, 2013
Tom Nichols & Dan Chadburn, 2014
Michael E. Hill, 2015
Christopher Grieder & Stuart Kopperman, 2016
John Moran* and Jack Reiffer, 2017
Marcus Brown and Rob Hall, 2018
Charles Berardesco, 2019
Robert T. Boaz*, 2022
Timothy Allmond & Robert Klein, 2023
Thea Kano and Theodore Guerrant, 2024

* posthumously awarded



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ABOUT US

MISSION

The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC (GMCW) sings to inspire equality and inclusion with musical performances and education promoting justice and dignity for all.

OVERVIEW

GMCW is the largest LGBTQ+ chorus in the nation's capital. We are a renowned performance group. Since 1981, we've performed shows nationally, internationally, and at-home in Washington, DC. To date, we have 250+ singing members, four select ensembles, a youth chorus, over 500 donors, and an annual audience of 10,000+. Our mission is to use music to promote equality, achieve justice, and overcome our differences. Over the last 44 years, we've put on numerous shows and done hours and hours of community outreach. We've sung and danced our hearts out around the country, including our Equality Tours in 2017, 2018, and 2019. We've been around the world, too, including stops in Cuba, Iceland, and Ukraine. We've sung for the Clintons, the Bushes, the Obamas, and the Bidens. Alongside Alan Cumming, Carol Channing, Chita Rivera, and Angela Lansbury. We've visited many prestigious venues, including the Kennedy Center, the White House, and Carnegie Hall, just to name a few.



CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE

Circle of Excellence Awards are chosen annually by members of GMCW to recognize the outstanding contributions made by members of the Chorus. These awards honor those individuals who have exemplified the spirit of camaraderie, brother- and sisterhood and community in the Chorus and whose work has had lasting impact over many years.

1991

Fred Boykin
Jeffrey Buhrman
Tom Dudley*
Steve Herman
Jim Holloway
Steve Maddox*
Dr. Jim Richardson
Ron Sabacek
B. J. Sobus
Bruce Trinkley
Everett Waldo
Bob Wonneberger
Michael Ziskind

1992

Michael Bohn
Eric Korpon
Darrell Netherton
Harry Powers
Michael Rivard
Rick Rosendall
David Sisson
Duward Sumner

1993

Craig Bowen*
Peter Brayton
Phil Rogerson

1994

Rod Fiorito
Scott Pierce*
David Streit
Robert Wheeler

1995

Darrell Lewis
Len Padgett
Jim Peterson

1996

Michael Baker
Roger Bergstrom
Dick Dorr
Dennis Swick*

1997

Jack Gerard
Charlie Merk
Michael Milano
Gary Regan

1998

Kevin Doss
Robb Rexroth
Laurence A. Rosen

1999

Jerry Carpenter
Bob Dragoset
Thom Gibb

2000

Christopher Grieder
Gary Turner
Joe Vignali
Marvin Weeks

2001

Joe Cannon
Teddy Guerrant
Steven Haber
John Perkins
Michael B. Smith

2002

Carl Baldwin
Barry W. Bugg
Michael Cunningham
Dan Patton
Todd Paul

2003

Tom DiGiovanni
Rick Johnson
Kathy McGee
Chuck Walker

2004

Scott Button
Robert Klein
Jerry Lee
Harold Lewis
Jack Reiffer

2005

Jeff Van Luyn
Stuart Kopperman
Edward P. Oseroff

2006

David Bielenberg
Joe Canter
Bill Cutter
Matt Komornik
Barrett Whitener

2007

Russ Capps
Rob Hall
Jarrod Holloman
Paul Leavitt
Jim Murphy

2008

Greg Kubiak
Rob Driggers
Michael Hill

2009

Chip Crews
Mark Hennen
John O'Brien

2010

Jay Ball
Thea Kano
Steve Pflasterer
Andy Van Etten

2011

Sherman Blow
Robert T. Boaz
Peter Fox
Andrew Harmon

2012

Craig Cipollini
Ron Norberg
John "JQ" Quiñones
Shannon Rozner

2013

Joe Bloomer
Marcus Brown
Sean Robinson

2014

Timothy E. Allmond
Raymond Burditt
Mary Scott
Ryan L. Williams

2015

Emérito Amaro
Larry Cohen
John-Paul Hayworth
Rob Serpa, Jr.

2016

Chris Asaro
Rick Davis
Suzette Derrevere
James Ellzy
Rob Neighbour
Lyn VanNoy

2017

Jarrold Bennett
Chipper Dean
Jay Gilliam
Matt Graf

2018

Howland Hartley
Mark Hegedus
Dan Kaufman
Mario Sengco

2019

Jim Arshem*
Corey Bent
Romm Gatongay
Matt Holland
Mark Klein
Samilet Lee
John U. Robinson

2020

Ben Harris
Derrick Jones
Betsy Libretta
Kevin Thomason
Bernard Vicary

2021

Michael Dumlao
Jim Gruschus
C. Paul Heins
Jim Madigan
Raymond Rinaldo
Bryce Weems
Micah Yarbrough

2022

Brent Almond
Tom Boeke
Jonathan Chaffin
Michael Hughes
Brett Kessler

2023

Michael Aylward
Rick Bennett
Justin Fyala
Solomon HaileSelassie
Keygan Miller
Paul Negron
Kirk Sobell
Santos Torres

2024

Mike Allen
Ralph Alston
David Karnick
Bill Lipsett
Shawn Morris
Nicole Streeter

* posthumously awarded

OVATION SOCIETY

The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC's Ovation Society is an initiative that recognizes and honors those generous individuals and families who have made planned gifts to the Chorus.

If you have already included GMCW in your estate plans, please let us know so that we can include you as a member of the Ovation Society. If not, we hope you will consider joining this special group by including GMCW in your will, as a beneficiary of a retirement account, or by setting up a charitable trust. Planned gifts can greatly reduce the amount of tax paid by your estate at the time of your death and often do not change the amount that would go to your family and friends.

While your attorney or accountant can provide you with more information, GMCW has several corporate sponsors — both financial planners and attorneys — who specialize in LGBTQ+ estate issues. We are happy to share this resource list with you upon request. As a member of the Ovation Society, you will be invited to attend special events and receptions especially for Ovation Society members.

For further information about GMCW's Ovation Society, or if you are interested in learning more about the many ways you can include GMCW in your plans, please contact Executive Director Justin Fyala, at 202-293-1548 or jfyala@gmcw.org.

GMCW Ovation Society

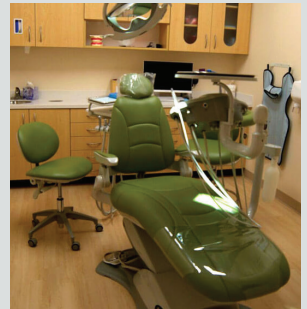
Robert Agnello & Jerry Pape
David & Eric Akridge
Stanley Allen
Bill Ashley
Thomas Augustin
J. Max Barger
Susan Barrett
Curtis Bell*
Roger Bergstrom*
Jeff Bonnell
Fred Boykin & Jack Killen
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Scott Button & David Streit
Joe Canter
Russ Capps* & Ken Yazge
Steve Crutchfield & Richard Ormseth
Rick Davis
Clare James Dryburgh
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Thom Gibb*
Cliff Gilbert
Jay Gilliam
Rob Ginzel
M. David Goldstein
Bill Gordon
Bob Gossard & Carl Ziebe
Michael Gottlieb
J. Stephen Hall & Robert Smith
Rob Hall & Chris Behan
A. Howland Hartley & William Lee*
Joshua T. Hatfield Charles
John-Paul Hayworth
Mark Hennen*
Steven Herman & John DiBenedetto

Michael Hill & Peter M. Kornis
Michael Hughes
Gary Janus*
Ken Kero-Mentz
Stuart Kopperman & Christopher Grieder
Greg Kubiak
Nick Kyrus & Anthony Cook
Jim Lardner
Harold Lewis
Scott Linder
Bill Lipsett & Eric Bolda
Steve Maddox*
Frank Maiellano
Michael McElvaine*
Kathleen McGee* & Marsha Holloman*
William Moran
Kevin Morris
Kerry Neal & Jiashen You
Jim Orrell
Todd Paul
John Perkins*
Steve Phan & Rick Poster
Harry B. Powers*
Brandon Quesnell & Steve Katsurinis
Steve Rappaport*
Jack Reiffer
Phil Rogerson*
Shannon & Steve Rozner
The Savada-Stevenson Family
Doug Sellers & Mark Eubanks
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Robert Sheavly & George Huffman
Duward Sumner*
Robert Switala & William Edgin
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Robert Wilkinson* & Kevin Gowen
Jim Woods & Scott Shields

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DIRECTORS CIRCLE

GMCW is pleased to honor current and former members of its Board of Directors who have made multi-year commitments to continue their legacy of leadership within the Chorus.

John F. Benton & David Briggs
Charles Berardesco & Jeff Thurston
Phillip Carson
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