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PRESENTS

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Sam Harris

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Jeff Buhrman, Artistic Director

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Assistant Music Director ..... Thea Kano
Choreographer ..... Scott Roewer
Stage Director ..... John Moran
Principal Accompanist ..... Theodore Guerrant
Accompanist ..... Paul Leavitt
Vocal Coach ..... Philip Rogerson
Assistant to the Stage Director ..... Betsy Libretta
Rehearsal Assistant ..... Ned Read
Costumes ..... Paddi McHugh, Rick Johnson
Set Construction/Decoration ..... Kit Grieder, Stuart Kopperman
Artistic Interpreters ..... Jina Lynne, Bruce Riley
Director, Potomac Fever ..... Jeff Buhrman
Director, Rock Creek Singers ..... Thea Kano

Production Team

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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 not-for-profit, 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

Naming Our Own World

Jack Reiffer

"Someday he'll come along, the man I love...." I walked home from rehearsal humming this one, enjoying how well it was coming together, noting that once again Jeff had identified the just-right soloist. I started smiling at how our Gay chorus movement continues to co-opt songs and sentiments from other eras, songs composed once upon a time with heterosexual assumptions, and to make them our own.

In the early days of our movement there were no songs explicitly about our experiences. But we did what other movements before us had done, poured new meaning into old texts. "We Kiss in a Shadow" from *The King and I* spoke in a new context, for example.

It is what a scholar friend of mine would call "queering the language." Liberation theologians would cite it as an example of naming our own world.

A good piece of my adult life was spent working in inner-city poverty neighborhoods in Harlem and on the West Side of Chicago. I remember the debates about language. When I watched and listened to the teenage young men playing basketball outside my window, I heard them call each other names we good white liberals had carefully learned to strike from our vocabulary. Was this a sad example of internalized racism, still scarring these lives? Or was it a powerful "queering" of epithets, stripping them of their power to hurt? I can get thoughtful people to engage that argument to this day.

We Gay men do it too. Borrow and redefine images and words to create our own world. Who knows when it is a powerfully subversive transaction to claim our own time and space – and when it is a sad reminder that we are all scarred in one way or another by rejection and prejudice? Maybe it is a creative mix of both motifs.

MEN! MEN? MEN... is a quick romp through some of the important images in our lives – heroes and villains who have given our world meaning. In some eras we saw ourselves and our experiences in ways that the broader culture did not "get." In recent years, we have been able to be more explicit, to write our own songs, to tell our own stories, and not to need the vocabulary or images of the dominant culture. What a trip it has been!

Your support of GMCW keeps this movement alive! I look forward to seeing many of you at the Spring Affair. As we come up on our 25th year, we are as committed as on day one in 1981 to celebrating the Gay experience, to naming our own world in musical images both old and new. We treasure you as fellow-travelers in this adventure.

Jack Reiffer
Board Chair

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From the Artistic Director

Jeff Buhrman

MEN! MEN? MEN... What is GMCW up to this time? It seems as though gay men have always made adulation of larger than life women part of their experience. We have been the core audience for many a female star. We marvel watching Judy Garland sing "Over the Rainbow" (*The Wizard of Oz*, 1939). We smile watching Doris Day celebrating her "Secret Love" (*Calamity Jane*, 1953). We adore Barbara Cook, Barbra Streisand, Bette Midler, Madonna, Cher and many other gay icons.

Although there are a number of fine (and attractive) leading men, some of whom do not put much effort into concealing their gayness, gay men (and choruses!) have been far more interested in celebrating, and sometimes emulating the divas.

GMCW decided it was time to come out of the closet and show our appreciation for MEN. So, we present *MEN! MEN? MEN...* in which we celebrate, we salute, we show our fondness for, and yes, we even drool over MEN.

Joining us is Broadway and recording star Sam Harris, who many of us remember as the grand champion in the premiere season of *Star Search*. Sam has gone on to an accomplished and diverse career running the gamut from singer and songwriter; to Broadway, film and television; to writer, director and producer of concerts, cabaret, and recordings.

MEN! MEN? MEN... begins with a tribute to men in OPERA (with a little operetta). There was a time in history when men were the only singers on the opera stage. In the 16th century the Catholic Church banned women from singing on stage (or in the church). Boys with beautiful voices were offered by their families for castration so they could continue to sing in the female range. While you'll find no castrati on stage tonight we will offer two of the great opera choruses, the *Soldier's Chorus* from Gounod's *Faust* and *Zitti Zitti* from Verdi's *Rigoletto*. We'll throw a little bit of fun into the equation as well.

There were so many songs about the MEN WE LOVE to select from. We think we have some of the best. We'll salute our boyfriends, our first crushes, our partners, our heroes, our fathers... it will literally be RAINING MEN.

Then we celebrate men in the movies. From Rock Hudson to Rocky to The Rock... from Superman to Batman to Spiderman, we sing about the REEL MEN who made us love them. Make sure you are back in your seat on time after intermission. We have a surprise second act opener!

No salute to men would be complete without MUSICAL MEN. Since Tommy Tune played a gay choreographer on Broadway in *Seesaw* (1973), musicals have acknowledged the role of gay men in their creation and have celebrated them on stage. In recent years it has been heartwarming to see the parade of gay actors, choreographers, directors and producers thank their partners during their acceptance speeches at the Tony Awards. And today Harvey Fierstein is starring as Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof...* simply amazing!

Most importantly, *MEN! MEN? MEN...* celebrates our differences. As Albin sings in *La Cage Aux Folles*, "I am what I am, I am my own special creation."

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From the Chorus President

Dan Patton

Rehearsing for this concert, I couldn't help but remember the many men who have inspired, intrigued, or irritated me. The inescapable conclusion of these musings is that one person above all others has profoundly influenced me. Don't let on to my husband, but I'm talking about my mother. She was a terrific male-role model.

Gender, in part, may define us, but we need not allow it to confine us. Travel author Jan Morris (born James Morris) wrote, "To me gender is not physical at all, but is altogether insubstantial. It is soul, perhaps, it is talent, it is taste, it is environment, it is how one feels, it is light and shade, it is inner music..." Through most of my life, Mom was both mother and father. Out of necessity, her inner music led her to ignore the strict gender-stereotyping of the mid-to-late 20th century. Mom was both bread-winner and home-maker. A child of the Great Depression, she worked two or three jobs so that there was ample food in our house. Always tough and determined, she took nonsense from no one and aggressively protected us from a world of great and small dangers. Her anger had a public face, but her tears were usually private. Stoically, Mom hid from us her fears and her disappointments. Somehow tender still, she found time to show us that we were special and loved, and to share the skills and secrets of getting along in life. Directly and sincerely, she let us know that she would always be there for us: both sword and shield.

I was the youngest of four children. I loved old movies and musicals, I sang and acted, and I preferred crafts over sports. In fact, I preferred nearly everything over sports. I was truly a "sensitive" boy, and wasted no time laying the groundwork to earn my "gay card." At this point, pop-psychologists of previous generations – and, sadly, of today's "red states" – might diagnose "domineering mother produces sissy boy," then prescribe a curative season of little-league baseball. Well, my mother is undeniably strong-willed, but she did not make me gay. She has, however, made me proud and she has given me the courage to persevere.

GLBT boys and girls are not our children by blood, but they are ours by bond. Many live with fear and uncertainty in an unwelcoming world. As the issue of same-sex marriage has become more visible and polarizing, the incidence of anti-gay sentiment has increased, particularly against GLBT and questioning youth. This shouldn't surprise since many political, religious, and social leaders broadcast a hate-laden message to the nation and beyond. It's disheartening that tolerance is so fragile, and it is unacceptable that young people simply perceived as "different" are subject to verbal harassment and physical, sometimes lethal, violence. With your support, GMCW is this year stepping up its youth and community outreach efforts. We are again performing at a local high school assembly, and are adding an evening of "Q & A" for students, teachers, and parents. We reaffirm our commitment to our annual "Educator's Workshop," our continued ticket support for gay/straight youth alliances, our presence at DC Youth Pride, and our loving gratitude to PFLAG: Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. We need to do more. With your help, we can do more. Through steady encouragement, innovative education, and solid example, we must share with these daughters and sons the skills and secrets of getting along in life, even of thriving. We must help them find in themselves the courage to persevere.

My close friends tease me by saying I'm turning into my mother. Well, Mom's not perfect, but I've been called worse ... and I'm still here.

Dan Patton
President

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Program Listing

Bring on the Men *(Jekyll and Hyde)* .....Frank Wildhorn & Leslie Bricusse
Soloists: Brandon Dubroc, PJ Brennan, Michael Horton
Dancers: Marc Clodfelter, Dennis Kovanda, Gordon McGraw, Nick Pietras, Dennis Palaganas, Scott Roewer

OPERA MEN

Soldier's Chorus *(Faust)*.....Charles Gounod

Indian Love Call .....Rudolph Friml, Oscar Hammerstein, Otto Harbach
Soloists: Davina Pons, Dragmatic Soprano
Franklin Chappell, Baritone

Zitti, Zitti *(Rigoletto)*..... Giuseppe Verdi
Rock Creek Singers

Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life *(Naughty Marietta)* .....Victor Herbert & Rida Johnson Young

Then One of Us Will Be a Queen *(The Gondoliers)*.....W.S. Gilbert & Arthur Sullivan

SAM HARRIS

Selections To Be Announced

LOVING MEN

The Boy From *(The Mad Show)* .....Mary Rodgers & Stephen Sondheim
Dancers: Marc Clodfelter, Dennis Kovanda, Gordon McGraw, Nick Pietras, Dennis Palaganas, Scott Roewer

Papa Can You Hear Me *(Yentl)*....Michel Legrand, Alan & Marilyn Bergman
Soloist: Justin Zimmerman — Arr. Tim Sarsany

Happy Together.....Gary Bonner & Alan Gordon
Potomac Fever

The Boy Next Door *(Meet Me In St. Louis)* .....Hugh Martin & Martin Blaine
Soloist: Peter Fox
Dancers: Dennis Kovanda, Nick Pietras

The Man I Love *(Lady Be Good)*.....George & Ira Gershwin
Soloist: Juan Rodriguez — Arr. Alex Rybeck

It's Raining Men ..... Paul Jabara & Paul Shaffer
Dancers: Edward Allen, Aaron Clarke, Gordon McGraw, Scott Roewer — Arr. Mark Riese

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Program Listing

REEL MEN

You Made Me Love You *(Broadway Melody of 1938)* .....Josesph McCarthy
Video created by Michael Smith & James V. Monaco
Arr. Alex Rybeck

MUSICAL MEN

A Little More Mascara *(La Cage Aux Folles)* .....Jerry Herman
Soloists: Barrett Whitener, Michael Hughes, Bill Cutter, Matt Komornik

The Creation of Man *(The Scarlet Pimpernel)* .....Frank Wildhorn
Soloists: Michael Fratz, Marc Clodfelter, Andrew Harmon & Nan Knighton

What More Can I Say *(Falsettos)* .....William Finn
Arr. Larry Moore

If You Were Gay *(Avenue Q)* ..... Robert Lopez & Jeff Marx
Soloists: Mark Hennen, Rob Driggers

What Would I Do? *(Falsettos)* .....William Finn
Soloists: Stuart Goldstone, Jere Lorenzen

You Could Never Shame Me *(Kiss of the Spiderwoman)*.....John Kander & Fred Ebb
Arr. Alex Rybeck

I Am What I Am *(La Cage Aux Folles)* .....Jerry Herman
Arr. Alex Rybeck

FINALE

Use What You Got *(The Life)* .....Cy Coleman & Ira Gasman

Special Thanks

The following individuals have provided special underwriting to support Sam Harris' appearance with us at this concert. We are most grateful to each of them for their generosity.

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Who's Who

SAM HARRIS

The diversified career of Sam Harris has run the gamut from singer and songwriter; to actor on Broadway, film and television; to writer, director and producer.

Born and raised in Oklahoma, Mr. Harris first splashed into the public eye as the grand champion of *Star Search* in its premiere season. His phenomenal "overnight" rise catapulted him into the recording industry, where he received gold record status for *Sam Harris* and *Sam-I-Am*, which he also produced. His recordings also include the critically acclaimed *Standard Time*, *Different Stages, The Best of the Motown Sessions, Revival, On This Night,* and *Always*. He may also be heard on numerous concert, guest artist, and cast albums. Mr. Harris has extensively toured the country in concert and has played to sold-out audiences at Carnegie Hall, Los Angeles' Universal Amphitheatre, and London's West End.

On Broadway, Mr. Harris received a Drama Desk nomination for his role in Tommy Tune's *Grease* and a Drama-League Award as well as Tony, Outer Critic's Circle and Drama Desk nominations for his work in Cy Coleman's *The Life*. Most recently, he appeared on Broadway in the Mel Brooks musical, *The Producers*. Mr. Harris has also starred in such musicals as *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Cabaret*, *Hair*, an extensive National Tour of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Broadway production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and the self-penned shows *Hard Copy, Revival*, and most recently, the smash hit, one man show *SAM* in Los Angeles.

Behind the scenes, Sam wrote the TBS sit-com, *Down to Earth*, which ran for 4 years, and wrote and directed the Los Angeles produced musical *Hurry! Hurry! Hollywood!* He also co-produced the television special *Love Letter to New York*. Between various recording, film, and stage projects, Mr. Harris continues to tour throughout the country and is currently working on his next CD.

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

Sam Harris Photo Credit: Barry King

Who's Who continued on page 33.

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Who's Who continued from page 29.

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.

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 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.

Who's Who continued on page 37.

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Who's Who

Who's Who continued from page 33.

JOHN MORAN, Stage Director

John Moran returns to The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington as Stage Director for *MEN! MEN? MEN...* Last year he directed their productions of *Men In Tights: A Pink Nutcracker* at the Lincoln Theatre and *Bye, Bye, Birdie* at Lisner Auditorium.

A name long recognized in theatrical circles, Mr. Moran wrote and directed *In The Mood*, a 1940's 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 include:

- Vital Voices At The Kennedy Center (Her Majesty Queen Noor; Senator Hilary Rodham Clinton; Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison; 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 41.

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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.

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 43.

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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

David has served as GMCW's Executive Director since October 2001. Under his leadership, the Chorus has experienced a marked enhancement of its administrative operations including increased fundraising support from individuals and corporate sponsors and improved marketing and communications initiatives. During his 4-year tenure, GMCW's annual budget has grown by nearly 50% from $423,000 to $630,000.

David's professional career includes more than fifteen years experience as an arts administrator. Previous positions have included serving as Director of Development for the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and 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. In addition to these full-time positions, David has served as a consultant to a number of choral organizations, including the Elm City Girls' Choir (New Haven) and the Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus.

David is an active member of the Washington area's LGBT and Arts Communities, serving as treasurer of the DC-LGBT Arts Consortium, and as a member of the Capital Pride planning committee and the Hillwood Museum and Gardens LGBT Advisory Committee.

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 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 expects to complete the Master of Arts in Arts Administration program through Goucher College in Baltimore in July 2006.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GMCW would like to acknowledge the following individuals for their volunteer assistance with this production: Christopher Grieder, Billy Richardson, Glen Burgess, Michael Key, Peter Torrez, Paddi McHugh, Rick Johnson, and Michael Cunningham.

Special thanks to Joe Salasovich and Arena Stage for the Creation of Man costumes used in our show. Special thanks to Mark Hamberger and the Washington Opera for the Creation of Man costume used in our photo shoot. Additional thanks to the Seattle Men's Chorus for the Avenue Q puppets. And we can't forget our cover models – Abe Helal, Justin Zimmerman, and Tim Allmond – for being such good sports.

Chorus Members

SUPPORT SECTION

Barry Bugg 1996
Scott Button 2000
Teddy Guerrant 1983
Steven Haber 1989
Glenn Hennessey 2005
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
Laurence A. Rosen 1993 (SL)
Mary Scott 1992
Gary Turner 1993
Joe Vignali 1995

FIRST TENORS

Timothy Allmond, Jr. 1999 (SL)(RCS)
Jay Ball 2001
Joe Bloomer 1999
Brad Boekeloo 1992 (RCS)
Fred Boykin 1981
Laurence Boylan 2002 (RCS)
Peter Brayton 1984
Charles R. Butler, III 1981 (RCS)
Peter Chapin 2005
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
Michael Fratz 2005
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)
Bert le Roux 2004 (RCS)
Jere Lorenzen 2003 (PF)
Craig Lustig 1999
Christiaan McEwen 2002
Gordon McGraw 1998
Kerry Neal 2002
Van Neel 1990 (PF)
Dennis Palaganas 2002
Dan Patton 1995
Michael Phelps 2004
Paul E. 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
Michael K. Wynne 2001 (PF)

SECOND TENORS

Tsar Agus 2003
Edward Allen 2005
Ryan Athearn 2001
Carl Baldwin 1992
Eric Belkengren 2001
Roger Bergstrom 1985
Sherman Blow 2004
Wynn Bressler 2003
Dave Carmody 1999
Forrest Clift 2004
Paul E. 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 2001 (RCS)
Rick Jacobs 2000
Robert Johnson 2005
David L. Jonas 2001
Matt Kingsley 2004
Gary Knight 2003
Matt Komornik 1993
Stuart Kopperman 1996
Dennis Kovanda 2004
CJ Liotta 2002
Lee Lowder 2004
Leo Luberecki 2002
Jim Madigan 1991 (RCS)
Gordon Mehlman 2004
Tom Nichols 1997
John O'Brien 2004
Darren O'Neill 2002
Stan Piotroski 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
Jeff Sliauzis 2003
David Smith 1993
Robert Smith 2003
Scott Starin 2000 (RCS)
Shawn Strout 2003 (SL)
Mead Summer 2001
Michael Taylor 2001
Gregory Tepe 1994
Michael Toth 2004

Marc Villafana 2002
Anthony Vitelli 2002
Chuck Walker 1995
Bryce Weems 2002
John White 1999
Ryan Williams 2004
Ken Williamson 2005
Alexander Wright 2004
Jerry Yoder 2003
Justin Zimmerman 2004

BARITONES

Robert M. 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
Franklin Chappell 2005
Larry Cohen 1986
Joe Coray 2003
Chip Crews 1991
Lenny Davis 2002
Giuseppe DeBartolo 2002
Dwight Dekeyser 1994
Paul Dewey 2003
Stan Drake 1990
Brandon Dubroc 2001
Eric Easterling 2004
Dave Edmiston 1996
Maurice Fox 2002 (RCS)
Brett H. Freeman 2004
Thom Gibb 1990
Stuart Goldstone 2001
Martin Good 2000
Christopher Grieder 1990
Rob Hall 2002
Dan Hann 2002
Howland Hartley 2001
Michael Hill 2003 (PF)
George Huffman 2000 (RCS)
Paul Kelsch 2002 (SL)
Ned Kieloch 1996
Christian King 2003
David Kincaid 2001
Joel Kopperud 2005
Paul Lee 2003
William Lee 2001
Bill Lipsett 1991
Mark Mann 2004
Reggie Meneses 2005
Jonathan Mikhalevsky 2004
Ralph Moore 2003
Charlie Mountain 2002 (PF)
Mike Nguyen 2004
Ron Norberg 2002
Edward P. Oseroff 2000
Emanuel Payton 2003
Nick Pietras 2004
Steve Rappaport 1994
Joe Riddle 2004
Juan Rodriguez 2005
Will Rumble 2002
Burl Salmon 2004
Brian Schulli 2003 (RCS)
Corey Sell 2004
Bob Sheavly 1999
Michael Smith 1990 (PF)
Steve Spar 1996
Carl Stewart 2002
L. Owen Taggart 2002
Kim L. Tan 2003
Ed Taponan 2001
John Weibel 1985

BASSES

Jeremy Aldridge 2004
Michael Armentrout 2002
Terry M. Ayers 1999
Michael Baker 1981
W. Eric Balthrop 1993
Felix Boccadoro 2001
Michael Brinkman 2000 (SL)
Marcus Brown 2004
Russ Capps 1999 (PF)
Aaron J. Clarke 2004
Cory Clifton 2003
Ted Collins 1995
Blake Cornish 2003
Tom DiGiovanni 1999
Bob Dragoset 1984 (RCS)
Robert Featherstone 1998
Craig Ferrier 2003
Ken Fox 2005
Jimmy Galdieri 2001
Jim Gruschus 1995 (RCS)
Michael Hart 2001
Michael Hughes 2002
Joe Henderson 2002
Dave Jansing 1999
Dan Kaufman 1990
Paul Leavitt 2001 (RCS)
Jerry Lee 1993
Mark Lefler 2004
Harold Lewis 1995
Michael Lohmann 2000
Jim Murphy 1988 (RCS)
Joe Murray 2003
Rob Neighbour 1992
Yoshi Nishio 1999 (RCS)
Todd Paul 1994 (SL)
Steven Pflasterer 1987
David Ponder 2005
John Quiñones 1990
Bob Reeg 1995
Travis Reid 2004
Paree Roper 1993
Craig Ruskin 2001 (PF)
Morgan Slusher 2000
Tony Taouk 2005
Warren Turner 1993
Lyn Van Noy 2002
Austin Vines 2004
Joachim Voss 2003
Brian Walther 2003 (RCS)
Barrett Whitener 1998
Dennis Williams 2004
Paul Winters 2000

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Mark Mennel
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Jim Moore
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Ron O'Leary
Len Padgett
Ron Paglia
Rex Paul
Todd Payich
Terence Powers
Scott Pierce
Don Poe
Harlan Powell
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Dennis Quinn
R.J. Quinn
Robb Rexroth
Ric T. Rice
Jim Richardson
Founding Director
Tom Roeder
Larry Ross
Tom Sena
Charles L. Sens
Ray Siefer
Brian Smith
B.J. Sobus
Jason Stelling
Dennis Swick
James D. Vranekovic
Phil Walsh
Benedikt Wassmuth
Dennis Watson
Marvin Weeks
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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 under-privileged 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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The Wonneberger Memorial Fund

The Robert K. Wonneberger Memorial Fund was established in 2004 as a tribute to GMCW Founding Member Bob "Wanda Mae" Wonneberger who died in October 2002. The following individuals have made contributions to the Chorus in his memory. These gifts will be used to support GMCW's staged productions in the years to come. Thank you!

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The Century Circle Fund

The Century Circle Fund was established in the fall of 1999 to honor GMCW's past and to ensure its future fiscal health. Donors to this initiative pledge to contribute $1,000 or $2,500 over a two-year period. The fund will be used in consultation with the Board of Directors for purposes that advance and ensure the financial stability of the chorus. We wish to sincerely thank the following donors to the Century Circle Fund:

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Ovation Society

The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, D.C.'s Ovation Society

GMCW's **Ovation Society** is a new initiative that will recognize and honor those individuals who have made planned gifts to the Chorus.

A number of GMCW family members have already made plans to contribute a portion of their estate to the Chorus. The **Ovation Society** is a way that we can recognize those individuals for their generosity.

If you have already included GMCW in your estate plans, please let us know so that we can include you as a member of the **Ovation Society**.

If not, we hope that you will consider joining this special group of individuals by including GMCW in your will, as a beneficiary of a retirement account, or by setting up a charitable trust. In some cases, planned gifts allow you to control where much of your estate will go, rather than to the Federal government. Charitable gifts can greatly reduce the amount of tax paid by your estate at the time of your death, and often does not change the amount that would go to your family and friends.

Your own attorney or accountant can provide you with more information on the many ways you can set up an estate gift to the Chorus. There are also a number of professionals who know the Chorus well and can advise you on the options that might best suit your situation. And remember, you don't need to be a millionaire to do this – many charitable gifts are made through estates that are valued at just a few hundred thousand dollars.

As a member of the **Ovation Society**, your name will be included in a special listing in each concert program. You will also be invited from time to time to attend special events and receptions especially for **Ovation Society** members. And **Ovation Society** members will receive a special pin, recognizing their planned gift to the Chorus.

For further information about GMCW's **Ovation Society**, if you are interested in learning more about the many ways that you can include GMCW in your plans, or if you would like the names of some professionals who can assist you in doing so, please contact David Bielenberg at 202-293-1548.

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