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COMPASS

WELCOME

Dear GMCW Family,

Welcome to *Passports*. As we celebrate World Pride musical traditions from around the world, we invite you to lose yourself in our lush harmonies, eclectic rhythms, and fabulous dance numbers as we travel through five continents, singing in many languages with a nod to many cultures and traditions. We're so glad and grateful that you are here!

What a journey we've had these past couple of months. For many of us in the LGBTQ+ community, the current political climate is troubling and disconcerting, and frankly, very scary. **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 and work towards a society where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. And we will never stop creating art that inspires change and lifts hearts, while celebrating and elevating diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Thank you for joining us and for your unwavering support. Together may we raise our voice to fight for a more just and empathetic world.

In joyful protest,



Thea Kano
Artistic Director



Justin Fyala
Executive Director

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



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PROGRAM



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

Io Vivat.....Traditional Latin text
Music by Braeden Ayres

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Thunkássiila Imáyaluškiin.....Lakota Spiritual
Arranged by Linthicum-Blackhorse

Três Cantos Nativos dos Índio Kraó.....Adapted by Marcos Leite

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

Speaker: Marcos Sastre

Por Una Cabeza.....Music by Carlos Gardel
Soloist: Marcos Sastre Lyrics by Alfredo Le Pera
Dancers: Craig Cipollini and Matt Zagorski

GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS

El Sol Brillará Otra Vez.....Music and lyrics by Suzette Ortiz
English translation by Rene Ginett

Speaker: Ziv Stuart

Sisi Sote.....Music and lyrics by Andy Beck

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Tshotsholoza.....Traditional South African Folk Song
Arranged by Jeffery I. Ames

Soloists: Maxime Cugnon de Sévricourt,
Joseph Levin-Manning, and Danielle Sarta

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

Kuimba.....Music and lyrics by Victor C. Johnson

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Speaker: Guy Bosworth

The French Song.....Music and lyrics by Don Tucker
Soloist: Guy Bosworth

Speaker: Alessandro Valera

Carrà Mania.....Arranged by Riccardo Barbarisi

Singers: Zac Barger, Alex Domini,
Giancarlo D'Elia, Jay Malavé, Jaylan Monroe,
Sophia Pizzi, Alex Tyson, and Alessandro Valera

Speakers: Tomeika Bowden and Thea Kano

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

I Love You/What a Wonderful World.....Music and lyrics by Larry Norman
and Randy Stonehill (I Love You),
and George David Weiss
and Bob Thiele (What a Wonderful World)
Arranged by Craig Hella Johnson

ROCK CREEK SINGERS

Ramkali.....Indian Raga
Arranged by Ethan Sperry

CHERRY BLOSSOM DISTRICT

Rasa Sayang.....Malay Folk Song
Arranged by Toh Ban Sheng
Singers: Pradipta 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

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Pökarekare Ana.....Traditional New Zealand Love Song
Arranged by David Hamilton

POTOMAC FEVER

Over the Rainbow.....Music by Harold Arlen
Lyrics by Yip Harburg
Soloists: Matt Holland
and Kevin Thomason Arranged by Israel Kamakawiwo'ole
Adapted by Andy Beck

Speaker: Matt Holland

Imagine.....Music and lyrics by John Lennon

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Speaker: Keygan Miller

Songs for the People: A World of Peace.....Music by Jonathan Kolm
Lyrics by Frances E. W. Harper

SEASONS OF LOVE

Khumbaya.....Traditional
Soloist: Stephen Rozier Arranged by Henri Otsomotsi

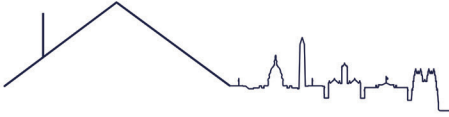
All Around the World.....Music and lyrics by Curt Coffield,
Soloist: Chris Murphy Israel Houghton, and Aaron Lindsey

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

Runaway.....Music and lyrics by James Harris III,
Soloist: Aaron Wabinga Janet Jackson, and Terry Lewis
Synthesizer: Drew Thatcher Arranged by Ronté Pierce



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SMALL ENSEMBLES

POTOMAC FEVER

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Peter Cheney
Gia-Ninh Chuang
Jake Cundiff
Alex Dean
Jim Gruschus

Gibson Haynes
Matt Holland
Jonathan Malavé
John Marsh
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
Derrick Brown
Marcus Brown
Christopher Daniels
Alex Domini
Michael Dumlaog
Jeffrey Fleming
Valerie Flores
Timothy Foley
Johnny Geth
Christopher Gillespie

Cory Hess
Kevin Huang
Neiko James
Faraz Khan
Joseph Levin-Manning
Gabriel Lopez
Eyal Lurie Pardes
James McMaster
Donald Medor
Jaylan Monroe
Chris Murphy
Ronté Pierce

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

17TH STREET DANCE

Sean Cator
Craig Cipollini
Iván Dávila
Tyler Degen
James Ellzy
Adam Greczkowski

Jeffrey Hollands
Cole Jaconski
Daniel Kingsley
Franky Lieder
Juliana Murcia
Jayson Phuah

Darryl Pilate
Brook Urquhart
Yuri Velasquez
Chris Weaver
Matt Williamson
Matt Zagorski

GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS

Cal Ausema
Maysen Bedsole
Ben Biggs*
Zach Briskin-Watson*
Anya Cardiff
Xavier Finch

Victor Kidwell*
Avani Konek
Ira Miner
Anjali Murthy*
Ailsa Ostovitz*
Callum Seay-Lee

Birch Shea
Hannah Sisan
Ziv Stuart
Ezra Thomas
Asher Wise

* = member of Youth Leadership Team



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).



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 Ellzy, II (Choreographer) (he/him)

James Ellzy 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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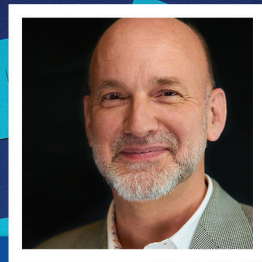
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Special thanks to Raymond Rinaldo, Gary Turner, Lady Prisspott, and the Lincoln Theatre crew.

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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SONG LYRICS

lo Vivat

lo vivat! lo vivat!
Nostrorum sanitas!
Hoc est amoris poculum,
Doloris est antidotum

lo vivat! lo vivat!
Nostrorum sanitas
Dum nihil est in calici.
Iam repleatur demuo

lo vivat! lo vivat!
Nostrorum sanitas
Nos iungit amicitia,
Et vinum praebet gaudia

lo vivat lo vivat!
Nostrorum sanitas
Osores nostri pereant!
Amici semper floreat!
Iam tota Academia
Nobiscum amet gaudia

lo vivat! lo vivat!
Nostrorum sanitas
Est vita nostra brevior,
Et mors amara longior

(Translation)

Hey, hey, long live
The sanity of our company!
That's the love for the cup,
The antidote against pain.

Hey, hey, long live
The sanity of our company!
Until nothing is left in our cup
And yet it is refilled.

Hey, hey, long live
The sanity of our company!
Friendship binds us
And wine brings us joy.

Hey, hey, long live
The sanity of our company!
Complainers can go perish,
May our friends ever flourish,
Yet the whole Academy
Rejoices along with us!

Hey, hey, long live
The sanity of our company!
Our life is too short
Bitter death is too long.

Thunċkášila Imáyaluškin

Thunċkášila imáyaluškiñ.
Grandfather Spirit,
You make me happy.

Wówaħtani unġáluskapi kté ló.
Our wrongdoings
You will cleanse from us.

Thunċkášila máni yeló.
Grandfather Spirit, you walk with me.

We é, éye yo.
Ah! I say this to you.

We é, éye yo.
Ah! I say this to you.

Três Cantos Nativos dos Índio Kraó

Primeiro Canto
Dekekeke korirare he
Jaramutum korirare Jaramutum
Ram Ram Ram

Segundo Canto
Patcho parrare adjosire
Inenere kaporra djosire

Terceiro Canto
Kama rera kideri
Tioire mo uaritete
Aham, Aham, Aham, Aham

Por Una Cabeza

Por una cabeza,
de un noble potrillo
Que justo en la raya, afloja al llegar
Y que al regresar, parece decir
No olvides, hermano
Vos sabes, no hay que jugar

Por una cabeza, metejón de un día
De aquella coqueta y risueña mujer
Que al jurar sonriendo
el amor que está mintiendo
Quema en una hoguera
Todo mi querer

Por una cabeza, todas las locuras
Su boca que besa
Borra la tristeza
Calma la amargura
Por una cabeza

Si ella me olvida
Qué importa perderme
Mil veces la vida
Para qué vivir

Por una cabeza
Si ella me olvida
Qué importa perderme
Mil veces la vida
Para qué vivir

(Translation)
*By a head of a noble colt
Who, just at the finish line,
Loosens when he arrives
And that, upon returning,
Seems to say
Don't forget, brother,
You know, don't play*

*By a head, a one-day infatuation
With that flirtatious
And smiling woman
Who, while swearing with a smile,
The love she's lying about
Burns all my desire in a bonfire*

*By a head
All the craziness
Her kissing mouth
Erases sadness, soothes bitterness*

*By a head
If she forgets me
What does it matter
If I lose my life a thousand times?
What's the point of living?*

*By a head
If she forgets me
What does it matter
If I lose my life a thousand times?
What's the point of living?*

El Sol Brillara Otra Vez

Aunque mi voz callara,
Mi alma cantará.
En tiempo de angustia y desolación,
Si la luna y el sol de jaran de brillar,
No pierdo la esperanza,
La mañana llegará.

(Translation)
*Even if my voices kept quiet,
My soul would sing*

*In time of distress and desolation,
If the sun and moon will shine,
I don't lose hope; tomorrow will come.*

Even if the love that's in the world
Turns into hate,
Even if a war would bring
The dark and separate,
May the sunlight rise again
And hope in our hearts remain.

When the winter comes and
Turns the colors all to gray,
Spring will bring a rainbow
In the sky to celebrate.

Nada de turbe mi alma ten fe
Que el sol brillara otra vez, otra vez.
Traera un nuevo amanecer.
El sol brillara otra vez.

(Translation)
*No troubling, my soul; have faith
That the sun will shine again, again.
It will bring a new dawn.
The sun will shine again.*

Sisi Sote

Sisi sote ni furaha. Kusherehekea!
(All of us are joyful. Celebrate!)

This is a time for singing – *kuimba*.
This is a day of joy – *furaha*.
This is a time to celebrate –
Kusherehekea!

Makofi mikono yako!
(Clap your hands!)
Hoja yo miguu yako!
(Move your feet!)

This is a time for dancing – *ngoma*.
This is a day of joy – *furaha*.
This is a time to celebrate –
Kusherehekea!

Tshotsholoza

Tshotsholoza, kulezon taba
Stimela si phu me South Africa

Wenu ya be leka, kulezon taba
Stimela si phu me South Africa

Tshotsholoza, kulezon taba

SONG LYRICS

Stimela si phu me South Africa

Stimela, stimela, stimela si phu me
South Africa

Tshotsholoza, kulezon taba
Stimela si phu me South Africa!

Kuimba

Kuja, hebu kuimba
Hebu muziki kwa mwongozo wetu
Kuimba kwa moyo wa furaha
Kuimba ya amani
Kuimba ya upendi

(Translation)

*Come, let us sing
Let music be our guide
Sing with a joyful heart
Sing of peace
Sing of love*

The French Song

Parlez-vous français?
Chanson Paris
Filet mignon, n'est ce pas?
Mon ami, chaise longue,
Café au crème
Escargot, yum yum, pourquoi

Beaujolais, décor, Chevrolet, coupe,
Merci Madame Pompadour
Jean Cocteau, tout de suite,
Mon Dieu, potpourri,
Ah dat's a nice-a ragout!

À la carte, à la mode,
Vive la France
Bon appétit, la guerre
Crêpes Suzette, Lafayette,
Pardonnez-moi
C'est la vie, vin ordinaire

Qu'est-ce que c'est, coupe de grâce
Go mow ze lawn
Maurice Chevalier, quel boeuf
Versailles, enchanté,
La plume de ma tante
Chateaubriand, c'est tough
Liberté, égalité, fraternité,
Faux paus, au Coco Chanel
Voulez-vous coucher avec moi ce soir?
No bidet in la hôtel

Coq au vin, immédiatement,
Arc de Triomphe,
Mon plaisir, Champs-Élysées
Couturier, C'est mon merde
In le chapeau
J'accuse, Timothée Chalamet!

Carrà Mania

Chissà se va
Chissà se va
Chissà se va
Se va
Ma sì che va
Ma sì che va
Ma sì che va
Che va
E se va, se va, se va
Tutto cambierà
Forza ragazzi, spazzola
E chi mi fermerà!
Chissà se va
Chissà se va
Chissà se va
Se va
Ma sì che va
Ma sì che va
Ma sì che va
Che va
Se non va, non va, non va
C'è una novità
Sai quanto me ne importa?
Che me ne importa a me?
Per una che va storta
Una dritta c'è

Chissà se va
Chissà se va
Chissà se va
Se va
Ma sì che va
Ma sì che va
Ma sì che va
Che va
E se va, se va, se va
Tutto cambierà
Forza ragazzi, spazzola
E chi mi fermerà!
Chissà se va
Chissà se va
Chissà se va
Se va
Ma sì che va
Ma sì che va
Ma sì che va
Che va

Se non va, non va, non va
C'è una novità
Sai quanto me ne importa?
Che me ne importa a me?
Per una che va storta
Una dritta c'è
Chi vuole cantare si può prenotare
Per fare un bel coro con me
Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh
Ma che musica, che musica,
che musica maestro
Hai trovato la via giusta
per la celebrità
Ma che musica, che musica,
che musica maestro
Questa bella sinfonia il
mondo canterà
E allora dai dai dai

Com'è bello far l'amore da
Trieste in giù
Com'è bello far l'amore,
io son pronta e tu?
Tanti auguri a chi tanti amanti ha
Tanti auguri in campagna ed in città
Com'è bello far l'amore da
Trieste in giù
L'importante è farlo sempre
Con chi hai voglia tu
E se ti lascia, lo sai che si fa?
Trovi un altro più bello che
Problemi non ha

Na na, na na na na, na na na n ana na
rumore, rumore
Na na, na na na na, na na na n ana na
rumore, rumore

I Love You/ What a Wonderful World

We can be together now and forever,
I love you, I love you
And when I'm praying, I hear Him
Saying, "I love you, I love you"

People all over the world,
They're opening up,
They're coming around
And they're saying,

"I love you, I love you, I love you, I love
you, I love you, I love you
I love you, I love you, I love you, I love
you, I love you, I love you"

I see skies of blue

And clouds of white
Bright blessed day,
And dark sacred night
And I think to myself,
What a wonderful world

The colors of the rainbow,
So pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces
Of the people going by
I see friends shaking hands,
Saying, "How do you do?"
They're really saying, "I love you"

People all over the world,
They're opening up,
They're coming around
And they're saying,
"I love you, I love you, I love you,
I love you, I love you, I love you"

We can be together now and forever,
I love you, I love you, I love you

And I think to myself, what a
wonderful world

I love you, I love you, I love you
(repeated)

Ramkali

Da din din da Da din din da
Te re ke te Da
Tet e Ka ta guh Di gen a Da!

Hoon tho vari vari jawoon
Thmuhre gusaiyan,
Hoon tho vari vari ja-woon

gaHuhmuhri bath kachu maanpyare,
Hoon tho vari vari ja-woon

Rasa Sayang

Rase sayang eh!
Eh lihat nona jauh,
Rase sayang sayang eh!

Anak sembilang di tapak tangan,
Pucuk pauh delima batu,
Hilang di mata di hati jangan
Sunggoh jauh di neg'ri Satu.
Langgang Kangkong
Kangkong tepi telaga.
Mari melancong

SONG LYRICS

Ke Singapura!

(Translation)

*Feeling of love, hey!
See that girl in the distance,
Feeling of love, hey!*

*A tiny catfish in my palm,
A mango shoot and a ruby,
Out of sight but in the heart shan't be
Too far from the country.*

*The swaying of the water spinach,
The watercress which is near the well.
Come visit Singapore!*

Pōkarekare Ana

Pōkarekare ana ngā wai o Rotorua
Whiti atu koe hine
Marino ana e,
E hine e, hoki mai ra,
Ka mate au i te aroha e

Rarura ru ana e, e hine e
Hoki mai ra, ka mate au
I te aroha e, aroha e
Ka mate au, I te aroha e
Aroha e

(Translation)

*The waters of Rotorua are troubled
Come away girl, it's clear.
Girl, come back
I'm dying of love.*

*The waves are raging, girl
Come back, I'm dying
Of love, love
I'm dying, of love
Love.*

Over the Rainbow

Somewhere over the rainbow
Way up high
There's a land that I heard of
Once in a lullaby

Somewhere over the rainbow
Skies are blue

And the dreams that you
Dare to dream
Really do come true

Someday I'll wish upon a star
And wake up where the clouds
Are far behind me
Where troubles melt like lemon drops
Away above the chimney tops
That's where you'll find me

Somewhere over the rainbow
Bluebirds fly
Birds fly over the rainbow
Why then, oh, why can't I?

Somewhere over the rainbow
Bluebirds fly
Birds fly over the rainbow
Why then, oh, why can't I?

If happy little bluebirds fly
Beyond the rainbow
Why, oh why can't I?

Imagine

Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us, only sky

Imagine all the people
Livin' for today, ah

Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion, too
Imagine all the people
Livin' life in peace, you
You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man

Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world, you

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will live as one

Songs for the People: A World of Peace

Let me make the
Songs for the people,
Let me make the
Songs for the people,
Songs for the old and the young;
Songs to stir like a battlecry
Wherever they are sung.

Not for the clashing of sabers,
For carnage nor for strife,
But songs, but songs,
To thrill the hearts of all.
With more abundant life.

Let me make the songs for the weary
Let me make the songs.
Amid life's fever and fret,
Till hearts shall relax their tensions,
And careworn brows forget.

Let me sing for little children,
Let me sing.
Let me sing for little children,
Let me sing for little children,
Before their footsteps stray,
Sweet anthems of love and duty,
To float o'er life's highway.

I would sing for the poor and aged,
When shadows dim their sight;
Of the bright and restful mansions,
Where there shall be no night.

Our world, so warm and weary,
Needs music pure and strong,
To hush the jangle and discords
Of sorrow, pain and wrong.

Music to soothe all its sorrow,
Music till war and crime shall cease;
And the hearts of all grown tender
And the hearts of all grown tender
Girdle the world with peace

Khumbaya

Somebody's crying Lord (khumbaya)
Somebody's praying Lord (khumbaya)
Somebody's crying Lord (khumbaya)
Somebody's praying Lord (khumbaya)
Oh Lord, hear my prayer (khumbaya)

As I lift my voice and say (khumbaya)
I need You Lord today (khumbaya)
I need You right away (khumbaya)

Somebody's crying Lord (khumbaya)
Somebody's praying Lord (khumbaya)
Somebody sing this prayer
Somebody feels like no one cares
I know You make a way
Yes! Lord You make a way

Somebody sing this prayer
Somebody feels like no one cares
I know you make a way
Yes! Lord You make a way

Somebody's in despair
Somebody feels like no one cares
Oooh Khumbaya
Oh Lord (khumbaya)
Khumbaya (eh khumbaya)
Oh Lord (khumbaya)
Khumbaya (eh khumbaya)
Oh Lord (khumbaya)
Khumbaya (eh khumbaya)
Oh Lord (khumbaya)
Khumbaya (eh khumbaya)

Somebody's in despair
Somebody feels like no one cares
Ooooh khumbaya
Oh Lord (khumbaya)
Khumbaya (eh khumbaya)
Oh Lord (khumbaya)
Khumbaya (eh khumbaya)
Oh Lord khumbaya (yelele mama)
Oh Lord (yelele mama) khumbaya
Oh Lord (yelele mama)
Khumbaya (yelele mama)
Oh Lord (yelele mama)
Khumbaya (yelele mama)
Oh Lord (yelele mama)
Khumbaya (yelele mama)
Oh Lord (yelele mama)
Khumbaya

All Around

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)

SONG LYRICS

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)

Runaway

I've seen the world,
Been to many places
Made lots of friends,
Many different races
I've had such fun
Around the world it's true
African skies with a Nairobi mood,
I fell asleep in Tuscany and dreamed
The one thing missing was you

Run away with me, my love
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah
Run away with me, my love
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah

I woke up with an Australian breeze
And danced the dance

With Aborigines
Under the moon glow down in
Mexico, I dreamed
One thing was missing that's you

Run away with me, my love
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah
Run away with me, my love
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah

We'll sail the waters of many colors
Won't need a compass,
Love will guide our way
Don't need nobody
Long as we got each other
No need to hurry, we've got every day
I wanna share the world
With you, you see
Springtime in Paris
Feels so good to me
Oh, this is for me a reality, so please
Make all my wishes come true

Run away with me, my love
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah

And I just know
We'll have a good time (yeah my love)
And I just know
We'll have a good time (yeah my love)
And I just know
We'll have a good time (yeah my love)
And I just know
We'll have a good time (yeah, yeah)
And I just know
We'll have a good time (yeah, yeah)
And I just know
We'll have a good time
Yeah



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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, and 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.

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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 for links to all of these faith-based organizations.

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