GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

MEN IN TIGHTS

A Pink Nutcracker

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GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON DC

Jeff Buhrman, Artistic Director

Presents

MEN IN TIGHTS

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Artistic Staff

Artistic Director ..... Jeff Buhrman
Assistant Music Director ..... Thea Kano
Principal Accompanist ..... Theodore Guerrant
Vocal Coach ..... Philip Rogerson
Choreographer ..... Scott Roewer
Assistant Choreographer ..... Dennis Kovanda
Stage Director ..... John Moran
Assistant to the Stage Director ..... Betsy Libretta
Costume Design & Construction ..... Gary Turner, Rick Johnson, Paddi McHugh
Set Design & Construction ..... Matt Komornik, Kit Grieder, Stuart Kopperman
Artistic Interpreters ..... Jina Lynne, Bruce Riley
Director, Potomac Fever ..... Jeff Buhrman
Director, Rock Creek Singers ..... Thea Kano

Production Team

Executive Producer ..... Joe Vignali
Stage Manager ..... Barry Bugg
Technical Manager ..... Larry Rosen
House Manager ..... Bob Klein
Stage Crew ..... Support Section
Ticket Sales, Archival Video ..... Steve Herman
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GMCW

Now in its 24th 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 North America 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 Food & Friends. 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 also 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 three Washington Area Music Association's WAMMIE awards: in 2003 for outstanding Choral Group, 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, the full Chorus 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 202-293-1548 or by visiting the Chorus' web page at www.gmcw.org.

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to our 24th Season!

The chorus began this year still high from the International GALA Choruses Festival in Montreal last July. Many of you heard our premiere of *Changing Hearts* either here in DC or in Montreal. This powerful new work voices much that we hold dear about our music and our mission: "...like a wave...and with crescendos my heart was free."

Our mission to affirm the place of gay people in society is no idle talk. It is the ongoing experience of our life together and of our place in this metropolitan area. When we meet some of the younger GALA Choruses, we remember for a few minutes to be grateful for our life in a relatively accepting slice of American life. At GALA Festivals some of the most inspiring moments come when little start-up choruses sing and tell the stories of their lives in small-town America.

Sometimes it hits closer to home, and we remember that prejudice is not the special prerogative of "other places." A friend of ours wrote pained words the morning after the national election in November, while the maps and other electronic graphics were still vivid in everyone's minds: "We're not a part of America. All those people in those red states hate us. They despise us."

He went on to give voice to the hurt of hearing about state after state approving anti-gay initiatives. There continues to be much in the society that threatens our lives. Then, in the same post, this man returned to what keeps us motivated and singing: "At least we have each other. For that I am thankful."

We experience these waves – and with crescendos – often enough to keep us energized for our singing mission. A new member of our audience writes to tell how the power of a concert gave him new resolve to face local coworkers and family with the truth about his life. A singer invites his family to a concert and initiates an important self-disclosing conversation.

Your support of our mission is key! Thank you for attending this performance. Please consider making a gift as well. Contributed income makes possible our rich range of community activities and outreach efforts: the PWA and student ticket funds, workshops for educators, and school performances. Hearts are changed by these programs.

Thank you also for your contributions to the annual toy drive in honor of Bob Wonneberger. Our hearts smile when we hear of the children and families touched by this annual outpouring of love.

Our hearts are free! We sing so that this freedom will become a living reality in the society. Thank you for being a part of this venture.

Jack Reiffer
Chair of the Board

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FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

A Talented Artistic Team!

The holiday season is a perfect time to take a moment to appreciate the people in our lives. I would like to share this space with the most talented and creative artistic team that I have ever worked with. I am blessed to have them in my life...we are all blessed that they are part of the GMCW family.

Our Assistant Music Director, Thea Kano, may be new in town, but she is already very involved in the DC choral community. Thea moved to DC from Los Angeles in July, having completed her Doctorate of Music in Choral Conducting at UCLA. She is the Assistant Conductor of The Washington Chorus and the Artistic Director of the Capitol Hill Children's Chorus. In her first three months with GMCW, Thea has made quite an impact on the chorus, working with the full chorus and directing the Rock Creek Singers. It has been a love affair from the beginning.

Scott Roewer is our new choreographer. In addition to dance, Scott's background is in teaching and organizational development. He is both creative and fun when he works with the chorus on our "choralography." Choral singers can be afraid of movement...it is a pleasure to see the smiles on their faces when Scott works with them.

John Moran first worked with GMCW back in the early 1980s. He found his way back to us last year when he directed our production of *Bye Bye Birdie*. John is the consummate professional and is such a joy to work with. He always has the chorus' undivided attention...it is amazing to watch him work with 150-200 singers.

Finally, two members of the artistic staff have each been with GMCW for over 20 seasons – and we cherish them. Our vocal coach, Phil Rogerson (Uncle Phil) teaches our voice class every Sunday afternoon and is very effective in helping our singers. Phil is also in charge of GMCW's Chorus Care Corps, which provides support to our members in time of need.

Dr. Theodore Guerrant (Teddy) has been our principal accompanist for 22 seasons. No one accompanies better than Ted. He is simply....a true artist.

We have included their photos so that you can recognize them when you see them. Please join me in letting them know that they do incredible work with the chorus. Happy Holidays to all.

Kano

Roewer

Moran

Rogerson

Guerrant

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FROM THE CHORUS PRESIDENT

Welcome to our "Season of Men." Yes, a season *of* men, but not a season only *for* men – nor only for gay men. Look around you at the men and women and families in greater variety. The last ten years have seen the intensification of our efforts to bring our special brand of entertainment and our message to more diverse audiences. Those efforts now neither end nor falter.

This season, GMCW has welcomed its first female assistant director. We have also welcomed a record number of new, talented, and culturally diverse performing and support members. In this time of need following recent elections, we are – and must be – bolder, stronger, and more committed to our broader mission. In this time of uncertainty, we must renew our determination to use music to cultivate understanding, friendships, and meaningful support in defiance of hateful and ignorant rhetoric. And in this time of denial, we must be who we are – introspective and joyful and, yes, occasionally over-the-top. This holiday program is no exception.

The first half of our holiday program is chock full of our grand, mostly traditional, occasionally twisted GMCW seasonal and inspirational selections. In the second half – the eponymous "Men in Tights" – we don rose-colored glasses and, through new lyrics and dance, reveal and reconstruct *The Nutcracker* in all of its gay, and very pink, glory. The faint of heart should be relieved, as I am, that only a select few performers will be in tights. Please, ignore the whirring sound you may hear during the Waltz of the Flowers. It is simply the sound of Tchaikovsky and Petipa spinning in their graves – or perhaps they are rejoicing in a very special pas-de-deux of their own. Who knows? After experiencing this Sugar Plum Fairy, you may believe anything is possible.

For above all, in this time when despair could easily prevail, we must believe.

My deepest thanks for joining us for this performance and for your support throughout this "Season of Men."

I believe,

Dan Patton
President

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PROGRAM LISTING

MEN IN TIGHTS

A Pink Nutcracker

Christmas in the Cloister ..... Eric Lane Barnes
Soloist: James Galdieri
with the Rock Creek Singers

Hodie Christus Natus Est ..... Jan Pieters Sweelinck
Arranged by Dennis Rosenbaum

Alleluia ..... Ralph Manuel

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen ..... Arranged by Mark Riese

I Saw Three Ships ..... Arranged by Mark Riese
Rock Creek Singers

Music of Hanukkah ..... Arranged by Anne Albritton

And In That Moment ..... Music by Thomas W. Nichols
& Dan Chadburn
Lyrics by Thomas W. Nichols

Soloists: Jeff Hamlin, Tom Nichols

When My Heart Finds Christmas ..... Arranged by Stephen Smith
Potomac Fever

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year .... Eddie Pola & George Wyle
Arranged by Hawley Ades

When You Meet an Angel ..... Eric Lane Barnes
Soloist: Peter Fox

You Raise Me Up ..... Rolf Lovland & Brendan Graham
Arranged by Teena Chinn

Soloist: Joel Furtick

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PROGRAM LISTING

MEN IN TIGHTS

A Pink Nutcracker

1. ***Overture***
2. ***March***
3. ***Waltz of the Flowers***
4. ***Dance of the Toy Flutes***
5. ***Sugar Plum Fairy***
6. ***Chinese Dance***
7. ***Two Carols for Christmas***
   The Star Carol
   We'll Dress the House
8. ***Russian Dance***
9. ***Waltz of the Flowers (reprise)***

MEN IN TIGHTS CAST (in order of appearance)

Mrs. Stahlbaum ..... Michael Horton
Mr. Stahlbaum ..... Michael Toth
Clarence Stahlbaum ..... Shane Reppert*
Fritz Stahlbaum ..... Forrest Clift
Drosselmeyer ..... Barrett Whitener
Peter ..... Craig Cipollini*
Dream Clarence ..... Dennis Kovanda
Dream Peter ..... PJ Brennan
Sugar Plum Fairy ..... James Murphy

DANCERS

Group 1

Matt Komornik, Dance Captain
Cory Clifton
Sean Hanrahan
Ricky Jacobs
Gary Knight
Ed Oseroff
Czar Sarwono
Michael Taylor
Will Trokey

Group 2

Dennis Kovanda, Dance Captain
Marc Clodfelter
Giuseppe DeBartolo
Dwight Dekeyser
Caleb Holifield*
Dennis Palaganas
Nick Pietras
Scott Roewer*

*Member of the DC Cowboys

Special thanks to Shane, Craig, and Caleb from the DC Cowboys for their contribution to the success of this show. Special thanks to Craig for modeling for our Men In Tights marketing materials. For more information about the DC Cowboys, please visit dccowboys.org

A portion of the production-related expenses for the performances of Men In Tights has been underwritten by the ***Robert K. Wonneberger Memorial Fund.***

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MEN IN TIGHTS...A PINK NUTCRACKER

Lyrics by: Charles Butler, Sean Hanrahan, Rob Driggers, Will Trokey, Dan Kaufman, Thea Kano, Jeff Buhrman, Chip Crews, Corey Clifton, Chip Heath

1. OVERTURE
CHORUS

It's time to sing and dance to celebrate the season,
Not quite the Kringles but let's introduce the family
First Mom dressed to the nines, she always looks so pleasin',
Then Dad he smokes his pipe and watches football on TV.

The younger brother's name is Clarence,
The older brother's name is Fritz,
Clarence is quiet and reserved,
The older brother likes to hit.

Dancing, singing, entertaining family & friends,
It's time to eat and drink to share the Christmas spirit,
It's time to trim the tree and kiss beneath the mistletoe.
Let's dance - Look Fritz is showing off while Clarence looks so sad,
Dreaming of a handsome prince in tights (Tights!)
His dream could come true (Tights?)
Where's that handsome charming prince in pink? In pink?
Tights, in pink!

Mom & Dad say it's a phase. Prince in pink tights.
Prince, a phase? Prince, a phase.
No prince to hold and kiss and love.

It's time to entertain, and fluff, and flirt, and flatter.
It's time to spice the punch and gossip, guff, and gabber.
Who knows if dreams come true but dreaming is believing.
We know how Clarence wants to spend his Christmas evening
Dancing, wishing, singing, hoping, dreaming of Prince in pink!

2. MARCH
CHORUS

Here is the good Uncle Drosselmeyer,
He's very flamboyant in white attire.
He has traveled near and far,
He was once a Broadway star,
His Auntie Mame was deemed sub-par,
'twas close but no cigar!

Here's Peter the nephew, he's so cute,
He's terribly brilliant and astute,
Clarence seems to like the new guy,
He's aglow and looking shy,
Drosselmeyer's playing Cupid, watch him draw his bow.
It's not alright, Fritz wants to fight.

Fritz is the mean brother, none too bright
Perpetually angry and uptight,
Drosselmeyer plots and schemes, Clarence thinks he's going to scream,
Mom & Dad don't want a scene, but Fritz is being mean.

This is the new Clarence no one knows,
He's acting flirtatious and it shows,
Clarence really likes this new guy,
Now he's bold not coy, or too shy,
Fritz is close and looking sly, he wants to hit the guy.

He wants to fight and crush this dream,
He kicks and shoves, his mother screams,
They wrestle and they start to box.
Then Fritz gets kneed, he starts to bleed,
No one wants to intervene, it's such a dark and ugly scene.
Why does Fritz like being mean?
He's crushing hopes and dreams.

They push and fight, what a party, what a sight.
Clarence is a lively chump, he hits his brother with a pump,
His brother drops onto the floor, as guests flee out the door.
Is this his prince so brave and strong?
Is this his love now saved from wrong?

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He's falling in love, the arrow struck
Look Peter is prickled, Cupid luck.
Drosselmeyer breaks to a grin,
It looks like he is going to win,
His nephew and his godson, now
romancing can begin.

3. WALTZ OF THE FLOWERS
CHORUS

Is this a dream come true? Is this the
Prince he has longed for?
Look at them they're floating on the air,
Dancing cheek to cheek without a care,
Is that extra stuffing in your tights or are you
simply glad to be here?
Gliding across the floor, feeling like they're
growing closer.

DROSSELMEYER:
I am certain this is not just chance that my
nephew's finding true romance.

CHORUS:
Are they dancing in a dream like Fred Astaire
and Ginger Rogers in a Cinderella scene?
Dreaming while they're dancing,
Dancing while they're dreaming.
Never stop believing, Dreams can all come
true for you.

CLARENCE:
Should I hold him, oh so lightly, That we
tip-toe through the night?
He let his hand slide off my shoulders, Is this
innocence or something bolder?

PETER:
He's so handsome, I could kiss him
If he leaves now I will miss him.

CLARENCE:
Could I love him? Will he love me?
For I'm falling in love with

PETER:
Stare at me, look deep into my eyes.

CLARENCE:
Darling I need you, you need me too
Watch where your knee goes or I'll turn blue

PETER:
Clarence dear, why can't I hardly bear to ask it,
What would you say if later tonight, we unwrap
your luscious Christmas basket?

CLARENCE:
I had dreamed you, now I found you,
And I hope I will astound you.

CLARENCE and PETER:
I'm so happy, I could kiss you, as we're waltzing,
dreaming, dancing all through the night.

CHORUS:
Dreaming while they're dancing,
Dancing while they're dreaming,
Never stop believing
Dreams can all come true for you.
Happily ever, we're happily ever, in love with,
in love with, in love with,
In love with a wonderful, wonderful guy.

4. DANCE OF THE TOY FLUTES
CHORUS

Holidays can be so fabulous, homosexuals know
how just to make them gay,
Lots and lots of parties, lots and lots of smarties,
Lots and lots of happy homos decorating trees.

Holidays can be so fabulous, homosexuals know
how just to make them gay.
Lots and lots of shopping, lots of party hopping.
What a merry holiday!

Holidays can be so marvelous, homosexuals
know how just to make them gay,
Lots and lots of glances, lots of queer romances,
Lots and lots of merry folk accessorizing stairs.

Holidays can be so marvelous, homosexuals
know how just to make them gay,
Mixing our martinis, cooking cocktail weenies,
What a happy holiday!

Holidays can be miraculous, homosexuals know
how just to make them gay.
Lots and lots of cruising while we're
busy boozing
Lots and lots of happy homos sipping Absolut!

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Holidays can be miraculous, homosexuals
know how just to make them gay,
Ending our confusions, New Year's resolutions,
What a happy holiday!

5. DANCE OF THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY
CHORUS

Here she comes our sexy Sugar Plum, beauty
queen, so pristine,
Don't you love her dress?
She is not like any other Queen you have seen,
There is only this one Sugar Plum,

Perfect hostess, she is kind and sweet, none
compete, she's complete,
I just love her hair!
Always witty, ever pretty, she's our lovely
Sugar Plum.

She's very contrary, and a royal pain beside.
She's cruel, our jewel, Hot! Not?
See the mole she tries to hide?

With her gown of pearly white tonight,
she's a sight, don't catch fright,
Don't you love her shoes!

She's a wonduh, a rotunda,
She's our lovely Sugar Plum.

6. CHINESE DANCE

7. TWO CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS
(music by Alfred Burt; lyrics by Wihla Hutson)

STAR CAROL

Long years ago on a deep winter night,
high in the heavens a star shone bright,
While in a manger a wee Baby lay, sweetly
asleep on a bed of hay.

Jesus, the Lord was that Baby so small,
laid down to sleep in a humble stall.
Then came the star and it stood overhead,
shedding its light 'round His little bed.

Dear Baby Jesus, how Fine Thou art, I'll make
a place for Thee in my heart.
And when the stars in the heavens I see, ever
and always I think of thee.

WE'LL DRESS THE HOUSE

We'll dress the house with holly bright and
sprigs of mistletoe;
We'll trim the Christmas tree tonight and set the
lights aglow.
We'll wrap our gifts with ribbon gay and give
them out on Christmas day;
By everything we do and say, our gladness we
will show.

We'll dress the table daintily, our finest
treasures use,
That all asparkle it may be and bright with
lovely hues;
Then for the feasting we'll prepare a kitchen
full of wondrous fare,
That each from all the dishes rare, His favorite
one may choose.

And ye who would the Christ Child greet, your
heart also adorn,
That it may be a dwelling meet for him who
now is born.
Let all unlovely things give place to souls
bedecked with heavenly grace,
That ye may view His holy face with joy on
Christmas morn.

8. RUSSIAN DANCE
CHORUS

We meet by chance, we drink, we prance,
Like Russian men we love to dance:

Stolichnaya, Absolut, Citadelle, Chopin, Gray
Goose,

Level, Rain, Monopolova, Mandarin, Wyborova,

Due, Three Olives, Vox and Pravda, Seagram's
Extra Smooth, Zubrovka

Smirnoff, Svedka, Skyy, and Stoli
Belvedere, Nemiroff, Turi

Kick your heels, let out those squeals
Now grab your drink and toast the
Prince in Pink!
Prost!

9. WALTZ OF THE FLOWERS (reprise)
CHORUS

Dreaming while they're dancing,
Dancing while they're dreaming,
Never stop believing
Dreams can all come true for you.
Happily ever, we're happily ever, in love with,
in love with, in love with,
In love with a wonderful, wonderful guy.

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WHO'S WHO

JEFF BUHRMAN, Artistic Director

Jeff Buhrman is in his fifth 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 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.

THEA KANO, Assistant Music Director

A native of northern California, Thea Kano began studying the piano at the age of four. She studied music at Arizona State University, where she received her undergraduate degree in Choral Music Education and Piano Performance. Thea taught high school vocal music and musical theater in southern California for several years. Her ensembles received several prestigious awards, including Most Outstanding Performance at the Reno International Jazz Festival. Thea earned her Master of Music degree in choral

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WHO'S WHO

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conducting from UCLA and recently completed the doctoral program in choral conducting there with Donald Neuen. Additional study includes private conducting lessons with Paul Salamunovich. While attending graduate school, Thea served as the Assistant Director of the Angeles Chorale and was the Artistic Director of the San Fernando Valley Youth Chorus in Los Angeles. She was an administrative assistant and teaching associate for the Department of Choral Music at UCLA where she directed the University Chorus. Additional responsibilities included serving as the Assistant Conductor of the UCLA Chorale and the UCLA Chamber Singers. Thea is the new Assistant Conductor of The Washington Chorus and the newly appointed Artistic Director of the Capitol Hill Children's Chorus.

JOHN MORAN, Stage Director

John Moran returns to The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington as Stage Director for *Men In Tights: A Pink Nutcracker.* Earlier this year he directed their production of *Bye Bye Birdie* at Lisner Auditorium.

A name long recognized in theatrical circles, Mr. Moran wrote and directed *In The Mood*, a 1940s Big Band show, currently on national tour. He won critical acclaim for his direction of *Dear World* and *Boys In The Band* at The American Century Theater; directed the Washington premiere of *Always Patsy Cline* and *Mrs. Foggybottom and Friends*, both at the Marquee Lounge of the Shoreham; and directed and produced the Washington premiere of *In Gay Company*. John directed *Hexagon 2002: It's A Grand Old Gag* resulting in the largest donation in the club's 47 year history, benefitting The Combined Hospices of the D.C. Area.

In addition, Mr. Moran writes and directs special events programs in Washington, D.C. and New York City, often in collaboration with Lansdale Associates, which in the past year included:

- *Vital Voices At The Kennedy Center* (Her Majesty Queen Noor; Senator Hilary RodhamClinton; Senator Kay BaileyHutchison; Sally Field; Gwen Ifill; Tina Brown; Andrea Mitchell)
- *Saving The Living Planet, A Tribute to Russell Train* (Senator Dianne Fienstein; William Riley; Thomas Kean)
- *International Human Rights Law Group* (Julian Bond; Debra Lee; *Sweet Honey and the Rock*; Gay McDougall)
- *Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge Awards* (Michael Phelps, Judith McHale, The Mythbusters)
- *INOVA Health Foundation Gala* (Dianne Sawyer)
- *Human Rights Campaign 2004* (Elizabeth Edwards; Max Mutchnik; Jessica Lang; David Catania)
- *The American Light Opera Company Awards* (Dr. Donn Murphy; Jack Marshall; Carolyn Griffin)
- *International League For Human Rights Honoring President Chen of Taiwan*
- *2003 J. William Fulbright Prize at the U.S. Department of State*
- *The George C. Marshall Award to U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell* (Italian President Carlo Ciampi; U.K. Secretary of State Jack Straw; Michael Beschlos; Robert Duvall; Lord Robertson, Secretary General of NATO; David Rockefeller)
- *Americans For The Arts National Arts Awards Gala* (Sofia Coppola, Richard Avedon, Teresa Heinz-Kerry)
- *International League For Human Rights Honoring the Dalai Lama* (Richard Gere, Susan Sarandon)
- *Human Rights Campaign 2003* (Al and Tipper Gore, Elizabeth Birch, Alison Janney, John Spencer, *The Fab 5*, Michael Cunningham, Max Mutchnik)
- *Coalition To Stop Gun Violence* (Rep. Patrick Kennedy)

Who's Who continued on page 39

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WHO'S WHO

Who's Who continued from page 37

SCOTT ROEWER, Choreographer

Scott Roewer also serves as GMCW's Vice President of Events. Scott began his dance training while marching with various drum & bugle corps. He took his first dance class while in college at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, where he also earned a bachelor's degree in Music Education. Additionally, Scott has a Masters of Music Education from the Conservatory of Music, University of Missouri – Kansas City. Scott has worked as a choreographer and adjudicator for numerous high school drill teams and winter guard units in Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. Previously a music and theater teacher, Scott has directed and choreographed musical productions and founded a successful summer theater program for youth in the Kansas City area. Since moving to Washington, DC, Scott has assisted with the choreography of the PBS special, *A Capital Fourth 2004*. Scott's one big claim to fame is that he can be seen as a featured dancer in the Universal Motion Picture, *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything Julie Newmar*. Scott is a Professional Organizer and Event Planner. When not on stage with GMCW, he can be found performing with the DC Cowboys. He would like to thank all the dancers for their hard work and for wearing tights!

THEODORE GUERRANT, Principal Accompanist

Now in his 22nd 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.

Who's Who continued on page 41

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WHO'S WHO

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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 teaches a class in vocal technique each Sunday for an hour before regular rehearsal for members who have never had formal vocal instruction. Phil also 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 fourth 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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The Gift of Giving
In Memory of Bob Wonneberger

For over a dozen years, GMCW's own Bob Wonneberger would bring the joy of giving to his fellow chorus members and other friends at his annual holiday toy party. Bob's party would collect hundreds of toys that would be distributed to DC's needy through Community Family Life Services. The party became a gift to us by allowing each of us to share in the spirit of the season.

Bob Wonneberger left this world in October of 2002, but his spirit and his love remain. GMCW has sought to carry on his love by continuing his annual toy collection. And this year, we share it with our audience family. We hope this joy of giving will become as much a tradition for you as it is for us...thanks to "Wanda."

The Robert K. Wonneberger Memorial Fund

The following individuals have made contributions to the Chorus in memory of Bob Wonneberger. These gifts will support GMCW's staged productions in the seasons to come. Thank you.

Stanley Allen & Thomas Smith, Jr.
James Kevin Costello
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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.

In-School Performances
In April 2004, GMCW performed for its first in-school assembly at the Edmund Burke School in Northwest Washington. As a result of the overwhelmingly positive response received from that performance, additional in-school performances are being scheduled at area independent schools this season.

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 events 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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SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS

MEN! MEN? MEN...

with special guest Sam Harris

Saturday, March 19 at 8, Lisner Auditorium
Sunday, March 20 at 3 pm, Lisner Auditorium

Gay choruses have been known for their over-the-top salutes to divas ... Bette and Barbra and Cher and Madonna and all the rest. We're headed in a different direction as we salute MEN ... all kinds of men. From Broadway to movies to television to opera ... with lots of surprises. We will also welcome Broadway and recording star Sam Harris to join us in our celebration of MEN.

NAKED MEN

with the Gay Men's Chorus of Ft. Lauderdale

Saturday, June 4 at 8 pm, Lisner Auditorium
Saturday, June 18 at 8 pm, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

This concert will feature a combined chorus performance of NakedMan, a song-cycle commissioned by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus in 1996. It is a dramatic and impassioned musical work based on stories of the men of the chorus. Its emotional range and genuine heartfelt drama merge into songs of remarkable poignancy and empowerment.

NON-SUBSCRIPTION EVENTS

CLASSICAL FOUR...

with the Rock Creek Singers

Saturday, April 9 at 8 pm • Location TBA

We are pleased to welcome our new Assistant Director, Thea Kano, as she steps to the podium to direct the Rock Creek Singers. Enjoy this evening of choral chamber music.

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU...

Potomac Fever and guests

Saturday, April 30 at 8 pm with Not What You Think (Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington, DC)
Saturday, May 7 at 8 pm with Captain Smartypants (Seattle Men's Chorus)
Frances and Armand Hammer Auditorium at the Corcoran Gallery of Art

Join GMCW's a cappella group Potomac Fever for two evenings of fun as they welcome Not What You Think and Captain Smartypants as their guests.

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- Complimentary copy of a GMCW CD. *(minimum gift of $1,500)*
- And many more!

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Scott Button 2000
Teddy Guerrant 1983
Steven Haber 1989
Steve Herman 1981
Marsha Holloman 2000
Rick Johnson 1995
Steve Katsurinis 2004
Bob Klein 1999 (SL)
Jason Kuznicki 2000
Kathy McGee 2000
Patrick O'Donnell 2004
Shirley Paul 2000
Larry Rosen 1993 (SL)
Mary Scott 1992
Gary Turner 1993
Joe Vignali 1995

FIRST TENORS
Tim Allmond 1999 (SL) (RCS)
Jay Ball 2001
Joe Bloomer 1999
Brad Boekeloo 1992 (RCS)
Fred Boykin 1981
Larry Boylan 2002 (RCS)
Peter Brayton 1984
Charles Butler 1981 (RCS)
Marc Clodfelter 2004
Tony Conto 2003
Mario Crifo 2004 (RCS)
Steve Crutchfield 1987
Bill Cutter 1998
Richard Dew 2004
John Favazzo 2003 (PF)
Greg Finch 2003
Alex Ford 1996 (SL)
Andy Fouche 2004
Peter Fox 2002
Joel Furtick 2002
Don Garapolo 2002
Paul George 2000
Nathaniel Gordon 2004
Bob Halbert 2001 (PF)
Chip Heath 1994
Michael Horton 2000
Scott Hubli 2003
Eric James 2002 (PF)
Dennis Kovanda 2004
Bert le Roux 2004 (RCS)
Jere Lorenzen 2003 (PF)
Craig Lustig 1999
Christiaan McEwen 2002
Gordon McGraw 1998
Greg Moffett 2004
Kerry Neal 2002
Van Neel 1990 (PF)
Dennis Palaganas 2002
Dan Patton 1995
Michael Phelps 2004
Paul Pompeo 2004
Gary Regan 1990
Jack Reiffer 1998
Scott Roewer 2003
Phil Rogerson 1981
Mick Smythwood 2004
Jim Stanko 1990
David Streit 1988
Will Trokey 2004
Jeff Van Luyn 1983
Jason Varvas 2004
Kevin Webster 1993
Jim Williams 1991
Mike Wynne 2001 (PF)

SECOND TENORS
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Ryan Athearn 2001
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Sherman Blow 2004
Wynn Bressler 2003
Dave Carmody 1999
Forrest Clift 2004
Paul Cline 1996
Chris Cochran 1995
Tony Cunningham 2002
Rob Driggers 2002 (RCS)
Mark Evans 2004
Alvin Figer 2002
Paul Foley 2004
Robert Gunnell 2004
Martin Haley 2004
Jeff Hamlin 2000
Sean Hanrahan 2002
Andrew Harmon 2002 (RCS)
Michael Hayes 2004
Abrahem Helal 2004
Mark Hennen 2004
Rob Hensley 1999 (RCS)
AJ Holliday 1998 (RCS)
Ricky Jacobs 2000
David Jonas 2001
Matt Kingsley 2004
Gary Knight 2003
Matt Komornik 1993
Stuart Kopperman 1996
Lee Lowder 2004
Leo Luberecki 2002
Jim Madigan 1999 (RCS)
Gordon Mehlman 2004
Tom Nichols 1997
John O'Brien 2004
Darren O'Neill 2002
Stan Piotrosky 1991
Reg Richards 2003 (RCS)
Scott Reiber 2004 (PF)
David Robinson 1988
Sean Robinson 2000 (SL) (RCS)
Steven Sanders 2003
Charles Sarner 1993
Paul Singletary 2000
David Smith 1993
Robert Smith 2003
Scott Starin 2000
Shawn Strout 2003 (SL)
Mead Summer 2001
Michael Taylor 2001
Greg Tepe 1994
Michael Toth 2004
Marc Villafana 2002
Anthony Vitelli 2002
Chuck Walker 1995
Bryce Weems 2002
John White 1999
Ryan Williams 2004
Alexander Wright 2004
Jerry Yoder 2003

BARITONES
Rob Agnello 2002
Eric Akridge 1995
John Barton 2003
Brad Benton 2003
Mark Blaylock 2002 (SL) (PF)
Brian Blubaugh 2004
Lio Bocalan 2004
PJ Brennan 2004
Jeremy Brumbelow 2003
Doug Campbell 2004
Joe Canter 1994
Ron Castro 2001
Don Chandler 1997
Larry Cohen 1986
Joe Coray 2003 (RCS)
Chip Crews 1991
Lenny Davis 2002
Giuseppe DeBartolo 2002

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Paul Dewey 2003
Stan Drake 1990
Brandon DuBroc 2000
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Dave Edmiston 1996
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Brett Freeman 2004
Thom Gibb 1990
Stuart Goldstone 2001
Martin Good 2000
Kit Grieder 1990
Rob Hall 2002
Dan Hann 2002
Howland Hartley 2001
Michael Hill 2003 (PF)
George Huffman 2000 (RCS)
Paul Kelsch 2002 (SL)
Christian King 2003
David Kincaid 2001
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Charlie Mountain 2002 (PF)
Mike Nguyen 2004
Ron Norberg 2002
Ed Oseroff 2000
Emanuel Payton 2003
Nick Pietras 2004
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Will Rumble 2002
Burl Salman 2004
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Cory Sell 2004
Bob Sheavly 1999
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CELEBRATING OUR 56TH ANNIVERSARY
1948–2004