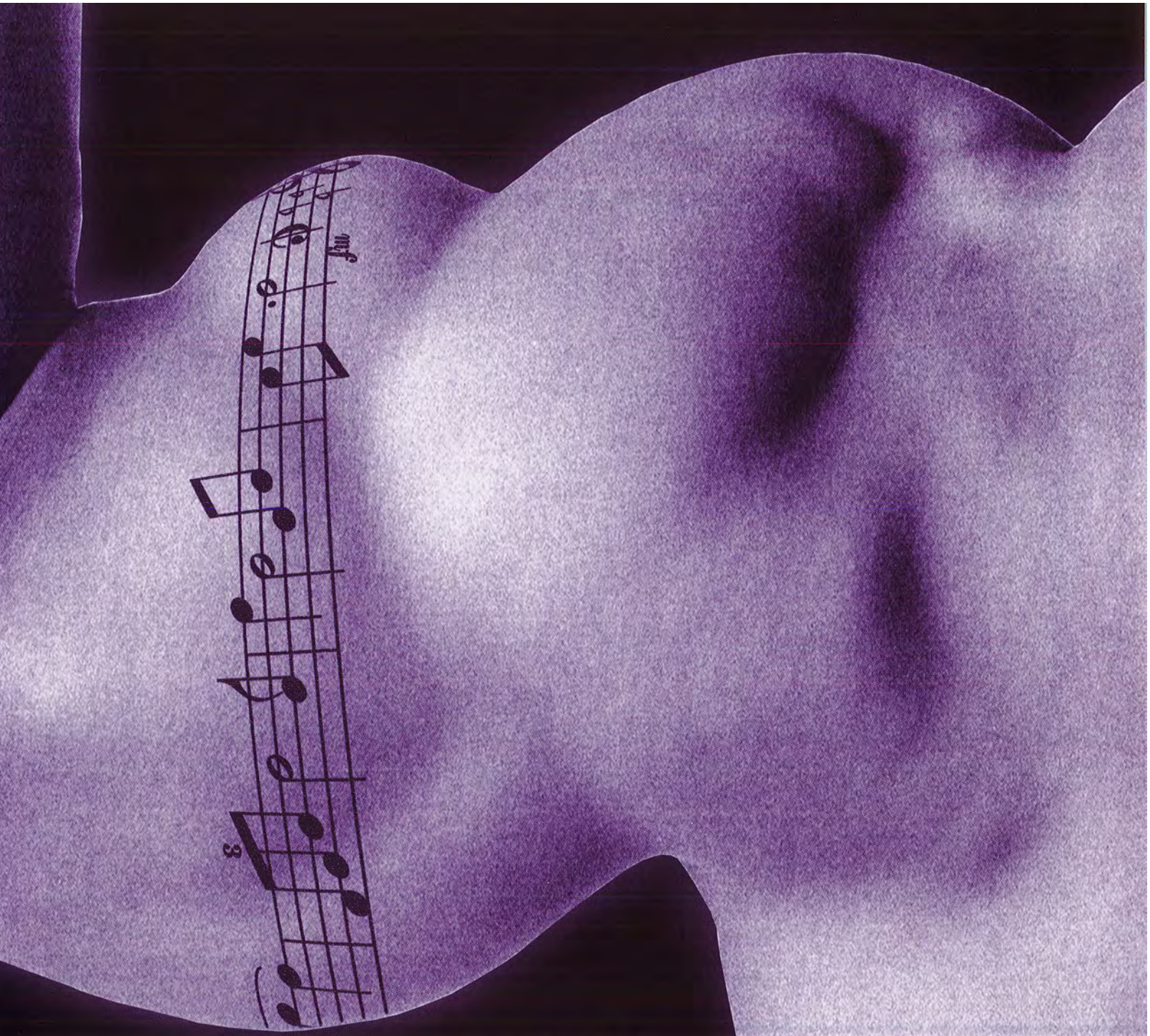

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Gregory Ruffer, Interim Music Director

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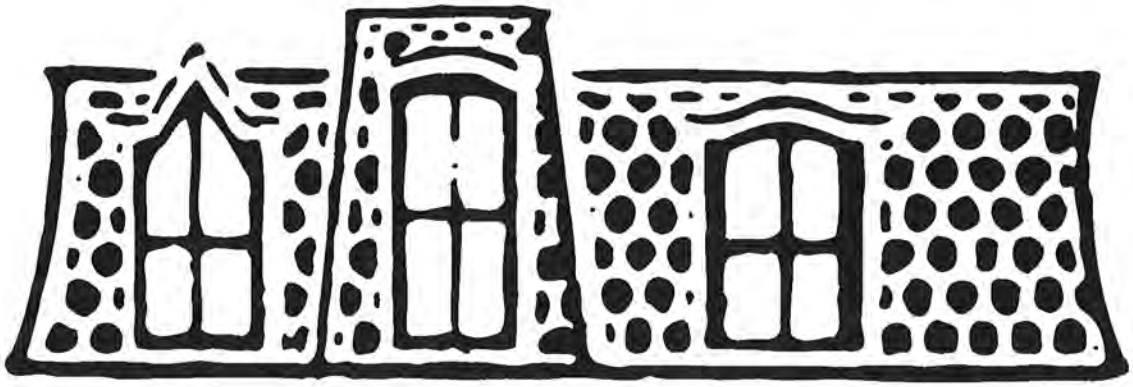

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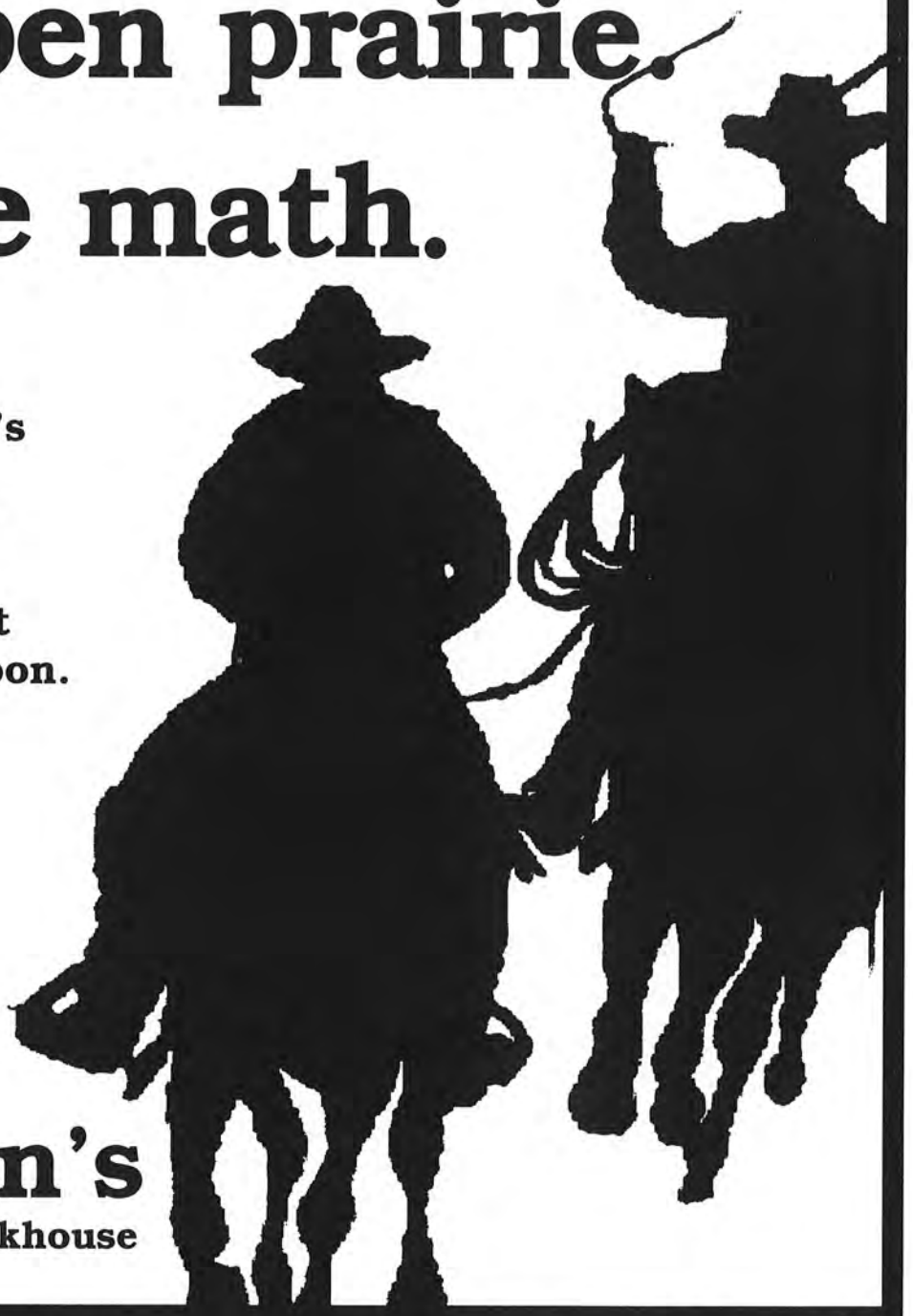

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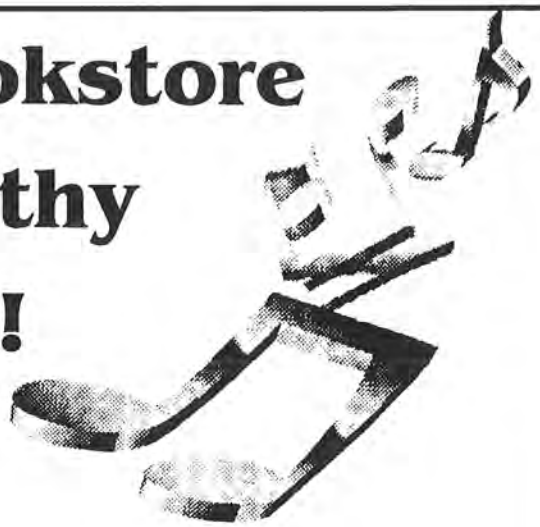

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Joe Cannon*
Bill Cutter
Michael Daugherty
Jarrin Davis[PF]
Brian S. Day
J.T. Flores
Alex Ford
Paul George
Timothy M. George[PF]
Paul Harouff
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Gary M. Regan
Jack Reiffer
Robb Rexroth*[D]
Philip M. Rogerson
David F. Streit
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Jeffrey Van Luyn
Kevin Webster
K. David Weidner*
James W. Williams
Michael C. Wilson[PF]
Robert K. Wonneberger

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Carl Baldwin
W. Eric Balthrop
Marty Barron[PF]
Chuck Baxter
Corey Bent*
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Ken Senior
Patrick Shea
Bob Sheavly
Michael Brendan Smith
Steve Spar
David Taylor
Bob Williams

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C. Michael Baker
Will Bellais
Bart Brook
Russ Capps
Jim Carey
Daniel Chadburn
Mikel D. Clinton
Kenneth T. Cole
Ted Collins
Tom DiGiovanni
Micheal diPaula
Bob Dragoset
Robert Featherstone
Dennis Jaffe
Jerry Lee
Harold Lewis*
Jim Lopresti[AC]
Charles F. Merk
James Murphy
Nick Neagle
Rob Neighbour
Yoshiyuki Nishio
Todd Paul*
Bob Reeg*
Paree L. Roper
Steve Pflasterer
Christopher Sexton
Wes Shank
J. Kirke Smith[PF]
Warren Turner[PF]
Tom Tyler
Marvin Weeks*[PF]
Barrett Whitener

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PF - Potomac Fever * - Section Leader D - Dancer

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Chuck Bailey
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Craig R. Bowen
C. David Bury
Ted Butler
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President's Message

Darrell Lewis

Good evening and welcome to Celebrating Our Voice, the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC's final subscription concert of our 19th season. The Board of Directors and members of GMCW are so pleased that you have chosen to spend this special evening with us. Tonight we truly celebrate our musical voice in our community, the Nation's Capital, and beyond.

Our program this evening focuses on patriotic music and the contributions of lesbians and gays to American cultural life. From the moving "Waitin' for the Dawn of Peace" to "Stars and Stripes Forever" like you've never heard it before, the chorus uses a wide range of vocal styles to celebrate the voice of patriotism and American pride.

The second half of the concert features the programs of Potomac Fever and GMCW that we will take to San Jose in July to GALA Festival 2000, the world's largest gay and lesbian choral convention. On our way to San Jose (but not because we don't know our way to San Jose), we will be stopping off in San Francisco to present the same programs as we join the men of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus in concert. We are so proud to be able to represent our Nation's Capital at these events, and to have a chance to sing on stage with the men of SFGMC who truly were the impetus for the creation of GMCW 19 years ago.

As our season quickly draws to a close and my tenure as president of GMCW ends, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made this past season such a success for us. First on my list would have to be our wonderful interim music staff – Director Gregory Ruffer and Assistant Director Tim George. From the comments I have received from audience members this season, both of these gentlemen have garnered high praises. They stepped in without missing a beat and kept our voice alive and well all season. The Board and members of GMCW are forever in their debt. Our other music staff members, accompanist Teddy Guerrant and vocal coach Phil Rogerson, worked with Greg and Tim to produce a memorable season that won't soon be forgotten.

Often behind the scenes, but never forgotten, is our wonderful executive director John Perkins. John works tirelessly to keep this organization in the forefront of our Nation's lesbian and gay arts organizations, and his hard work really shows. We thank him for his incredible commitment to GMCW and for his belief in the power of our music and our voice in this community.

But most importantly I want to thank you, our loyal audience and supporters, for attending our concerts and providing the revenue to keep GMCW an integral part of this community. You may not realize it, but the revenue from ticket sales only covers a fraction of our expenses. Helping to fill the gap is another very important group of individuals, our Capital Club members, who provide nearly one-third of our annual budget, and make possible many of the events that GMCW participates in throughout each season. We honestly couldn't do it without these wonderful individuals.

And finally, tonight we will recognize a group of truly exceptional supporters for this organization. The Century Circle fund was established this year to provide funding for our upcoming 20th anniversary season, as well as to establish a fund that would provide long-term financial stability for GMCW. I know you will join me in warmly thanking these special individuals for their tremendous contributions of support to GMCW.

It truly takes a community to support the work and programs of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. It is our hope that, through our many performances and appearances each season, that we give back to this community in equal measure to that which is given to us. You have our commitment that we will continue to celebrate our voice in this community and beyond as we enter our 20th season and in the century ahead. Thank you for sharing our pride, and enjoy the show!

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Who's Who

Gregory Ruffer

Timothy M. George

Theodore Guerrant

Gregory Ruffer
Interim Music Director

Gregory Ruffer is the Interim Music Director of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington and Director of Potomac Fever. Greg holds an MM and a BM in Music from Bowling Green State University, where he studied voice with Andreas Poulimenos, Virginia Starr and Tina Sandor Bunce. He has also done continued voice study with Carmen Balthrop at the University of Maryland. His conducting teachers have included Emily Freeman Brown, Mark Kelly, Kyprous Markou, Louis Gorelick, and Dale Warland.

For four seasons Greg sang with The Washington Chorus, including the Grammy Award-winning recording of "Of Rage and Remembrance", under the direction of Leonard Slatkin. Greg has also sung with the Paul Hill Chorale, Capital Camerata, Findlay Light Opera Company, and as a guest singer with the Washington Singers professional chamber choir. As a baritone soloist, Greg has appeared with the McLean Choral Society and the Capital Camerata, as well as at churches throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Mid-West regions. He has had the pleasure of singing under the direction of many distinguished conductors, including Robert Shaw, Leonard Slatkin, Dale Warland, Robert Shafer and Paul Hill.

For two years Greg was the Music Director for the University of Findlay Summer Stock Repertory Theatre, where he directed productions of "Guys and Dolls", "Carousel", and "Lend Me a Tenor". He also served as the Music Director for productions of "Pirates of Penzance" and "The Fantasticks". From 1996-1999 he was the Director of Music at College Park United Methodist Church.

Greg has professional memberships with the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), The Conductors Guild, Chorus America, the Contemporary Acappella Society of America (CASA), GALA Choruses, and is a voting member for the Grammy Awards with the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS). In 1989, 1996 and 1998 he was named an Outstanding Young Man in America.

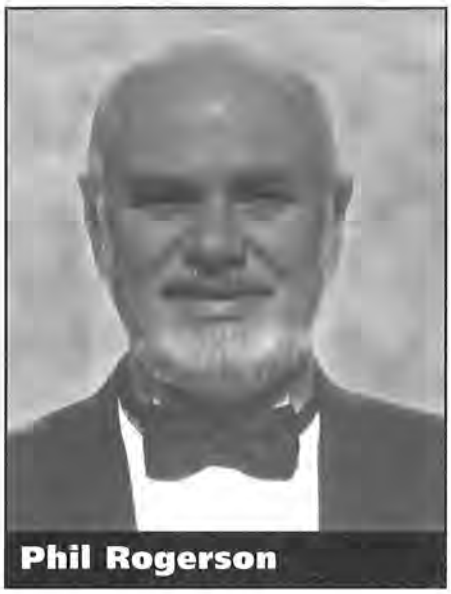
Greg's day job finds him working as the Program Manager for the National Initiative to Preserve America's Dance, a program funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Timothy M. George
Interim Assistant Music Director

Timothy George, Interim Assistant Music Director of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, is in his third season with the Chorus as a first tenor, and is also a member of Potomac Fever. Tim holds a BMus in vocal performance from Grand Rapids Baptist College (now Cornerstone University) in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He also attended the Cooke School of Church Music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, as a graduate organ student.

Prior to moving to Washington, DC, Tim was assistant director of music and organist for St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Louisville. As a recovering church musician, he currently serves as a substitute and interim organist for area churches. In his spare time, Tim is a sales representative with Stark Carpet Corporation at the

Peter Stark



Phil Rogerson

John E. Perkins

Washington Design Center. He has also run the Marine Corps Marathon, twice (he pleads temporary insanity). Tim lives in Alexandria with his partner, Dave Tipton, and their two cats.

Theodore Guerrant
Principal Accompanist

Theodore Guerrant (aka "Dr. Teddy"), now in his 17th season as GMCW's Principal Accompanist, began piano and organ studies at an early age. By the time he was a senior in high school, as a student of his aunt, the late Georgian pianist Eliza Holmes Feldmann, he was accompanying four choral groups and playing five church services every Sunday.

From there he went on to receive the Bachelor of Music 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. He studied additionally in Buriton, England, with Denise Lassimonne.

Dr. Guerrant is Organist-Choirmaster of Saint Margaret's Episcopal Church (where Dignity meets, just above Dupont Circle across from The Musical Source and Lambda Rising) in Washington, DC; Associate Organist at Saint Mark's Catholic Church in Hyattsville; Assisting Organist at the University of Maryland Chapel; and, in addition to GMCW, accompanies for the Montgomery County Masterworks Chorus and the Prince George's Choral Society. He is Coordinator of Accompanying Activities for the University of Maryland School of Music.

Peter Stark
Choreographer/Soloist

Peter Stark began his dance training at the age of seven with dance great Andre Eglevsky. At the age of twelve, Stark joined the School of American Ballet at the invitation of Peter Martins. There he studied with master teacher Stanley Williams, who coached him in Flower Festival pas de deux for his graduation performance.

Stark joined The New York City Ballet in 1987. During his four-year tenure with the company he danced many soloist roles, including Balanchine's "Allegro Brilliante: and "Symphony in C", Jerome Robbins' "The Concert", "Goldberg Variations", and "Glass Pieces", and the Twyla Tharp sections of "Brahms-Handel Variations".

In 1991 he joined Boston Ballet, where he danced soloist roles including Ralph Lemmon's Pulchinella, Twyla Tharp's "Brief Fling", and Petipa's "Swan Lake". In 1993 Stark was invited by international ballet star Fernando Bujones to work as his assistant director and principal dancer at Ballet Mississippi, a position he held for one season.

From 1994 to 1997 Stark was the leading male dancer for The Washington Ballet, where he performed roles including George in Philip Jerry's "Our Town", The Witch in Rick McCullough's "Hansel and Gretel", Theseus in Peter Annasis' "A Midsummer Night's Dream", and the Grand pas de deux in "The Nutcracker". Most recently Stark has appeared as a solo dancer with The Washington Opera, including their PBS broadcast of Puccini's "La Rondine". He regularly performs with local dance companies, including Bowen-McCauley Dance and Eric Hampton Dance. Stark is an adjunct instructor of ballet at American University and also teaches at Maryland Youth Ballet and Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet.

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 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.

John E. Perkins
Executive Director

John is celebrating his third season as GMCW's second full-time Executive Director. He previously served in senior management positions here in Washington, DC, with the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation, Trade Communications Inc., the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, and George Washington University. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in Music History and Literature from Florida State University.

A fan of the Chorus since its founding, John has been a member of the Capital Club since 1987, serving as its Vice Chairman and chair of the annual auction in 1992-93, and three terms as Capital Club Chairman, from 1993 to 1996. He received the GMCW President's Award in 1994 and was elected by the Chorus to a two-year term on its Board of Directors in 1995, serving as Secretary in 1996-97. When not occupied with the management of the Chorus and overseeing its development efforts, John's avocational interests lie in the areas of architecture, cooking, gardening and literature.

John is a judge for the Gay/Lesbian American Music Awards (GLAMAs) and serves on the Board of Directors of the Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry and the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts Associates.

The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC

Founded in 1981, the 150-voice Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC quickly became a staple of the Washington choral music scene. Over the years, GMCW has performed at The Kennedy Center, National Theatre, Warner Theatre, Constitution Hall, Lincoln Theatre, and Lisner Auditorium on the George Washington University campus, along with a number of venues in and around Washington, DC. In 1997 it became the first gay chorus to perform as part of a Presidential Inaugural. In addition, GMCW has toured to many of the major cities in the United States and, in 1998 became the first gay chorus to sing in the Tivoli Gardens concert hall in Copenhagen, as part of its 1998 tour of Scandinavia.

GMCW performs three subscription concerts annually: a holiday concert; a spring concert that alternates between a serious music theme and a comic revue or musical; and a summer concert that often includes appearances by guest choruses. GMCW also appears at a number of community events, including programs for PFLAG and 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.

In addition, GMCW sponsors Potomac Fever, a 13-man a cappella ensemble. The ensemble performs benefit concerts for many community organizations, especially those addressing issues of HIV/AIDS. Potomac Fever presents three full-length concerts this season, including performances with Tessitura and Bowen-McCauley Dance Company, and a performance at the ACDA Mid-Atlantic Conference.

GMCW has won a number of awards, including the Mayor's Arts Award for artistic excellence in 1989 and the Washington Area Music Association's WAMMIE award in 1995 for outstanding gospel performance (for "Live at the Lincoln," featuring New Arts Six). 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 CD, Singing Free, and on our recently-released Let It Shine.

GMCW Presents made its debut in 1996 by producing Forever, For Love and For Life: Holly Near. In January, 1999, GMCW partnered with Olivia Productions to present the first production outside of New York of Dan Goggin's hit musical, *Nunsense A-Men!*

GMCW's choruses are an activity of the Federal City Performing Arts Association, a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, which also sponsors a chorus fundraising group called the Capital Club. Corporate sponsorship to GMCW has been provided by companies such as AT&T, Eastman Kodak, American Express Financial Services and United Airlines. Information on upcoming GMCW events can be obtained by calling 202-338-SING or by visiting the chorus' web page at www.gmcw.org.

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Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC

Gregory Ruffer, Interim Music Director

CELEBRATING OUR VOICE

Timothy M. George, *Interim Assistant Music Director*
Theodore Guerrant, *Principal Accompanist*
Peter Stark, *Choreographer*
Philip Rogerson, *Vocal Coach*

Waitin' for the Dawn of Peace ..... arr. Ron Jeffers

Down By the Riverside ..... arr. Kirby Shaw

I Wish I Could Shimmy Like My Sister Kate ..... A. J. Piron
arr. James Matthews

Timothy M. George, *conductor*

La Cage aux Folles medley ..... Jerry Herman
arr. Larry Moore

Pansies Everywhere You Go ..... Eric Lane Barnes

Robert T. Boaz and Michael Wilson, *soloists*

The Stars and Stripes Forever ..... John Phillip Sousa
arr. John Kuzma

Timothy M. George, *conductor*

Intermission

Zombie Jamboree . . . . . Conrad Mauge
arr. Sean Mills

Potomac Fever
Chris Cochran and Timothy M. George, *soloists*

Imagine . . . . . Jennifer Higdon
text by Donna Red Wing

Potomac Fever

A Quiet Moment . . . . . Jennifer Higdon

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We Shall Be Free . . . . . Stephanie Davis & Garth Brooks
arr. by Robert T. Boaz

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Robert T. Boaz and Russ Capps, *soloists*

Life Uncommon . . . . . Jewel Kilcher
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Ain't-a That Good News . . . . . William Dawson

Deep River . . . . . arr. Dean X. Johnson

Timothy M. George, *soloist*

Don't Forget to Wear Your Rubbers . . . . . Eric Lane Barnes

If My Friends Could See Me Now (from Sweet Charity) . . . . . Cy Coleman
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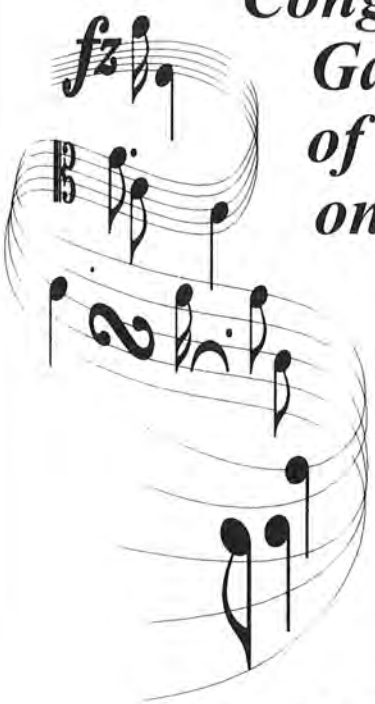

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The benefits of your tax-deductible gift to the Capital Club include priority seating, a special red Capital Club Polo shirt, lapel pin, invitations to special events & receptions, and special recognition. The following gifts were received as of May 18, 2000:

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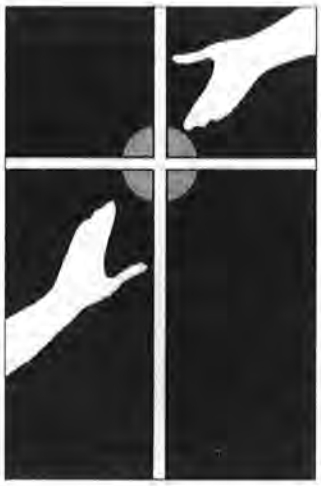

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The Chorus extends its sincere appreciation to the individuals below whose generous contributions underwrote the music costs of the our Holiday concerts, and who made possible the dedication of these concerts to the memory of Andy Horsley, former second tenor with GMCW and beloved friend to so many.

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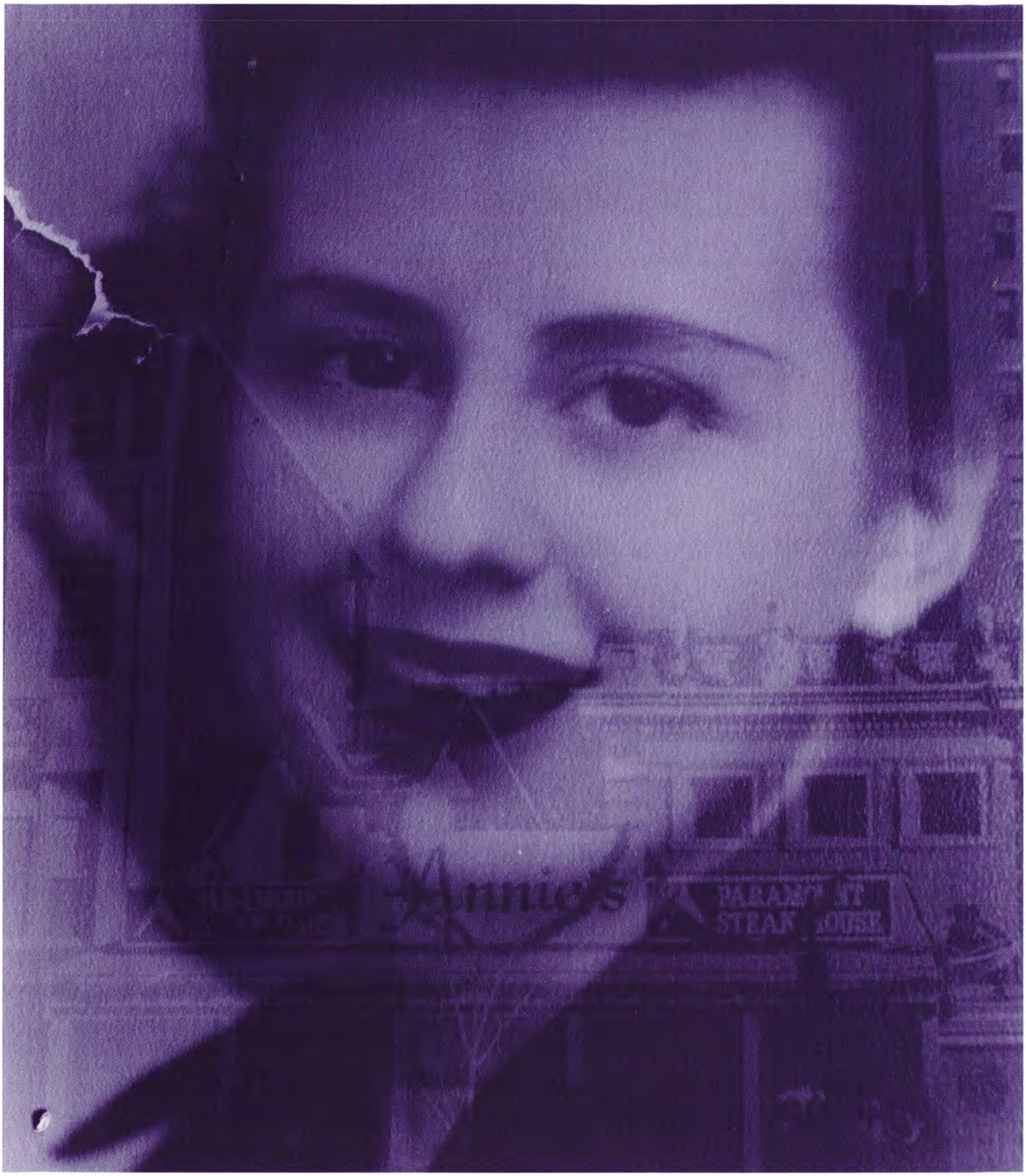

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