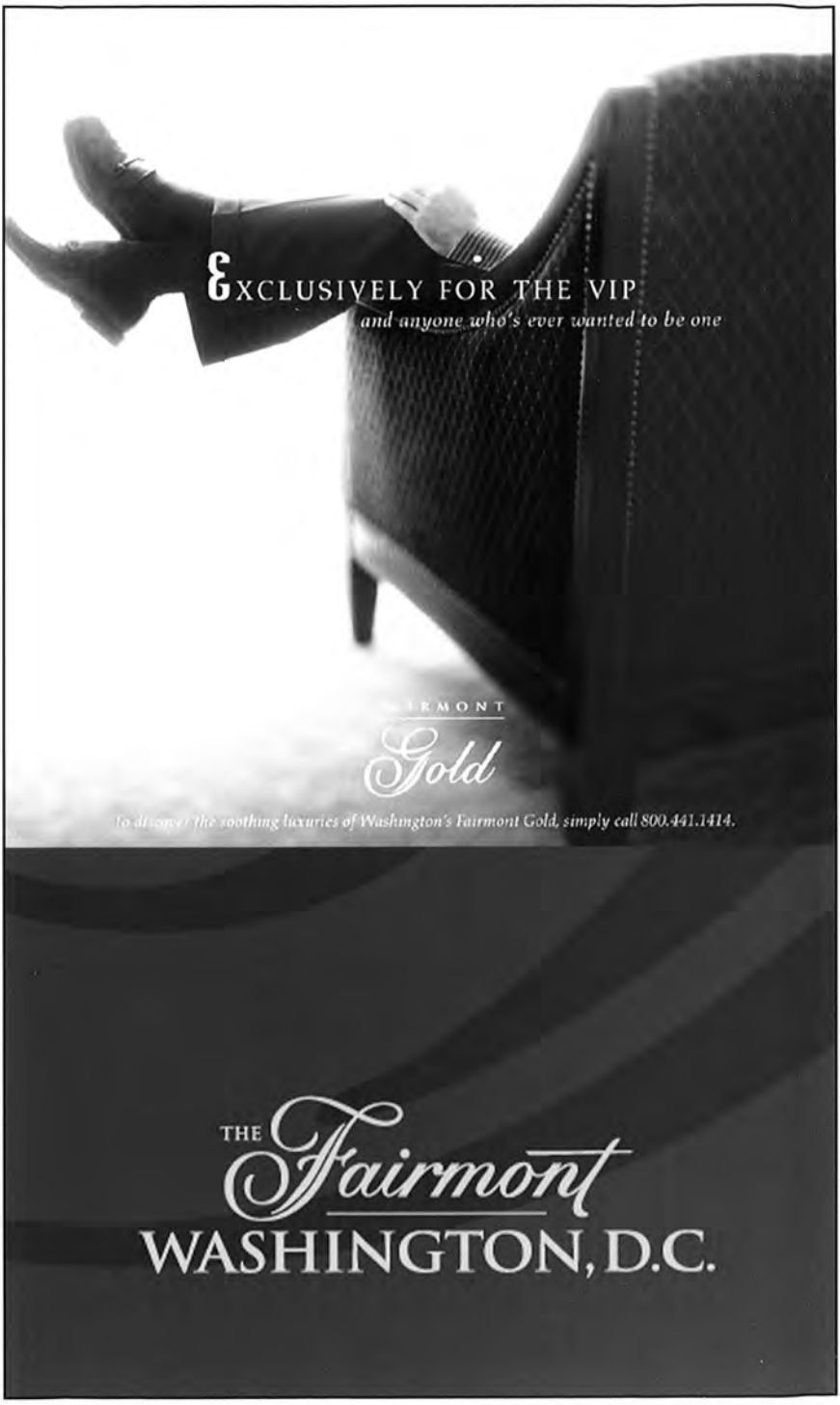
GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

PRESENTS

BYE BYE BIRDIE

MARCH 26-28, 2004 LISNER AUDITORIUM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Choreographer ..... Stefan Sittig
Principal Accompanist ..... Theodore Guerrant
Vocal Coach ..... Phil Rogerson
Rehearsal Accompanists ..... Paul Leavitt, Jimmy Galdieri
Executive Producer ..... Joe Vignali
Stage Managers/Producers ..... Barry Bugg, Larry Rosen
House Manager ..... Bob Klein
Set Design ..... Tracie Duncan
Costume Design ..... Gary Turner
Costume Construction ..... Rick Johnson
Property Masters ..... Chuck Walker, Mike Reed
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GMCW

Now in its 23rd season, the **Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC (GMCW)** is at the forefront of the gay and lesbian choral movement, continuing its mission to "entertain through excellent musical performance, to affirm the place of Gay people in society, and to educate about the Gay experience."

Founded in 1981, GMCW quickly became a staple of the Washington choral music scene. Over the years, GMCW has performed at the Kennedy Center, the National Theatre, the Warner Theatre, Constitution Hall, the Lincoln Theatre, and Lisner Auditorium at the George Washington University, along with a number of other venues in and around the District. In addition, GMCW has toured many of the major cities in the United States and, in 1998, three Scandinavian capitals. During its 20th anniversary season, GMCW performed at Symphony Hall in Boston and Carnegie Hall in New York City. In December 2002, GMCW was honored to perform as part of the 25th annual **Kennedy Center Honors** in tribute to Elizabeth Taylor. This performance was televised nationwide, bringing the Chorus into millions of homes across the nation.

The more than 200 members of GMCW perform three subscription concerts annually: a holiday concert, a spring concert, and a summer concert. GMCW also appears at a number of community events, including programs for PFLAG, Whitman-Walker Clinic, and the Human Rights Campaign. While in Scandinavia, GMCW was received by Sweden's Princess Christina to thank chorus members for singing in support of Noah's Ark, a Swedish AIDS services organization.

GMCW has been in the forefront of commissioning new works for men's chorus. Recent commissions include *Changing Hearts* for men's chorus and chamber orchestra; and *Oseh Shalom* for men's chorus and brass quintet. In addition, GMCW sponsors two small ensembles: **Potomac Fever**, a close-harmony group; and **Rock Creek Singers**, a 20-voice chamber music ensemble. These ensembles serve as representatives of GMCW at many community functions.

GMCW has won a number of awards, including the prestigious Mayor's Arts Award for artistic excellence in 1989, and two Washington Area Music Association's WAMMIE awards: in 2002 for outstanding classical-choral recording (for *I Dream of a Time*) and in 1995 for outstanding gospel-inspirational performance (for *Live at the Lincoln*). In April 2003, GMCW received a Distinguished Service Award from the Gay & Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC for its commitment to protecting and promoting the civil rights of lesbians and gay men in the national capital area. *Pride and Joy*, GMCW's holiday music CD, was nominated for both a WAMMIE and a GLAMMA award, given by the national Gay and Lesbian Music Association. In addition, GMCW can be heard on the CDs, *Singing Free, Let It Shine!, Pride and Joy, And In That Moment, I Dream of a Time*, and its latest release, *You've Got To Be Carefully Taught: The Songs of Sondheim and Hammerstein*.

GMCW is a proud member of Chorus America, the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA Choruses), the Consortium of Gay Choruses, the Cultural Alliance of Washington, the Washington Council of Agencies and the GLBT Arts Consortium of Washington.

GMCW's ensembles are activities of the Federal City Performing Arts Association, a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, which also sponsors a chorus fundraising group called the Capital Club. Information on upcoming GMCW events may be obtained by calling 202-338-SING or by visiting the Chorus' web page at www.gmcw.org.

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

DAVID STREIT

Do you believe in angels? No matter your religious inclination or lack thereof, spend some time with our Chorus and you will see them with your own eyes.

As one might expect, sometimes they're hard to see. The hundreds of stagehands who have graced our performances over the years are truly our "unsung" heroes. You can see their handiwork before your eyes tonight. We cannot thank them enough. A few legends are worthy of mention. Gary Turner and his crew have done wonders with costumes on a shoestring budget. Imagine outfitting 150 elves! Barry Bugg and Larry Rosen have been the calm in the eye of the gay storm backstage. Joe Vignali is a backstage presence who commands respect and organizes this herd of cats we affectionately know as the Chorus.

The other unseen angels are our financial supporters, the visionaries known as the Capital Club. If you haven't heard the mantra of all arts organizations, let me repeat it one more time. Tickets cover less than half the expenses involved in getting our music and message to the masses. Many of these wonderful people have been continuous supporters through all of our past 23 years! Special thanks to Michael Armentrout for making a matching challenge to our Capital Club this fall that helped us raise an additional $10,000.

Most of all, thanks to you, our audience. Your laughter, applause, tears, and cheers are what makes all the hours of work so worth it. You have spurred us on to achieve such a high standard. Thanks for being our angels!

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FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

JEFF BUHRMAN

From the Elvis-like hip-thrusting rock and roll superstar, to teenagers having endless inconsequential conversations on the phone, the musical *Bye Bye Birdie* is an energy-filled, over-the-top spoof and a perfect vehicle for an all-male cast. While all of the roles are portrayed by the men of GMCW, our production does not stray from the original script or score. However, you will see that gender and sexual orientation is not an issue in our visit to Sweet Apple, Ohio.

The history of *Bye Bye Birdie* is an interesting one. The original Broadway production opened on April 14, 1960 at the Martin Beck Theater. It gave little promise of becoming a hit. The cast boasted no one who could be described as having box-office appeal. Dick Van Dyke (Albert Peterson) had never before appeared in a musical comedy. Chita Rivera (Rosie Alvarez) was cast in her first Broadway leading lady role. The producer was unknown. So were the librettist, lyricist, and composer, all of whom were writing their first full-length musical. And though director Gower Champion was famous on stage and screen as a dancer and choreographer, he had no experience as a Broadway stage director.

John Chapman, a critic from *The New York Daily News* noted in his review: "One of the best things about it is that practically nobody is connected with it." Yet, *Bye Bye Birdie* proved to be the unexpected hit of the season and ran for 607 performances. It was an original, up-to-the-minute musical bursting with new talent. Chapman further stated: "It is the funniest, most captivating and most expert musical comedy one could hope to see in several seasons of showgoing." With the exception of Brooks Atkinson in *The New York Times*, all of the reviews were enthusiastic.

The 1960 production of *Bye Bye Birdie* was nominated for eight Tony Awards, winning four: Best Musical, Best Supporting/Featured Actor (Dick Van Dyke), Best Director of a Musical (Gower Champion), and Best Choreographer (Gower Champion). It was turned into a (not so great) movie in 1963, radically altering the stage show's score and dialogue. The movie starred Ann-Margret, Dick Van Dyke, Janet Leigh, and Paul Lynde. In 1981, a Birdie stage sequel *Bring Back Birdie* picked up the action 20 years later. Chita Rivera reprised her role of Rosie. Song and dance man Donald O'Connor was cast as Albert. It was a flop, playing only four performances.

We have had an incredible time during our rehearsals. Many GMCW members and friends have worked long hours to mount this production. From the directors to the production team, the costume makers, the set painters, the stage crew, and most of all the 120 actors, it has been a great journey from start to finish. I am delighted to give special thanks to our stage director John Moran and his assistant Betsy Libretta for their great gift to GMCW.

Enjoy the show!

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Photo of Tennessee Williams © Ray Fisher.

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FROM THE CHORUS PRESIDENT

DAVID JANSING

Sweet Apple, Ohio

The name of this town invokes, in my mind, images of mid-20th century Americana: white picket fences, town fall festivals, a single community post office, the grocery store where the clerks know all of the town residents. The label "family values" comes to mind.

The issue of family values is a thorny, complex topic. The GLBT community certainly attaches a different set of meanings to this theme than would a more conservative group. In fact, how we define families in our modern world is a hot topic for debate, particularly in this election year.

Bye Bye Birdie is more than a show about a rock idol, a town, and a kiss. It's a show that, in its own subtle way, describes a time in our American history where the youth of the country struggled to find their own identity through pop culture. It's a celebration of youthful energy, both musical and sexual.

In this inimitable GMCW production of *Bye Bye Birdie*, you will see a unique Sweet Apple, Ohio. Here, sexual orientation is not a dividing issue. It is a fantasy town where many gay men and women would have liked to have grown up, free of the stigma of being gay, free to explore their orientation in a loving and supportive environment. In its own way, our production is a reflection of the struggle that the GLBT community still wrestles with in our own time: the definition of what it means to be gay and what it means to be a gay family in 21st century America.

Thanks for coming and enjoy the show.

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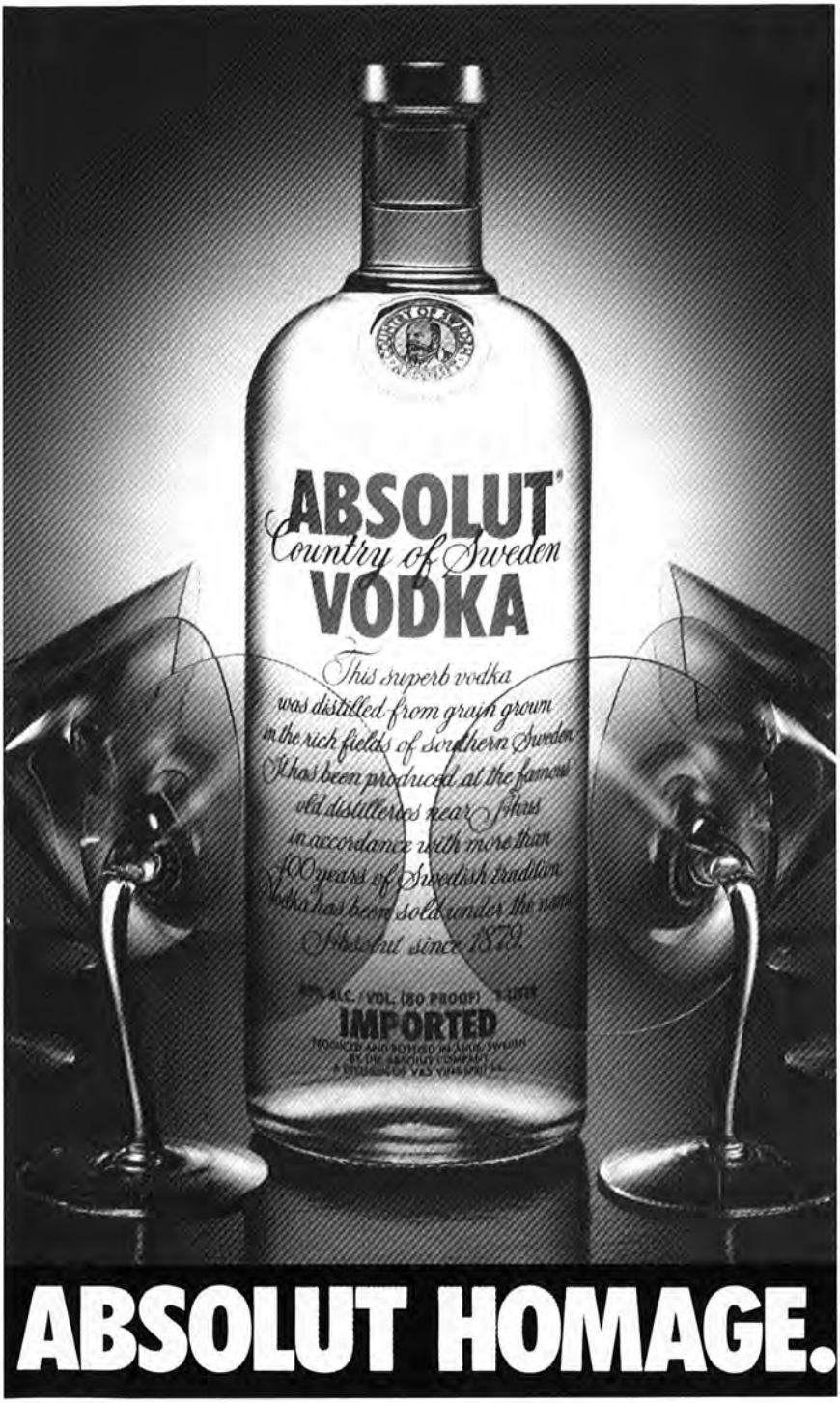


ABSOLUT HOMAGE.

ACT 1

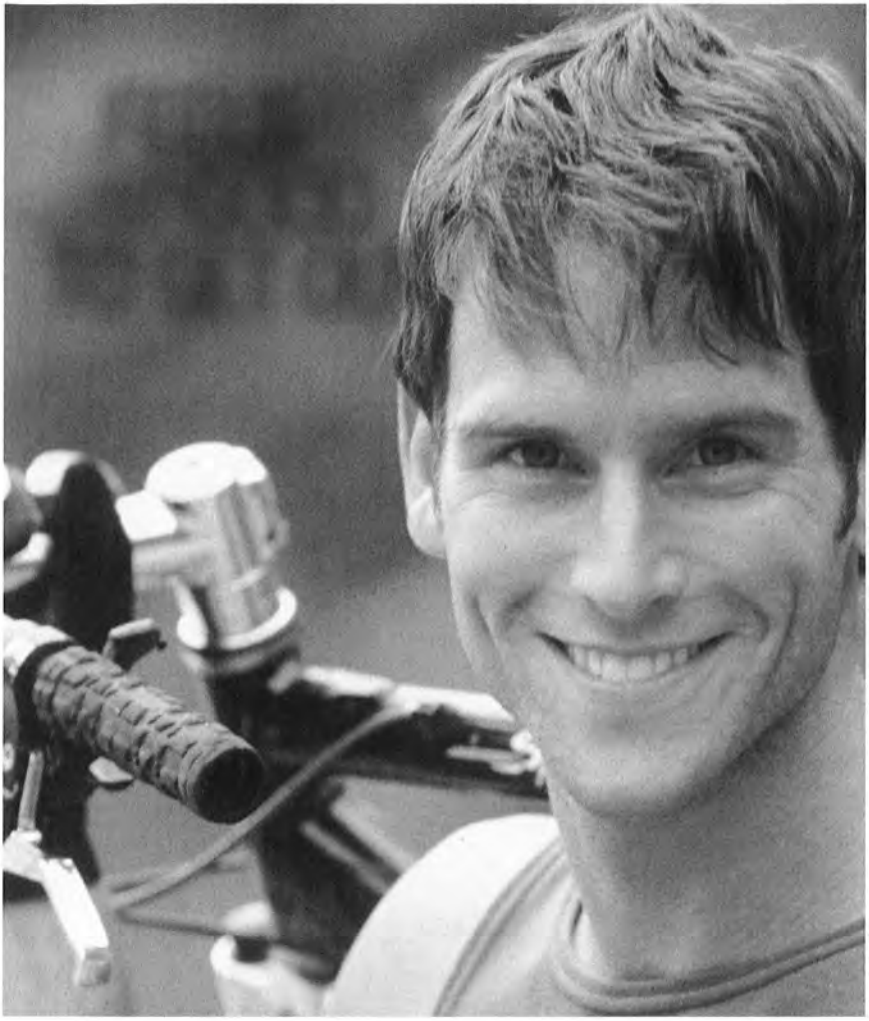
Scene 1: .....Office of Almaelou Music, New York
Scene 2: .....Sweet Apple, Ohio
Scene 3: .....MacAfee Home, Sweet Apple
Scene 4: .....Pennsylvania Station, New York
Scene 5: .....Railroad Station, Sweet Apple
Scene 6: .....Railroad Station, Sweet Apple
Scene 7: .....MacAfee Home, Sweet Apple
Scene 8: .....Stage and Backstage Office, Central Movie Theatre, Sweet Apple
Scene 9: .....Stage, Central Movie Theater, Sweet Apple

ACT 2

Scene 1 .....MacAfee Home, Sweet Apple
Scene 2:.....Street outside MacAfee Home
Scene 3: .....MacAfee's backdoor
Scene 4: .....Maude's Roadside Retreat, Sweet Apple
Scene 5: .....Private Room in Maude's
Scene 6: .....Backdoor of Maude's
Scene 7:.....The Ice House, Sweet Apple
Scene 8: .....Railroad Station, Sweet Apple

Time: 1959

A portion of the production-related expenses for these performances of Bye, Bye Birdie *has been underwritten by the* ***Robert K. Wonneberger Memorial Fund.***



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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

Overture ..... Orchestra and Teenagers
An English Teacher ..... Rosie
The Telephone Hour ..... Teenagers
How Lovely to Be a Woman ..... Kim MacAfee
Put On a Happy Face ..... Albert and Sad Boy
A Healthy, Normal, American Boy .... Albert, Rosie, Teenagers and Adults
One Boy ..... Kim, Ursula, D.J., Alice, Rosie
Honestly Sincere ..... Conrad Birdie, Teenagers and Adults
Hymn For a Sunday Evening ..... MacAfee Family, Teenagers and Adults
One Last Kiss ..... Conrad Birdie, Albert, Teenagers and Adults

ACT 2

Entr'acte ..... Orchestra and Teenagers
What Did I Ever See In Him ..... Rosie and Kim
A Lot of Livin' to Do ..... Conrad Birdie, Kim, Teenagers and Dancers
Kids ..... Mr. and Mrs. MacAfee
Baby, Talk to Me ..... Albert and Quartet
Shriner's Ballet ..... Orchestra
Kids (reprise) ..... Mr. and Mrs. MacAfee, Randolph and Adults
Ice House Livin' ..... Teenagers
An English Teacher (reprise) ..... Rosie
Spanish Rose ..... Rosie
Rosie ..... Albert and Rosie

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CAST

Albert Peterson	Chuck Walker
Rosie Alvarez	Justin Zimmerman
Mrs. Mae Peterson	Jimmy Galdieri
Conrad Birdie	Brandon Dubroc
Mr. Harry MacAfee	Barrett Whitener
Mrs. Doris MacAfee	Joel Furtick
Kim MacAfee	Owen Taggart
Randolph MacAfee	John Favazzo
Hugo Peabody	Jere Lorenzen
Mayor	Dwight DeKeyser
Mayor's wife (Edna)	Matt Komornik
Glorious Rasputin	Christopher Knott
Sad Boy	Scott Roewer
Maude	Michael Lohmann
Ursula	Bill Cutter
D.J.	Don Garapolo
Alice	Alvin Figer
Nancy	Tony Conto
Susie	Todd Paul
Penelope	Mark Villafana
Harvey Johnson	C.J. Liotta
Mr. Johnson	Tom DiGiovanni
Mr. Merkle	Blake Cornish
Policeman	Ricky Jacobs
First Reporter	Kit Grieder
Second Reporter	A.J. Schuler
Third Reporter	Steve Spar
Trainman	Charles Butler
Quartet	Charles Butler, Greg Tepe, Jason Stelling, Craig Ruskin

TEENAGERS

Timothy Allmond
Terry Ayers
Czar Agus
Eric Balthrop
Joe Canter
Ron Castro
Don Chandler
Cory Clifton
Tony Conto
Bill Cutter
Paul Dewey
Giuseppe DeBartolo
David Edmiston
Robert Featherstone
Craig Ferrier
Alvin Figer
Don Garapolo
Theo Gross
Jim Gruschus
Sean Hanrahan
David Jonas
Todd Katschke
Gary Knight
Christopher Knott
C.J. Liotta
Bill Lipsett
Christopher Locklear
Ed Oseroff
Todd Paul
Stan Piotroski
Sean Robinson
Scott Roewer
Brian Schulli
Shawn Strout
Kim Tan
Michael Taylor
Will Trokey
Mark Villafana
Anthony Vitelli
Kevin Webster

Continued on page 33.

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Maurice Fox
Brian Gibson
Dan Gleckler
Kit Grieder
Andrew Harmon
Paul Harouff
Ricky Jacobs
Matt Komornik
Stuart Kopperman
Albert LeRoux
Harold Lewis
Michael Lohmann
Leo Luberecki
Jim Madigan
Charlie Merk
Jim Murphy
Joe Murray
Van Neel
Dan Patton
Emmanuel Payton
Steve Pflasterer
Bob Reeg
Gary Regan
Jack Reiffer
David Robinson
Craig Ruskin
AJ Schuler
Patrick Shaw
Steve Spar
Jason Stelling
Jeff Sliauzis
Greg Tepe
Joachim Voss
Brian Walther
Bryce Weems
John Weibel
Jim Williams

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Giuseppe DeBartolo
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Reed IV - Leigh Pilzer
French Horn - Marc Questad
Trumpet I - Christopher Walker
Trumpet II - Brandon Almagro
Trombone I - Kirsten Warfield
Trombone II - Frank Gazda
Bass - Mary Scott
Piano - Theodore Guerrant
Drums - Vin Novara
Percussion - Paul Edgar

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Lauderdale Ranks 2nd In Gay Households

Census lists percentages for U.S. Cities

By Jonathon King
STAFF WRITER

Fort Lauderdale counts a larger percentage of gay households than any other large city in the nation except for San Francisco, according to census figures released today.

Although the numbers are small - 1,400 of the 68,000 households in the city - the ranking gives yet another measure of a metropolis growing more diverse, cosmopolitan and socially accepting over the past several years, say political and business leaders in the city's gay community.

" I guess my reaction is that it's amazing we're ranked that high, but the actual number of households sounds low. Only 1,400? I would have thought we had that many in one neighborhood alone."

Jim Naugle
FORT LAUDERDALE MAYOR

Sun-Sentinel (Local-Section B)
Thursday, March 13, 2003

10 Hottest Housing Markets
Thirty-nine markets had double-digit gains.

Market	Increase	Median Price
Sacramento, Calif.	26.7%	$224,200
San Diego, Calif.	26.6%	$379,300
Providence, R.I	24.6%	$206,100
Nassau-Suffolk, N.Y.	23.6%	$333,600
Monmouth-Ocean, N.J.	22.1%	$261,700
Melbourne-Titusville-Palm Bay, Fla.	20.9%	$115,600
Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood-Pompano Bch, Fla.	20.8%	$204,800
Anaheim-Santa Ana, Calif.	20.4%	$434,600
New York-North N.J.-Long Island, N.Y.	20.2%	$320,300
Bradenton, Fla.	20.1%	$156,800
National Average	**8.8%**	**$161,600**

Based on year-over-year change
Source: National Association of Realtors
http://money.cnn.com/2003/02/11

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Featuring selections from GMCW's November 2001 sold-out cabaret, including:

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My Superman,
If You Really Loved Me,
It's Tough to be a Fairy,
and others

Pick up copies of GMCW's CDs in the lobby – before, during, and after this evening's performance.
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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The mission of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC is to entertain through excellent musical performance, to affirm the place of Gay people in society, and to educate about the Gay experience.

Following are some examples of the Chorus'
COMMUNITY OUTREACH & INVOLVEMENT

Annual Toy Drive
Each December, GMCW hosts a Toy Drive collecting more than 500 new toys for underprivileged children in the Washington, DC area. The tradition, begun by founding member Bob Wonneberger, has become an annual chorus event. Toys are distributed through Community Family Life Services.

Northern Virginia AIDS Ministries / World AIDS Day Service
GMCW has performed at Northern Virginia AIDS Ministries' annual World AIDS Day (December 1) service, and sells annual holiday ornaments to benefit NOVAM.

AIDS Walk Washington
GMCW has performed at the kick-off ceremonies for AIDS Walk Washington and sponsored a team of walkers raising funds to support Whitman-Walker Clinic.

Annual Christmas Eve Caroling
Each Christmas Eve, members of GMCW are invited to the National Institutes of Health to sing carols for the patients being cared for there.

Annual MLK, Jr. Birthday Celebration
GMCW participates in an annual community celebration of the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This event is co-sponsored by the GLBT Arts Consortium of Washington, DC and Capital Pride.

Capital Pride Parade and Performance
Each June, GMCW participates in the Capital Pride Parade and performs on the Main Stage and Arts Stage during the Capital Pride Festival.

Hillwood Museum and King's Dominion "Gay Day" Performances
GMCW participates in annual Gay Days hosted by the Hillwood Museum & Gardens and by Brother Help Thyself at Paramount King's Dominion.

Annual Benefit for Sussex County AIDS Commission
For a number of years, GMCW has traveled to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware to perform a benefit concert for the Sussex County AIDS Commission.

Annual Educators Workshop
As part of our mission to affirm the place of Gay people in society and to educate about the Gay experience, the Chorus initiated in 2003 an annual free workshop for educators titled "Creating a Safe Space for our Gay Families" which examines ways in which schools can achieve a welcoming and trusting environment for: gay/lesbian students and their parents; gay/lesbian parents and their children; and gay/lesbian teachers, counselors and administrators.

Student Ticket Fund
GMCW encourages high school and college students to attend Chorus performances by making free and discounted tickets available to them. The chorus also maintains close ties and connections to Gay/Straight Student alliances and other student and youth groups.

PWA Ticket Fund
Complimentary tickets are made available to people living with HIV/AIDS through our health-service partners in the community – Whitman-Walker Clinic and Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry.

Sign Interpreted Performances
GMCW regularly provides professional sign interpreters at its concerts for the hearing impaired.

Benefit Support & Performances
The Chorus regularly supports and performs at benefits for other area non-profit organizations, such as the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), Whitman-Walker Clinic, Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, the Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer, Community Family Life Services, HERO, Sussex County AIDS Commission, the Metro DC Chapter of Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Food & Friends, Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry (NOVAM), and Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

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Jeff Buhrman, Artistic Director

Jeff Buhrman is in his fourth season as Artistic Director of GMCW. During his tenure the chorus has performed in Carnegie Hall in New York, Symphony Hall in Boston, and at the Kennedy Center. In December 2002 GMCW was featured at the Kennedy Center Honors, appearing in the CBS television special in which they sang a tribute to Elizabeth Taylor. Under Jeff's leadership the chorus has grown to over 200 singers and has recorded three compact discs. GMCW's 20th anniversary CD, "I Dream of a Time" won the 2002 Washington Area Music Association's WAMMIE award for outstanding choral recording. Consistently praised by local critics, GMCW was hailed as "one of the finest male choruses in the world" in 2001 by a *Washington Post* critic. Another noted that "huge choruses often sound thick and ponderous, but conductor Jeff Buhrman educed a light, limber, beautifully balanced sonority that ebbed and shimmered, framing lyrics with coronas of color."

Jeff began his association with GMCW directing the small ensemble Potomac Fever in 1988, a job he held for the next 10 seasons. In 1989 he began an eight-year run as Assistant Director of the chorus, working with Music Director Jim Holloway. Jeff had the honor of directing GMCW at an inauguration concert for President Clinton in 1997.

Under Jeff's direction, Potomac Fever attained a wide following with its distinctive style, which was characterized by fluid phrasing and warmth of tone. Through his tenure the group performed many concerts and fundraisers within the gay community. The highlight of his decade with the group came in 1997 with the release of the CD "In Our Lifetime," followed by a European tour, at which Potomac Fever sang at the opening ceremony of the European Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses festival in Munich. Potomac Fever had the distinction of being the only American group to perform at the festival. Jeff is once again directing Potomac Fever this year. The group sang a concert in Ft. Lauderdale in February and will sing at the GALA festival in Montreal in July.

A lifelong musician, Jeff holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in music education and voice from Montclair State University. In addition, he studied voice with Marden Bate and conducting with David Randolph and received additional training in voice with Walter Blazer of the Manhattan School of Music. He has performed with such preeminent choral conductors as Robert Shaw, Roger Wagner, David Randolph, and Dennis Keene.

Jeff has more than 20 years of experience as a choral director, working with high school choruses, community choruses, and church choirs. A devotee of musical theater, Jeff has also directed a number of musicals including "Bye Bye Birdie," "Once Upon a Mattress," and "Bells are Ringing," and musical directed many others including GMCW's productions of "Little Shop of Horrors" and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown". Jeff brought his love of cabaret singing to GMCW when he initiated the first cabaret in 2002, "Love Songs and Other Fairy Tales."

Jeff has a Master of Arts degree in counseling from The George Washington University. He ended a 26 year tenure in education in 2000 when he became GMCW's first full-time Artistic Director.

Who's Who continued on page 45.

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Continued from page 41.

John Moran, Director

Credits include: "In The Mood" Writer and Director, currently on national tour; "Dear World" Director, American Century Theater, Summer 2003; "Hexagon 2002: It's A Grand Old Gag" Director, to benefit the Hospices of the D.C. area; "Boys in the Band" Director, American Century Theater, nationally recognized revival; "Always, Patsy Cline" Director, The Marquee Lounge at the Shoreham, Washington Premiere; "Mrs. Foggybottom & Friends" Director/Producer, Marquee Lounge at the Shoreham (10 years); "In Gay Company" Director/Producer, Washington premiere; "Silver On Silver" Director, New York City.

Also in the past year Mr. Moran, in collaboration with Lansdale Associates, has directed and/or written special events including: The George C. Marshall Award to U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, Washington, D.C.; Americans For The Arts National Arts Awards Gala (Sofia Coppola, Richard Avedon, Teresa Heinz Kerry), New York City; J. William Fulbright Prize, at the U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC; International League For Human Rights Honoring the Dalai Lama (Richard Gere, Susan Sarandon), New York City; Human Rights Campaign (Al and Tipper Gore, Elizabeth Birch, Alison Janney, John Spencer, "The Fab 5," (Michael Cunningham, Max Mutchnik), Washington, DC; Coalition To Stop Gun Violence (Rep. Patrick Kennedy), Washington, DC; Vital Voices from the Kennedy Center (Sally Field, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Sen. Kay Bailey-Hutchison, Claire Shipman, Mishal Husain), Washington, DC; United Nations Association Visionary Award honoring United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Washington, DC.

Mr. Moran is deeply grateful for the generous assistance of Betsy Libretta without whom this project would not have been possible.

Stefan Sittig, Choreographer

Stefan Sittig joined GMCW as Resident Choreographer in September, 2003. Last fall he choreographed GMCW's production of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. His choreography credits include *Jessie* (Off-Broadway/The Chelsea Playhouse), *Trabajadores* (World Premiere of the Spanish version of Stephen Schwartz's *Working* in Montevideo, Uruguay), *Noël & Gertie* (MetroStage), *Polaroid Stories* (The Studio Theatre Secondstage), *Hollywood Pinafore* (The American Century Theater), *Bee* (A.S.I.A. Theatre) and many other regional theatre productions in Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania. Before turning his attention to choreography, Stefan danced in several productions for regional theatres up and down the East coast including *Follies*, *Side Show* (Signature Theatre), *West Side Story*, *Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Olney Theatre Center), *Gypsy* (TheatreVirginia), *Red, Hot & Cole* (The Barksdale Theatre), *Peter Pan*, *The Music Man* (Theatre IV) and *West Side Story* (Heritage Repertory Theatre). Stefan holds an MFA in Theatre and teaches Acting at University of Maryland University College and Movement For The Actor at The National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts in Georgetown. He is an associate member of the Society of Stage Directors & Choreographers. For more info: www.stefansittig.com.

Marianne Meadows, Lighting Designer

Marianne has been working with the GMCW since the 1993-1994 season. She has been the lighting designer for numerous theatrical productions in the DC area and has received four Helen Hayes Award nominations for her lighting designs. Marianne holds a Master of Fine Arts in lighting design from the University of Washington in Seattle. She is a member of United Scenic Artists.

Who's Who continued on page 49.

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Continued from page 45.

Tracie Duncan, Set Designer

Tracie's recent set design credits include the Washington Stage Guild productions of *The Unexpected Man, Family Reunion, The Underpants*, and *Rose*; and the MetroStage production of *Noël & Gertie*. Tracie has also worked as props artisan and assistant for Theatre Virginia and Playmakers Rep in Chapel Hill, NC, as well as Properties Designer for *Cooking With Elvis* (Woolly Mammoth), *Hubert and Charlie*, and *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (African Continuum Theatre), and *Carmen* (Carolina Ballet). She is a Mary Goldwater Award winner for her set designs at the Stage Guild. Tracie is the Resident Designer/Technical Director for Gallaudet University, where she also teaches. She is the Resident Lighting Designer for Valdosta State University's summer theatre on Jekyll Island, Georgia. She received her MFA in Theatre Design from The George Washington University.

Theodore Guerrant, Principal Accompanist

Now in his 21st season as GMCW's Principal Accompanist, "Dr. Teddy" first came on board in 1983 as Jim Holloway's other two hands, as it were, under the baton of the late Dr. Jim Richardson. Subsequently, after serving under conductors Bruce Trinkley, Jim Holloway, and Greg Ruffer, he now gaily accompanies Jeff Buhrman. He has traveled with the Chorus from Vancouver to Scandinavia and from Boston to San Francisco, and passed his own half-century mark at the end of the 1999-2000 season as he and the Chorus headed for San Jose and their fifth GALA experience together.

A nephew and student of the late Georgian pianist Eliza Holmes Feldman, he holds five degrees in Keyboard performance: the Bachelor of Music cum laude in piano and the Master of Fine Arts in harpsichord from the University of Georgia, the Master of Music in piano from the University of Wisconsin, the Doctor of Musical Arts in piano performance-literature from the University of Maryland, and the Graduate Performance Diploma in organ from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He was the recipient of several academic scholarships and studied piano additionally in England with Denise Lassimonne.

Dr. Guerrant is Organist-Choirmaster at Saint Margaret's Episcopal Church on Connecticut Avenue in Washington, DC (where Dignity worships); Associate Organist at Saint Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Hyattsville; Assisting Organist at the University of Maryland Chapel; and accompanies, additionally, the Laurel Oratorio Society and the Montgomery County Masterworks Chorus. He is Coordinator of Accompanying Activities for the University of Maryland School of Music and currently belongs to seven professional music organizations. In his spare time he is fascinated by fans, clocks, organs, telephones, cats, metaphysics, and musclemen.

Phil Rogerson, Vocal Coach

A native of West Virginia and a private teacher of voice and piano in the Washington area, Phil has been an active member of the Chorus since it was founded in 1981. He is a graduate of West Virginia University with bachelor's and master's degrees in music education.

Phil, along with the other members of the music staff, listens to the auditions of prospective new Chorus singers as well as to the "vocal reviews" that all GMCW singing members must pass. For

Who' Who continued on page 53.

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The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington is a project of the Federal City Performing Arts Association, a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, and is committed to affirming the gay experience through music. We are grateful to the many friends who support the Chorus by making tax-deductible contributions in support of our work. Please consider joining them and enjoying some of the following benefits that will bring you even closer to the Chorus.

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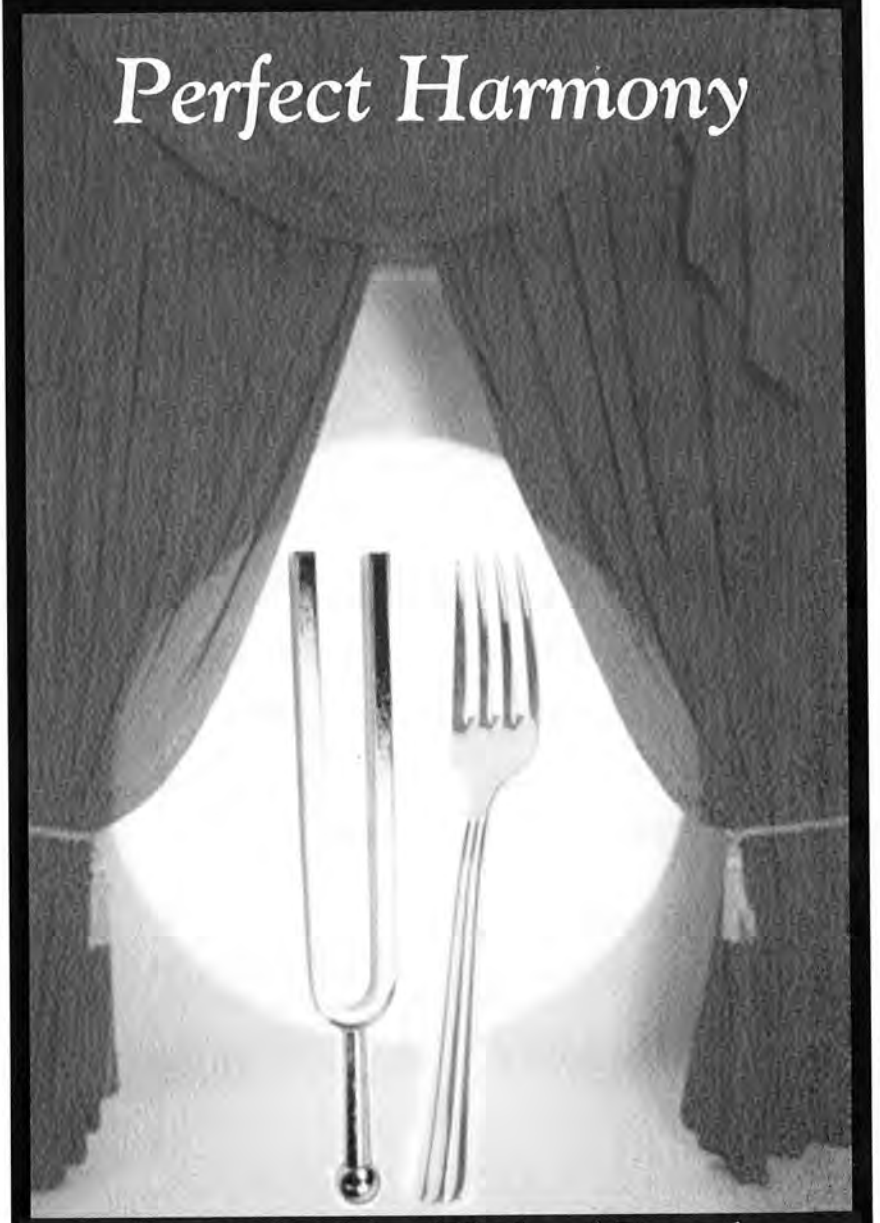

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Continued from page 49.

members who have never had formal vocal instruction, he teaches a class in vocal technique each Sunday for an hour before regular rehearsal. Phil conducts sectional rehearsals and assists individual singers with vocal problems. He is active in many local music organizations, and has served as president of the Southern Maryland Choral Society, the Choristers' Guild, and the Prince George's Music Teachers Association.

David Bielenberg, Executive Director

This is David's third season as Executive Director of GMCW. He brings to the Chorus more than twelve years of experience in Arts Administration, most recently as Director of Development for the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and previously as Associate Director of Development for Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut. Before moving to New Haven, he worked for a number of performing arts organizations in New York City, including the Paul Taylor Dance Company, the Tisch School for the Arts at NYU, and the concert series at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

A native of Baltimore, David also has an extensive background in choral music. Since the age of nine, he has sung regularly with school and community choruses as well as with professional church choirs in Baltimore, New York, New Haven and now Rockville, MD. He also conducted an *a capella* choral ensemble at the Tisch School for the Arts from 1995 to 1996.

David earned his Bachelor of Music with a business minor from New York University, and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Arts Administration through Goucher College in Baltimore.

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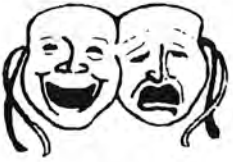

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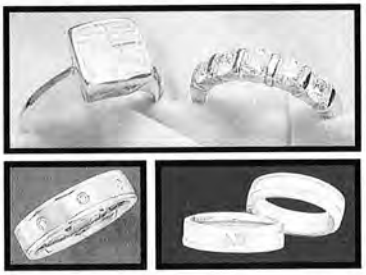

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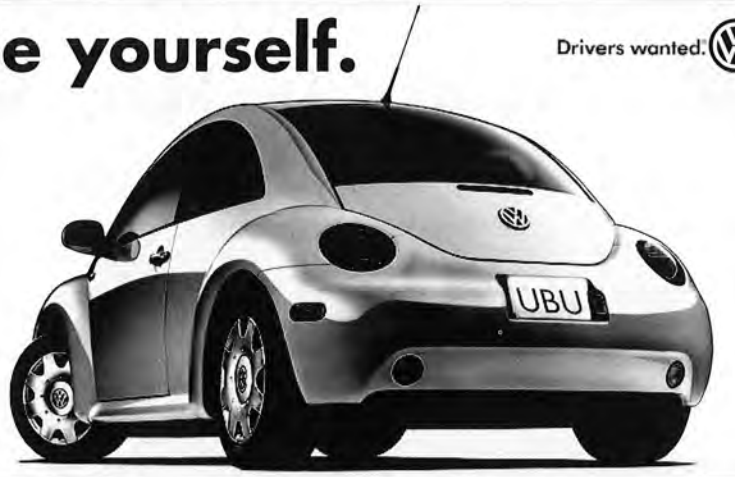

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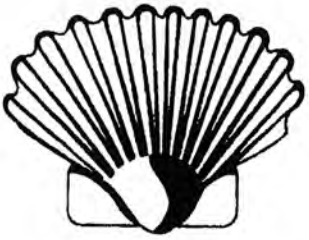

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