

SEASONS OF  
**LOVE**

# Heart & Soul

**A CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR  
& CHERRY BLOSSOM DISTRICT

**FEBRUARY 22, 2025 • NATIONAL CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

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COMPASS



Greetings!

Welcome to *Heart & Soul*. I am both excited and honored to have the opportunity to celebrate Black culture through a style of music that has provided comfort and inspiration to so many. With all that is happening in the country right now, I think we could all use a bit of love and inspiration.

Gospel music is a genre that serves as a powerful reminder of our shared humanity, inspiring individuals to embrace their own identities while honoring the rich tapestries of others. Through heartfelt melodies and uplifting lyrics, gospel music fosters a sense of community and belonging, encouraging listeners to unite in a collective appreciation of the diversity that exists in this world.

As Seasons of Love celebrates Black history and World Pride, we honor the intersection of love, music, and multiculturalism by recognizing that every voice matters and every story deserves to be sung. In this shared spirit of unity, gospel music becomes more than just a sound — it is a testament to the enduring power of God's love to heal, empower, and bring us together as one. Ultimately, it is the spirit of love and acceptance that inspires us to take pride in our global heritage and work together for a brighter future.

I ask that you please enjoy the concert and let the music move you! As it's said in the Black church, "if you can't say a word, just wave your hand!"



Ronté Pierce  
GMCW Assistant Conductor  
Director of Seasons of Love



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THEA KANO  
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**GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC**  
PRESENTS

# Heart & Soul

FEATURING  
**SEASONS OF  
LOVE**

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS  
EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR  
AND  
CHERRY BLOSSOM DISTRICT

SEASONS OF LOVE CONDUCTOR  
RONTÉ PIERCE

EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL CONDUCTOR  
TEDRICK BONDS

PRODUCTION MANAGER  
BRIAN KUHN

GMCW PRODUCTION DIRECTOR  
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RAY



If **ONLY** we're  
**BRAVE**  
ENOUGH  
to **SEE**  
IT.  
If **ONLY** we're  
**BRAVE**  
ENOUGH  
to **BE**  
it.



SAY THEIR NAMES

*Darkness cannot  
drive out darkness.  
Only light can do  
that.*

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WITH

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# Heart & Soul

Welcome: Ronté Pierce

## SEASONS OF LOVE

All Around the World/All Around.....Written by Andraé Crouch,  
Soloist: Chris Murphy Chaka Khan, Luther Mano Hanes,  
and Israel Houghton  
Arranged by Ronté Pierce

Glorify Your Name.....Written by Kevin Singleton  
Soloist: Jahdiel Torres Cabá Arranged by Dan Galbraith

Gospel Medley.....Written by Beyoncé Knowles,  
Kirk Franklin, and Richard Smallwood  
Ensemble: Brent Almond, DJ Brown,  
Alex Domini, Michael Dumlao, TJ Foley,  
Johnny Geth, Neiko James, James McMaster,  
Don Medor, Chris Murphy, Freddie Quimbley,  
Tyson Reed, Lamar Smith, and Jahdiel Torres Cabá

Brighter Day/A Brand New Day.....Written by Kirk Franklin  
and Luther Vandross  
Arranged by Ronté Pierce

Great God, Great Vision, Great Accomplishments.....Written by Judith Christie  
McAllister

Speakers: Tommie Adams and Lamar Smith

## EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

Bless Me.....Written by Donald Lawrence and Andraé Crouch

God's Will Is What I Want.....Written by Freddie Washington

Speaker: Michael Dumlao

**CHERRY BLOSSOM DISTRICT**

The Prayer.....Written by Carole Bayer Sager, David Foster,  
Tony Renis, and Alberto Testa  
Arranged by Ronté Pierce

Ensemble: Marc de la Peña, Michael Dumlaio,  
Alex Dy Cruz, Romm Gatongay,  
Rob Lontok, Quincy Mata, James McMaster  
Cello: Tommie Adams

How Far I'll Go.....Written by Lin-Manuel Miranda  
Arranged by Ronté Pierce

Speaker: Tyson Reed

**SEASONS OF LOVE**

Tomorrow Medley.....Written by Deborah Kerr Winans,  
Soloist: Tyson Reed Carvin Winans, Charles Strouse,  
and Martin Charnin  
Arranged by Ronté Pierce

Have You Ever.....Written by Diane Warren  
Soloists: DJ Brown and Alex Domini

New Attitude/Call Him Up.....Written by Jon Gilutin, Bunny Hull,  
Soloist: Johnny Geth Sharon Robinson, Herman Netter,  
and Rickey Grundy  
Arranged by Ronté Pierce

How Deep is Your Love.....Written by Barry Gibb, Robin Gibb,  
Soloists: James McMaster and Maurice Gibb  
and Chris Daniels

Rain.....Written by Brian Alexander Morgan  
and Jaco Pastorius  
Arranged by Michael Higgins

Love Medley.....Written by Kirk Franklin  
Soloists: Neiko James and Arranged by Zebrina Anderson,  
Freddie Quimbley Nikeisha Whittier, Sarah Benibo,  
and Levi King

Love Theory.....Written by Kirk Franklin

Speaker: Thea Kano

**SEASONS OF LOVE, CHERRY BLOSSOM DISTRICT, AND  
EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR**

Make It Happen.....Written by Mariah Carey, Robert Civilles,  
Soloist: Gabriel Lopez and David Cole

# SEASONS OF LOVE

Ronté Pierce, Director

Tommie Adams  
Brent Almond  
DJ Brown  
Marcus Brown  
Chris Daniels  
Alex Domini  
Michael Dumlao  
Jeffrey Fleming  
Val Flores  
TJ Foley  
Johnny Geth  
Chris Gillespie

Cory Hess  
Neiko James  
Faraz Khan  
Joseph Levin-Manning  
Gabriel Lopez  
Eyal Lurie-Pardes  
James McMaster  
Donald Medor  
Jaylan Monroe  
Chris Murphy  
Freddie Quimbley

Mikal Rasheed  
Tyson Reed  
Simon Regenold  
Stephen Rozier  
Colin Smith  
Lamar Smith  
Matthew Teubert  
Jahdiel Torres Cabá  
Dennis Vonasek  
Kev Watts  
Micah Yarbrough



**Ronté Pierce** (Director) (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. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Music at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in Durham, NC where he was a member of the NCCU Concert Choir, NCCU Touring Choir, NCCU Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and NCCU Opera Workshop.

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 has a Master of Music degree from Boston University (2012) and an Education Specialist degree from Grand Canyon University (2021).



# EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR



Under the direction of Tedrick Bonds, the award-winning Eastern High School Choir has become and remains one of the most sought-after high school choirs in the District of Columbia metro area. The choir was founded in 1972 under the direction of Joyce Garrett, who was determined that her students would achieve a professional level of excellence. In 1987, this excellence was realized when the Eastern Choir won the silver trophy at the 1988 International Youth and Music Festival in Vienna, Austria, an award never bestowed upon an inner-city choir. Garrett expanded the Choir's rehearsal schedule into an after-school program four days per week that used music as a vehicle to impart core values, promote higher education, and instill the belief that excellence could be achieved despite disadvantages — hence the Choir's motto, "Excellence without Excuses."

In June 2009, Eastern went through an extensive physical renovation and re-launched in 2011 with only a ninth grade class. Over the next four years, another grade level was added, allowing Eastern to serve 9th – 12th grade students. In 2015, Eastern's music offerings were expanded to include vocal music during the school day, under the leadership of music teacher Tedrick Bonds. Mr. Bonds believes the vocal music program plays an essential part in providing a well-rounded education that provides students an artistic outlet while building lasting relationships. Embracing Joyce Garrett's motto, Mr. Bonds has accepted the challenge to help students achieve excellence in education and life and is honored to serve as their director.

## Tedrick Bonds, Director

Michaela Alston  
Marley Andrews  
Lynesia Bailey  
Mekhi Bailey  
Emmanuel Barclay  
Sahari Battle  
Tyler Belmey

Kayle Brown  
Shantoya Davis  
Nefertiti Drake  
Mya James  
Aaliyah Jenkins  
Shawn Logan  
Amaani Mcleod

Delyah Miner  
Annalee Nieves  
Jasmine Pitts  
Amaya Quick  
Daimiah Sewavi  
Angelo Taylor  
Starna Thomas

# CHERRY BLOSSOM DISTRICT

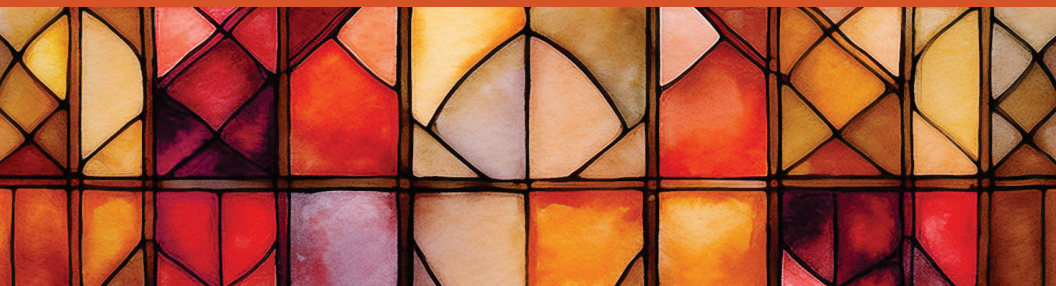


Cherry Blossom District is a group of singers from the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC, that comes together to sing fusion world music, drawing inspiration from intercultural traditions across the globe. The ensemble's repertoire blends multilingual folk genres in diverse vocal styles with contemporary pop, R&B, and soul.

Praddy Banerjee  
Marc de la Peña  
Tommy Do  
Michael Dumlao  
Alex Dy Cruz

Romm Gatongay  
Pang Jian  
Samilet Lee  
Jiyang Liu

Rob Lontok  
Quincy Mata  
James McMaster  
Matthew Ong



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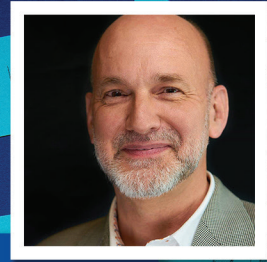
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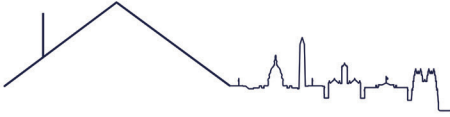


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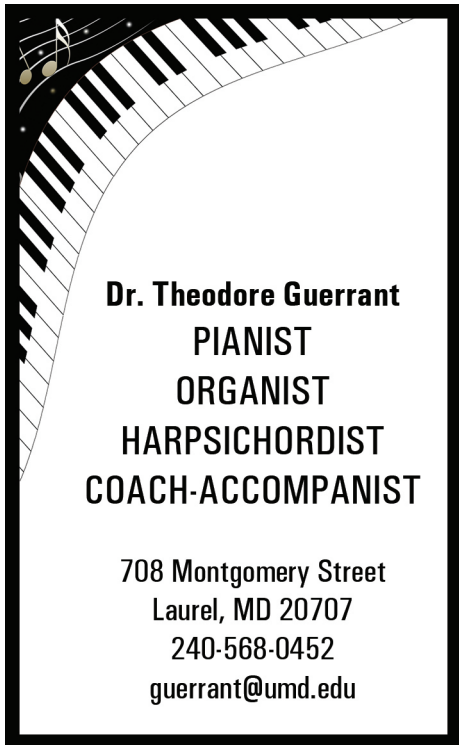
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Associate Conductor.....	C. Paul Heins
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Vice President for Communications.....	Thomas Reiker
Vice Presidents for Visibility & Activism.....	Gregoriah Hartman and Sam Lee
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Production Crew Chief.....	Bernard Vicary
Transportation Coordinator.....	Josh Millson-Martula
House Manager.....	Erik Rodriguez
Archival Video.....	Stone Lyons and Steve Herman
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Special thanks to the staff at National City Christian Church.



# 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.

Kenny Aaron  
Jan Albright  
Richard Allen  
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Milton Artis  
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Nelson Bain  
Michael Baker  
Ben Barker  
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## All Around the World / All Around

Yesterday today and forevermore  
Yesterday today He will never change  
Just like stars above,  
They call a mother's love  
Though this world's going crazy  
He will never, He will never

All around the world, He's the same!  
All around the world,  
He will never change!  
(repeat)

Yesterday today and forevermore  
Yesterday today He will never change  
See He will never change  
He will never change  
He will never change  
He will never, He will never, yeah!

All around the world, He's the same!  
All around the world,  
He will never change!  
(repeat)

All around, all around  
Everywhere I look  
Your love is all around  
All around, all around  
Everywhere I look  
Your love is all around  
(repeat)

Let the nations sing,  
Let the people shout  
Let Your kingdom come,  
Pour Your spirit out

Manifest, manifest Your love  
Manifest, manifest Your love

All around, all around  
Everywhere I look  
Your love is all around  
All around, all around  
Everywhere I look  
Your love is all around  
(repeat)

Let the nations sing,  
Let the people shout  
Let Your kingdom come,  
Pour Your spirit out

Manifest, manifest Your love  
Manifest, manifest Your love

Everywhere I look  
Your love is all around  
Everywhere I look  
Your love is all around  
(repeat)

All around, all around  
Everywhere I look  
Your love is all around  
All around, all around  
Everywhere I look  
Your love is all around  
(repeat)

## Glorify Your Name

Tu presencia, tu gloria,  
Bienvenido aquí  
Toda honra, dominio,  
Acércate  
Te quiero, te amo,  
Vivimos para glorificar  
Tu nombre

Your presence, Your glory,  
You're welcome here  
All honor, dominion  
Lord please come, near  
We want You, we need You  
We live to glorify Your name

Glorify, Your name  
Glorify, Your name  
Glorify, Your name,  
Above all names  
(repeat)

Your presence, Your glory,  
You're welcome here  
All honor, dominion  
Lord please come, near  
We want You, we need You  
We live to glorify Your name

Glorify Your name  
Glorify Your name  
Glorify Your name,  
Above all names  
(repeat)

We want You, we need You

# SONG LYRICS

We want You, we need You  
We want You, we need You  
We live to glorify Your name

## **Gospel Medley**

Thank you, Lord, hallelujah  
You've been so good to me  
Thank you, Lord, hallelujah  
I'm grateful for my blessings

I'm grateful for my struggles  
Trials and tribulations  
I've been through  
I've realized no one can  
Love like You do

Thank you, Lord, hallelujah  
I feel your presence near  
Thank you, Lord, hallelujah  
I won't hold back my tears

I gave you my trust  
And you took me out of the dark rain  
My Lord I survived it  
I give You the praise

Lord, You've been so good  
You've been so good to me  
I'm so grateful for my blessings  
Givin' You all the praise

Lord, You've been so good  
You've been so good to me  
I'm grateful for all of my blessings  
Giving You all the praise

Jesus loves me, oh yes He does  
Jesus loves me, oh yes He does  
Jesus loves me, oh yes He does  
For the Bible tells me so  
So so, oh so  
(My Jesus loves me, I know)

Amen, amen  
Amen, amen  
Amen, amen  
Amen, amen

## **Brighter Day / A Brand New Day**

When I close my eyes and think of You  
And reminisce on  
All the things You do

I can't imagine my life without You  
It's like paradise, now  
I know that it's real (um)  
It's a mystery  
For someone to give Their life  
Just for me  
What You did on Calvary  
Makes me wanna love You more

I never knew  
I could be so happy  
I never knew  
I'd be so secure  
Because of Your love  
Life has brand new meaning  
It's gonna be a brighter day,  
Brighter day

Everybody look around  
'Cause there's a reason to rejoice,  
You see  
Everybody come out  
And let's commence to singing joyfully  
Everybody look up  
And feel the hope that we've been  
waiting on  
Everybody's glad  
Because our silent fear  
And dread is gone

Freedom, you see  
Has got our hearts singing so joyfully  
Just look about  
You owe it to yourself to check it out  
Can't you feel a brand new day?  
Can't you feel a brand new day?  
Can't you feel a brand new day?  
Can't you feel a brand new day?

Nothing can compare  
To the joy You bring  
An everlasting love affair  
Jesus my life would never be the same  
I found someone Who truly cares

I never knew  
I could be so happy  
I never knew  
I'd be so secure  
Because of Your love  
Life has brand new meaning  
It's gonna be a brighter day,  
Brighter day  
Brighter day, brighter day, brighter day,

Brighter day,  
Brighter day, brighter day,  
Brighter day, brighter day

I never knew  
I could be so happy  
I never knew  
I'd be so secure  
Because of Your love  
Life has brand new meaning  
It's gonna be a brighter day,  
Brighter day

### **Great God, Great Vision, Great Accomplishments**

Great God, great vision,  
Great accomplishment  
He reigneth with wisdom and power  
All across the nation,  
All of God's creation  
Great is the Lord our

Great God, great vision,  
Great accomplishment  
He reigneth with wisdom and power  
All across the nation,  
All of God's creation  
Great is the Lord our

Great God (5x)  
And He reigns forever  
Great is the Lord our

Great God (5x)  
And He reigns forever  
Great is the Lord our

He's alpha and omega  
The beginning and the ending  
And He reigns forever  
Great is the Lord our

He reigneth (4x)  
And He reigns forever  
Great is the Lord our  
(repeat)

Great is the Lord our  
Great is the Lord our  
Great is the Lord our  
Lord, our Lord, our God

### **Bless Me**

Bless me, bless me  
Oh Lord, bless me indeed  
Enlarge my territory  
Oh Lord, bless me indeed  
(I pray for increase)  
Bless me indeed  
(I pray for increase)

Increase, increase  
Oh Lord, bless me indeed  
Enlarge my territory  
Oh Lord, bless me indeed  
(I pray for increase)  
Bless me indeed

Keep Your hand upon me  
That no evil cannot harm me  
Sunshine and rain, sickness and pain  
God, I humbly come to You

Enlarge my territory  
Enlarge my territory  
Oh Lord, bless me indeed  
(I pray for increase)  
Bless me indeed

Keep Your hand upon me  
That no evil cannot harm me  
Sunshine and rain, sickness and pain  
God, I humbly come to You

Enlarge my territory  
(repeat 8x)

Oh Lord, bless me indeed  
(I pray for increase)  
Bless me indeed  
(I pray for increase)  
I pray for increase

Keep Your hand upon me  
That no evil cannot harm me  
Sunshine and rain, sickness and pain  
God, I humbly come to You

Oh, enlarge my territory  
Enlarge my territory  
Enlarge my territory  
Oh Lord, I pray for increase  
Enlarge my territory  
(repeat 3x)



# SONG LYRICS

## God's Will Is What I Want

God's will is what I want for my life  
God's will is what I want for my life

I'll do what You want me to do  
I'll say what You want me to say  
I'll go where You want me to go  
God's will is what I want for my life

I'll give up every fault  
I'll sing Your praises forevermore  
I'll be what You want me to be  
God's will is what I want for my life

God's will is what I want for my life  
God's will is what I want for my life

God's will is what I want  
God's will is what I want  
God's will is what I want for my life  
God's will is what I want  
God's will is what I want  
God's will is what I want for my life  
(repeat)

## The Prayer

I pray You'll be our eyes,  
And watch us where we go  
And help us to be wise in times  
When we don't know  
Let this be our prayer,  
When we lose our way  
Lead us to a place,  
Guide us with Your grace  
To a place where we'll be safe

Aming panalangin (Our prayer)  
I pray we'll find Your light  
O, Diyos kami'y dinggin  
(Oh, God hear us)  
And hold it in our hearts  
Sa bawat sandali (In every moment)  
When stars go out each night  
Maging tanglaw namin (Be our light)  
Let this be our prayer  
When shadows fill our day

Lead us to a place,  
Guide us with Your grace  
Give us faith so we'll be safe

Panalangin namin kami ay pagpalain  
(Our prayer is that You bless us)  
Na kahit sa dilim nawa'y makita  
(That even in the darkness,  
May we see)  
Liwang ng pag-ibig Mong dakila  
(The light of Your great love)  
At di na mawalay sa lyong gabay  
(And never be separated from  
Your guidance)

We ask that life be kind  
And watch us from above  
We hope each soul will find  
Another soul to love

Let this be our prayer  
Just like every child

Need to find a place  
Guide us with Your grace  
Give us faith so we'll be safe

And now with this faith  
Which is in our hearts  
Give us faith so we'll be safe

## How Far I'll Go

I've been staring at the  
Edge of the water  
Long as I can remember  
Never really knowing why  
I wish I could be the perfect daughter  
But I come back to the water  
No matter how hard I try

Every turn I take, every trail I track  
Every path I make,  
Every road leads back  
To the place I know where I cannot go  
Where I long to be

See the line where the sky  
Meets the sea?  
It calls me  
And no one knows how far it goes  
If the wind in my sail on the sea  
Stays behind me  
One day I'll know  
If I go, there's just no telling how far  
I'll go

I know everybody on this island seems  
So happy on this island  
Everything is by design  
I know everybody on this island  
Has a role on this island  
So maybe I can roll with mine

I can lead with pride,  
I can make us strong  
I'll be satisfied if I play along  
But the voice inside  
Sings a different song  
What is wrong with me?

See the light as it shines on the sea?  
It's blinding  
But no one knows how deep it goes  
And it seems like it's calling out to me,  
So come find me  
And let me know  
What's beyond that line,  
Will I cross that line?

See the line where the sky  
Meets the sea?  
It calls me  
And no one knows how far it goes  
If the wind in my sail on the sea  
Stays behind me  
One day I'll know how far I'll go

### **Tomorrow Medley**

Tomorrow  
I'll give my life tomorrow  
I thought about today  
But it's so much easier to say

Tomorrow  
Who promised you tomorrow  
Better choose the Lord today  
For tomorrow very well  
Might be today

The sun'll come out  
Tomorrow  
Bet your bottom dollar  
That tomorrow there'll be sun

Just thinkin' about tomorrow  
Clears away the cobwebs  
And the sorrow 'til there's none

When I'm stuck with a day  
That's gray and lonely  
I just stick out my chin  
And grin and say, oh

The sun'll come out  
Tomorrow  
So ya gotta hang on  
'Til tomorrow come what may

Tomorrow, tomorrow  
I love ya tomorrow  
You're always, a day away

### **Have You Ever**

Have you ever loved somebody  
So much it makes you cry?  
Have you ever needed something  
So bad you can't sleep at night?  
Have you ever tried to find the words  
But they don't come out right?  
Have you ever, have you ever?

Have you ever been in love,  
Been in love so bad  
You'd do anything  
To make them understand?  
Have you ever had someone  
Steal your heart away  
You'd give anything  
To make them feel the same?

Have you ever searched for words  
To get you in their heart  
But you don't know what to say  
And you don't know where to start?

Have you ever loved somebody  
So much it makes you cry?  
Have you ever needed something  
So bad you can't sleep at night?  
Have you ever tried to find the words  
But they don't come out right?  
Have you ever, have you ever?

Have you ever found the one  
You've dreamed of all of your life?  
You'd do just about anything  
To look into their eyes  
Have you finally found the one  
You've given your heart to  
Only to find that one  
Won't give their heart to you?

# SONG LYRICS

Have you ever closed your eyes and  
Dreamed that they were there  
And all you can do is wait for the day  
When they will care?

Have you ever loved somebody  
So much it makes you cry?  
Have you ever needed something  
So bad you can't sleep at night?  
Have you ever tried to find the words  
But they don't come out right?  
Have you ever, have you ever?

What do I gotta do  
To get you in my arms, baby?  
What do I gotta say  
To get to your heart?  
To make you understand  
How I need you next to me  
Gotta get you in my world  
'Cause, baby, I can't sleep  
Have you ever

Have you ever loved somebody  
So much it makes you cry?  
Have you ever needed something  
So bad you can't sleep at night?  
Have you ever tried to find the words  
But they don't come out right?  
Have you ever, have you ever?  
(repeat)

Have you ever?

## **New Attitude / Call Him Up**

Runnin' hot, runnin' cold  
I was runnin' into overload  
It was extreme  
I took it so high, so low  
So low, there was nowhere to go  
Like a bad dream

Somehow the wires uncrossed, the  
tables were turned  
Never knew I had  
Such a lesson to learn

I'm feelin' good  
From my head to my shoes  
Know where I'm goin'  
And I know what to do  
I tidied up my point of view

I got a new attitude

I'm in control, my worries are few  
'Cause I've got love like I never knew  
Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh  
I got a new attitude

I'm wearing a new shirt, new hat  
Brand new ideas, as a matter of fact,  
I've changed for good  
Must have been the cool night,  
New moon, slight change  
Or that look in your eyes,  
But I feel like I should, yes

Somehow the wires uncrossed,  
The tables were turned  
Never knew I had  
Such a lesson to learn

I'm feelin' good  
From my head to my shoes  
Know where I'm goin'  
And I know what to do  
I tidied up my point of view  
I got a new attitude

I'm in control, my worries are few  
'Cause I've got love like I never knew  
Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh  
I got a new attitude

Can't stop praising His name  
I just can't stop praising His name  
I just can't stop praising His name  
I got a new attitude

## **How Deep Is Your Love**

I know your eyes in the morning sun  
I feel you touch me in the pouring rain  
And the moment that  
You wander far from me  
I wanna feel you in my arms again  
And you come to me  
On a summer breeze  
Keep me warm in your love,  
Then you softly leave

And it's me you need to show  
How deep is your love?

How deep is your love?

How deep is your love?  
I really mean to learn  
'Cause we're living in a world of fools  
Breaking us down  
When they all should let us be  
We belong to you and me

I believe in you,  
You know the door to my very soul  
You're the light in my deepest,  
Darkest hour  
You're my savior when I fall  
And you may not think I care for you  
When you know down inside that  
I really do

And it's me you need to show  
How deep is your love?

How deep is your love?  
How deep is your love?  
I really mean to learn  
'Cause we're living in a world of fools  
Breaking us down  
When they all should let us be  
We belong to you and me

## Rain

Fall down, fall down, Lord, please  
Let it (let it), fall down, fall, Lord, please  
Fall down, fall down, Lord, please  
Let it (let it), fall down, fall, Lord, please

Sometimes it's soft as a misting rain  
That gently touches our souls  
It cools the fire that burns in us  
And we simply lose control

So just rain down, Lord, Lord, please  
Let your love fall like rain  
Just rain, Lord, please

Just rain down, Lord, Lord, please  
Let your love just shower us  
Just rain, Lord, please

Sometimes it's soft as a misting rain  
That gently touches our souls  
It cools the fire that burns in us  
And we simply lose control

So just rain down, Lord, Lord, please  
Let your love fall like rain

Just rain, Lord, please

Just rain down, Lord, Lord, please  
Let your love just shower us  
Just rain, Lord, please

Rain, rain, Lord, please  
Rain, rain, Lord, please  
Rain, rain, Lord, please  
Rain, rain, Lord, please  
(Rain down, Lord please)  
Rain, rain, Lord, please  
(We need it, we need it)  
Rain, rain, Lord, please  
(Rain down, Lord please)  
Rain, rain, Lord, please  
(We need it, we need it)  
Rain, rain, Lord, please  
(Rain down, Lord please)  
Rain, rain, Lord, please  
(We need it, we need it)  
Rain, rain, Lord, please  
Rain, rain, Lord, please  
(We need it, we need it)  
Rain, rain, Lord, please  
Rain, Lord, please

Sometimes it's soft as a misting rain

## Love Medley

Love, a word that comes and goes,  
But few people really know  
What it means to really love  
Somebody  
Do you know what it means to love?  
Though your tears may fade away  
I'm so glad Your love will stay  
'Cause I love You,  
And You've shown me, Jesus  
What it really means to love

I love You, I love You,  
I love You Lord today,  
Because You've cared for me  
In such a special way  
And yes I praise You, I lift You up and  
I magnify Your name,  
That is why my heart  
Is filled with praise

I lift my hands in total adoration  
Unto You,  
You reign on the throne  
For you are God and God alone  
Because of You  
My cloudy days are gone



# SONG LYRICS

And I can sing to You this song  
I just want to say that I love You  
More than anything

My heart, my mind,  
My soul belongs to You  
Who paid the price for me  
Way back on calvary and  
Yes, I praise You  
I lift You up and I magnify Your name.  
Your name is Great,  
That's why my heart is  
Filled with praise

Love me in Your arms  
You were my shelter from the storm  
When all my friends were gone  
You were right there all along  
I've never known a love like this before  
I just want to say

The nights that I cried You loved me  
When I should've died You loved me  
I'll never know why You love me  
What it really means to Love

I love you, Jesus,  
I worship and adore You  
Just want to tell You  
I love You, I love You

Jesus went to calvary  
To save a wretch like you and me  
That's love, that's love

They hung Him high,  
They stretched Him wide  
He hung His head, for me He died  
That's love, that's love

That's not how the story ends  
Cause in three days He rose again  
That's love, that's love

That's love, that's love  
That's love, that's love

## Love Theory

How can it be  
That You love the most unlovable part  
Of me, of me?  
How could You see  
Your life was the only gift

I'll ever need to be free?

It's amazing with You,  
I win even if I lose  
Everything's working for my good  
For always

He saved the day  
He will come through  
He won't fail,  
That's not what superheroes do  
No greater love makes my heart beat  
All I wanna do is make  
You proud of me

I don't wanna love nobody but You  
I don't wanna love nobody but You  
I don't wanna love nobody,  
Love nobody but You

How can it be  
Every one of my secrets that You keep  
You cover me, You cover me  
A mystery  
Your patience with me, God,  
Will never leave  
Don't ever leave

Help me to see like You  
No matter what I go through  
Everything's working for my good  
For always

He saved the day  
He will come through  
He won't fail, that's not what  
Superheroes do  
No greater love makes my heart beat  
All I wanna do is make  
You proud of me

I don't wanna love nobody but You  
I don't wanna love nobody but You  
I don't wanna love nobody,  
Love nobody but You

Loving you will be the death of me  
That's how it's supposed to be  
More of you, less of me

I don't wanna love nobody but You  
I don't wanna love nobody but You  
I don't wanna love nobody,  
Love nobody but You

He saved the day  
He will come through  
He won't fail,  
That's not what superheroes do  
No greater love makes my heart beat  
All I wanna do is  
Make You proud of me

I don't wanna love nobody but You  
I don't wanna love nobody but You  
I don't wanna love nobody, love  
Nobody but You

### **Make It Happen**

Not more than three short years ago  
I was abandoned and alone  
Without a penny to my name  
So very young and so afraid  
No proper shoes upon my feet  
Sometimes I couldn't even eat  
I often cried myself to sleep

But still I had to keep on going  
Never knowing if I could take it  
If I would make it through the night  
I held on to my faith,  
I struggled and I prayed  
And now I've found my way

If you believe in yourself enough  
And know what you want  
You're gonna make it happen  
Make it happen  
And if you get down  
On your knees at night  
And pray to the Lord  
He's gonna make it happen  
Make it happen

I know life can be so tough  
And you feel like giving up  
But you must be strong  
Baby, just hold on  
You'll never find the answers  
If you throw your life away  
I used to feel the way you do

Still I had to keep on going  
Never knowing if I could take it  
If I would make it through the night  
I held on to my faith,  
I struggled and I prayed  
And now I've finally found my way

If you believe in yourself enough  
And know what you want  
You're gonna make it happen  
Make it happen  
And if you get down  
On your knees at night  
And pray to the Lord  
He's gonna make it happen  
Make it happen

Oh-oh, oh, make it through the night  
I held on to my faith  
I struggled and I prayed  
And finally found a way

If you believe in yourself enough  
And know what you want  
You're gonna make it happen  
Make it happen  
And if you get down  
On your knees at night  
And pray to the Lord  
He's gonna make it happen  
Make it happen

I once was lost  
But now I'm found  
I got my feet  
On solid ground  
Thank you, Lord

If you believe  
Within your soul  
Just hold on tight  
And don't let go  
You can make it  
Make it happen

Don't let go, don't never ever let go  
(repeat 8x)

Oh-oh, oh, don't let go

If you believe in yourself enough  
And know what you want  
You're gonna make it happen  
Make it happen  
And if you get down  
On your knees at night  
And pray to the Lord  
He's gonna make it happen  
Make it happen

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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](mailto:jfyala@gmcw.org).

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Morgan Slusher  
Michael Smith  
Shawn Strout  
Jim Tavenner  
Drew Thatcher  
C. Lyn VanNoy  
Bernard Vicary  
Dennis Vonasek  
Brian Watts  
John Weaner  
Silvio Weisner  
Kevin Wenzel  
Carl Wiersum  
Chuck Willett  
James W. Williams  
Robert Wilson & Elliott Lapin  
Kimball Winn & Stephen O'Neill

\* deceased





# PARTNERS IN HARMONY

In a world where religious leaders and their organizations have too often embodied the oppression and rejection that many of us have suffered, a growing number of synagogues, congregations, and other faith-based organizations are welcoming and celebrating LGBTQ+ persons. We proudly list them here as our **PARTNERS IN HARMONY**. We recommend them to any who are looking for a faith community to call home. Visit [gmcw.org](http://gmcw.org) for links to all of these faith-based organizations.

Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church  
 Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation  
 All Souls Church Unitarian  
 All Souls Episcopal Church  
 Arlington Presbyterian Church  
 Augustana Lutheran Church  
 Bet Mishpachah  
 Bethel United Church of Christ  
 Bethesda United Church of Christ  
 Bethesda United Methodist Church  
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
 Beverley Hills Community United Methodist Church  
 Bull Run Unitarian Universalist Church  
 Burke Presbyterian Church  
 Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church  
 Capitol Hill United Methodist Church  
 Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church  
 Center for Spiritual Living — Metro  
 Christ Church + Washington Parish  
 Christ Congregational Church  
 Christ Episcopal Church Kensington  
 Church of the Ascension  
 The Church of the Epiphany  
 Church of the Pilgrims  
 Clarendon Presbyterian Church  
 Commonwealth Baptist Church  
 Congregation Ner Shalom  
 Dignity Washington  
 Dumbarton United Methodist Church  
 Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
 Fairlington Presbyterian Church  
 Fairlington United Methodist Church  
 The Falls Church Episcopal  
 First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, DC  
 First Christian Church of Falls Church  
 First Congregational United Church of Christ  
 Foundry United Methodist Church  
 Friends Meeting of Washington (Quakers)  
 Georgetown Lutheran Church  
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
 Hope United Church of Christ  
 Immanuel Presbyterian Church  
 Kol Ami: Northern Virginia Jewish Reconstructionist Community

Little River United Church of Christ  
 Luther Place Memorial Church  
 Lutheran Church of the Reformation  
 Many Voices  
 Metropolitan Community Church of Northern Virginia  
 Metropolitan Community Church of Washington  
 Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church  
 Mount Vernon Unitarian Church  
 National City Christian Church  
 New York Avenue Presbyterian Church  
 Oaklands Presbyterian Church  
 Oseh Shalom  
 Rising Sun Outreach Ministry  
 River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
 Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ  
 Rockville Presbyterian Church  
 St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
 St. Anne's Episcopal Church  
 St. George's Episcopal Church, Glenn Dale Parish  
 St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square  
 St. John's Episcopal Church, Norwood Parish  
 St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
 St. Margaret's Episcopal Church  
 St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
 St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
 St. Michael's Episcopal Church  
 St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church  
 St. Thomas' Parish Episcopal Church  
 Takoma Park Presbyterian Church  
 Temple Rodef Shalom  
 Tikkun Leil Shabbat  
 Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington  
 Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax  
 Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville  
 Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Sterling  
 The United Church — Die Vereinigte Kirche  
 Unity Fellowship Church of Washington, DC  
 Unity of Fairfax  
 Universalist National Memorial Church  
 Washington City Church of the Brethren  
 Washington Ethical Society  
 Washington National Cathedral  
 Westminster Presbyterian Church  
 Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

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