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The 25th Anniversary Concert with special guests Barbara Cook and the Capitol Hill Youth Chorus

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Assistant Music Director ..... Thea Kano
Principal Accompanist ..... Theodore Guerrant
Guest Accompanist ..... James Holloway
Stage Director ..... John Moran
Assistant to the Stage Director ..... Betsy Libretta
Artistic Interpreter ..... Jina Lynne
Director, Potomac Fever ..... Jeff Buhrman
Director, Rock Creek Singers ..... Thea Kano

Barbara Cook Musicians

Music Director & Accompanist ..... Eric Stern
Bass ..... Peter Donovan

GMCW Instrumentalists

Bass ..... Mary Scott
Drums ..... Danny Villanueva

GMCW Production Team

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Technical Manager ..... Larry Rosen
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GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Now completing its 25th 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 four Washington Area Music Association's WAMMIE awards: in 2005 and 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, You've Got To Be Carefully Taught: The Songs of Sondheim and Hammerstein* and its latest release, *Changing Hearts*.

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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Jack Reiffer

WELCOME

The final scene in *Candide* is delightful and powerful. After so many fantastical adventures and incredible trials, our heroes will make a future in tending the land. With their own hands and effort they will invest in growing where they are. They will abandon the futile longing for other worlds, for other loves, for other lives.

My favorite professor often addressed our angry young adult enthusiasm for change by admonishing us to "grow where you are planted." It was his positive way to remind us about how the grass on the other side is rarely greener. It was also his gentle way to encourage us to play the hand we had been dealt instead of bemoaning our lot.

For twenty-five years the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington has been growing where we are planted. Busily, steadily, often with little fanfare, we have been cultivating a beautiful garden here in the DC Metropolitan area. Hearts are rarely changed in a flash of new revelation. More often the changes are nearly imperceptible. Painful as it is to endure, change is most often incremental. But those changed hearts are profoundly real:

A parent issues a "welcome home" where once there was painful distance.

A friend drops a pejorative term from her standard vocabulary.

A child introduces your partner to his friends without apology.

Neighbors replace coolness with warmth.

Your teacher allows the paper topic that catches your interest.

An employer introduces official recognition of your life and loves.

That's how we "make our garden grow." One day it will bloom year-round with beauty appropriate to each season of life.

Thank you for celebrating with us this exciting venture! Invite your family and friends to join you in this audience next season. If you are able, please help point us toward new sources of support. Help us grow this ever-enlarging garden of Gay affirmation and celebration.

Jack Reiffer

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Jeff Buhrman

A CELEBRATION OF FAMILY

The word "family" is very confusing for some people because it brings up the question "What constitutes a family?" I think it's very simple — love and commitment make a family. No more. And no less.

As gay men and lesbians we find family in exactly the same places as our heterosexual counterparts.

- Some of us have an accepting biological family who love us.
- Some of us have a partner and/or children with whom we share a great love and deep commitment.
- Some of us are blessed with a close-knit family of friends. We celebrate birthdays together, we share vacations together, we gather for holidays and we help one another through difficult times.
- Some of us have a work family.
- Some of us are lucky enough to have a chorus family.

I am proud to announce that GMCW's 2006 – 2007 season is **A CELEBRATION OF FAMILY.** We will honor and affirm the many different kinds of families in our society. There is a large segment of America that is spreading a negative message about gay and lesbian families. Unfortunately their message makes it too easy for GLBT youth to share that confusion, often leading to devastating results. Next season we will share many positive messages.

Our celebration will enrich our own understanding of family and will shape the way family is experienced, honored and celebrated in our culture. In December we will share many of our lifetime holiday memories about family. In February we will sing with our brothers from the Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus. In March we will present a fully-staged production of the greatest all-time family musical, *The Wizard of Oz.* In June we will sing the world premiere of *Songs of My Family*, a choral song-cycle that will chronicle the stories of families.

No one definition of family can begin to capture the richness of families. We will spend next season shining a positive light for all to see.

Jeff Buhrman

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Tom DiGiovanni

MAKING OUR GARDEN GROW

In 1981, a new chorus was founded by a band of merry men (and one merry woman). They called it the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington. At the time, the idea of an openly gay singing group was a relatively daring concept.

Perhaps the earliest members had several motivations for joining this adventure: singing, self-acceptance, making a political statement, coming out; educating others about the gay experience and, yes, fun...finding new friends, dating opportunities and perhaps a husband.

In many ways, our first 25 years of growth are similar to those of an average person's development. We've been creating ourselves. We've built an impressive and robust organization, heralded by *The Washington Post* as "One of the world's best male choruses." We've been a vital contributor to our peers in DC's gay and arts scenes, we've taken care of ourselves through coming out experiences, sickness and death, and we've shared the highs of many firsts (singing at presidential events, national television broadcasts, at Carnegie Hall and on tour in Europe).

Now that we've reached a modicum of confidence (as many 25-year-olds do), I predict our next 25 years hold the promise of more abundant contributions to different gay and non-gay communities.

This year, GMCW began a process of redirecting our growth — in more outwardly focused ways. Interestingly enough, the board, the staff and the membership arrived at the same "growing point" from slightly different places. The leadership sees an opportunity for chorus members to share their non-musical talents with the larger community as ambassadors of GMCW, members seek better ways to recruit and retain a more diverse body of singers, both want to expand the audience base (while keeping our core supporters). The synergy and shared sense of purpose is more than coincidental. It feels right. By reaching out, we will grow and be stronger for it.

In 1981, our signature piece was "We Kiss in the Shadows." Twenty-five years later, it's "Changing Hearts." The power of our dreams has taken us on an extraordinary journey within a generation.

Thank you for joining us this afternoon — and for being a part of our 25-year run. The best is yet to come. Stay tuned.

Tom DiGiovanni

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and the Capitol Hill Youth Chorus

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Sing A Song ..... Arranged by Alex Rybeck

I Can 'COOK' Too – Songs from Musicals Starring Barbara Cook

We Kiss in a Shadow ..... Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein
from *The King and I* — Arranged by William Stickles

Tonight At Eight ..... Jerry Bock & Sheldon Harnick
Will He Like Me — Arranged by Alex Rybeck
I Resolve
Grand Knowing You
She Loves Me
from *She Loves Me*
Soloists: Stuart Goldstone, PJ Brennan

'Til There Was You ..... Meredith Willson
from *The Music Man* ..... Arranged by Alex Rybeck

Make Our Garden Grow ..... Leonard Bernstein
from *Candide* ..... Arranged by Jeff Buhrman

THE LADY HERSELF — BARBARA COOK

It's Not Where You Start ..... Cy Coleman & Dorothy Fields

Wonderful Guy ..... Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein

A Thirties Love Song ..... (Special Selection To Be Announced by Miss Cook)

This Nearly Was Mine ..... Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein

Accentuate the Positive ..... Harold Arlen & Johnny Mercer

Intermission

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The 25th Anniversary Concert with special guests Barbara Cook and the Capitol Hill Youth Chorus

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Songs of Life, Love and Friendship — 25 Years Together

The Circle of Life ..... Elton John & Tim Rice
With the Capitol Hill Youth Chorus, Thea Kano, Artistic Director

I Cannot Count the Stars ..... Eugene Butler

Honor and Obey ..... Alan Shorter
from *Changing Hearts* — Chip Heath
Soloists: Martin Good, Jere Lorenzen

Amani Utupe ..... Patsy Ford Simms
Capitol Hill Youth Chorus

There's a Man Goin' Round/I'll Be Seeing You ..... Spiritual
With Potomac Fever — Irving Kahal & Sammy Fain
Soloist: Colin James

A Handful of Keys ..... Fats Walker

When I Hear Music ..... Michael G. Martin

Changing Hearts ..... Alan Shorter
from *Changing Hearts* — Chip Heath

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC AND BARBARA COOK

I Can't Give You Anything But Love ..... Dorothy Fields & Jimmy McHugh

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BARBARA COOK

Barbara Cook most recently made her solo concert debut at New York's Metropolitan Opera House, making her the first female solo pop singer to be presented in concert by the MET. A live performance CD of this event is her most recent release from DRG Records.

Miss Cook won a NY Drama Critics Circle Award and was nominated for a Drama Desk award for her concert *Barbara Cook's Broadway* and was nominated for Tony and Drama Desk Awards for her previous concert, *Mostly Sondheim*.

Her many Broadway credits include the creation of three classic roles in the American musical theatre: Cunegonde in Leonard Bernstein's *Candide*, Marian the Librarian in Meredith Willson's *The Music Man* (Tony Award) and *Amalia* in Bock and Harnick's *She Loves Me* (Drama Desk Award).

In 1975 she made a legendary Carnegie Hall debut which was preserved as the live recording, *Barbara Cook at Carnegie Hall*. She then embarked on a second career as a concert and cabaret artist returning to perform at Carnegie Hall five times as well as in most of the country's major concert halls and cabarets. In 1987 she won a Drama Desk Award for her Broadway show, *A Concert for the Theatre*.

Her many London appearances include: her Gala 1997 Birthday Concert with the Royal Philharmonic at the Royal Albert Hall; appearances with the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican; engagements at the Donmar Warehouse Theatre, and Sadler's Wells; and Olivier Award-nominated appearances at the Albery Theatre, at the Lyric Theatre with *Mostly Sondheim* and two engagements of *Barbara Cook's Broadway*.

A Grammy Award winner, her recordings include eight original Broadway cast albums, two Ben Bagley albums of songs by Jerome Kern and George Gershwin, an album entitled *Songs of Perfect Propriety*, featuring poems by Dorothy Parker set to music by Seymour Barab, *As Of Today* (Columbia) and *The Disney Album* (MCA). Her more recent recordings for DRG Records include: *Close as Pages in a Book, Barbara Cook: Live From London, Oscar Winners: The Lyrics of Oscar Hammerstein, All I Ask Of You, The Champion Season: A Salute to Gower Champion, Mostly Sondheim, Barbara Cook's Broadway*, the Grammy nominated *Count Your Blessings* and *Tribute*, based on last year's sold out concert at New York's Café Carlyle.

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Who's Who continued from page 31

THE CAPITOL HILL YOUTH CHORUS

An affiliate of the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop, the Capitol Hill Youth Chorus is an open, inclusive, multicultural community chorus. Through professional instruction in vocal performance, the Chorus builds connections among public, private, parochial and home-schooled students, thereby taking advantage of the special multicultural nature of the Capitol Hill community. Made up of singers ages six through twelve, the Chorus performs an extensive and ambitious repertoire at venues throughout the capital region. In May of this year, the Chorus performed as part of the White House Commission on Remembrance's first annual "A Time of Remembrance" on the grounds of the Washington Monument.

Capitol Hill Youth Chorus Members

Jacqueline Abramowitz	Claire Gillman	Mey McLean
Zoe Agunbiade	Sophie Gillman	Mira Michels-Gualtieri
Chase Ammon	Julianna Hanson	Mehret Morrison
Teddy Ammon	Ella Henry	Elizabeth Murphy
Anna Bucknum	Hannah James	Grace Perry
Grace Buehlmann	Emily Knickerbocker	Amanda Reilly
Brigid Carmichael	Tatijanna Klinkenbergh	Benjamin Roodman
Julia Cottrell	Cleo Krupa	Sarah Rosenberg
Aton Crawley	Florence Lecuit	Eleanor Tolf
Mia DeJesus-Martin	Noel Liverpool	Isabel Walston
Elias Demian	Karl Loots	Maya Washington
Rebecca Edmonds	Mason Loots	Mykia Washington
Drew Erickson	Iona McLean	Alissa Williams

JEFF BUHRMAN, Artistic Director

Jeff Buhrman is in his sixth season as Artistic Director of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. During his tenure the Chorus has performed in Carnegie Hall in New York, Symphony Hall in Boston and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. In December 2002 GMCW was featured at the Kennedy Center Honors, appearing in the CBS television special in which the Chorus sang a tribute to Elizabeth Taylor.

Under Jeff's leadership the Chorus has grown to over 200 singers and has recorded four 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. GMCW was also recently awarded the 2005 WAMMIE for best choral group. Consistently praised by local critics, GMCW was hailed as "one of the finest male choruses in the world" by *The Washington Post*. Another critic 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 2004 Jeff returned to directing the group. In 1989 he began an eight year run as Assistant Director of GMCW, working with Music Director Jim Holloway. Jeff had the honor of directing GMCW at an inauguration concert for President Clinton in 1997.

Who's Who continued on page 39

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Who's Who continued from page 35.

Under Jeff's direction, Potomac Fever has attained a wide following with its distinctive style, characterized by fluid phrasing and warmth of tone. One of two GMCW outreach ensembles, Potomac Fever has performed hundreds of concerts and fundraisers within the gay community and the community at large. Jeff led the group on a European tour highlighted by a performance at the opening ceremony of the European Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses festival in Munich.

A lifelong musician, Jeff holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in music education and voice from Montclair State University and a Master's degree from George Washington University. In addition, he studied voice with Marden Bate, 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 will be directing the festival chorus at the first annual Outgames 2006 in Montreal this July.

THEA KANO, Assistant Music Director

A native of northern California, Thea Kano began studying the piano at the age of four. In 2004, she completed her doctorate in choral conducting under Donald Neuen at the University of California, Los Angeles. She also earned her Master of Music degree in choral conducting from UCLA, and earned her undergraduate degree in choral music education from Arizona State University. Dr. Kano taught high school vocal music and musical theater in southern California for several years. Her ensembles received several awards, including Most Outstanding Performance at the Reno International Jazz Festival.

Dr. Kano pursued additional private conducting studies 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 a teaching associate and administrative assistant 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 came to Washington, DC in 2004 upon her multiple appointments as Assistant Conductor of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC, Assistant Conductor of The Washington Chorus, and Artistic Director of the Capitol Hill Youth Chorus. In addition, Dr. Kano is the founding Artistic Director of the New York City Master Chorale.

JOHN MORAN, Stage Director

After directing *Bye, Bye Birdie* and other projects for GMCW, John continued this season with the concept and direction for *Everything's Coming Up Sondheim!*, then directed *fabYULEus!*, *SHOWBOYS!* and now *Singing Free!* In the past year, he has been coast-to-coast directing shows in California featuring the Russian National Orchestra (Carlo Ponti, Jr. conducting); the National Arts Awards for Americans for the Arts in New York (Mikhail Baryshnikov, Tommy Tune, Kitty Carlisle Hart, Kerry Washington); and Vital Voices from the Kennedy Center (Sally Field, Julia Ormond, Andrea Mitchell, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Madeline Albright, Thomas Kean) in Washington, DC among many other projects.

Who's Who continued on page 43.

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WHO'S WHO

Who's Who continued from page 39.

THEODORE GUERRANT, Principal Accompanist

Now in his 23rd 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.

ANDREW HOFFMANN, Executive Director

Andrew is delighted to join the GMCW family, assuming the position of Executive Director in February 2006. He comes to Washington, DC after 8 years in South Bend, Indiana. Most recently, Andy was Executive Director of the Broadway Theatre League of South Bend, a presenting organization that managed the subscription series of nationally-touring Broadway shows in the South Bend area. He began his professional career as a staff member of the University of Notre Dame Alumni Association.

Andy earned his Bachelor of Arts in musicology from the University of Notre Dame, where he was a singer and soloist with ND's all-male Glee Club, mixed group Concert Chorale and early-music ensemble Collegium Musicorum. Upon graduation, he joined the South Bend Chamber Singers and the Basilica Schola, where he could occasionally be seen on the Hallmark Channel's Sunday Mass televised from Notre Dame. Andy expects to complete the Master of Nonprofit Administration degree through the Mendoza College of Business at Notre Dame this fall. He is a native of Manawa, Wisconsin, which is a small town in the north central part of the state. Growing up, he studied piano, participated in a variety of choral activities and performed in several community musical theater productions.

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Support Section

Christopher Asaro 2006
Barry Bugg 1996
Glen Burgess 2004
Scott Button 2000
Dave Edmiston 1996
Teddy Guerrant 1983
Steven Haber 1989
Randy Hebert 2005
Steve Herman 1981
Marsha Holloman 2000
Rick Johnson 1995
Steve Katsurinis 2004
Bob Klein 1999 (SL)
Jason Kuznicki 2000
Phil Lawrence 2005
Jena Lynne 2006
Kathy McGee 2000
Patrick O'Donnell 2004
Jeff Parker 2005
Michael Reed 2005
Laurence A. Rosen 1993 (SL)
Jun Sabilona 2006
Mary Scott 1992
Gary Turner 1993
Ray Unger 2005
Joe Vignali 1995

First Tenors

Timothy Allmond, Jr. 1999 (RCS)
Jay Ball 2001
Jason Belk 2006
Andrew Blair 2006
Joe Bloomer 1999
Alex Bodenham 2006
Brad Boekeloo 1992 (RCS)
Fred Boykin 1981
Laurence Boylan 2002 (RCS)
Charles R. Butler, III 1981 (RCS)
Joe Cannon 1981
Marc Clodfelter 2004
Tony Conto 2003
Steve Crutchfield 1987
Bill Cutter 1998
Richard Dew 2004 (SL)
John Favazzo 2003 (PF)
Greg Finch 2003
Alex Ford 1996 (SL)
Peter Fox 2002
Paul George 2000
Bob Halbert 2001
William Healey 2005
Chip Heath 1994
Michael Horton 2000
Scott Hubli 2003
Kip Jacobs 2006
Eric James 2002 (PF)
Kelly Johnson 2005
Ron Kludo 2005 (PF)
Bert le Roux 2004 (RCS)
Jere Lorenzen 2003 (PF)
John Masters 2005
Gordon McGraw 1998
Kerry Neal 2002
Van Neel 1990 (PF)
Nathan Osburn 2005
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
Phillip Russell 2006
Leorey Saligan 2006
Jim Stanko 1990
David Streit 1988
Brad Thompson 2006
Will Trokey 2004
Tim Tourbin 2005
Jeff Van Luyn 1983
Jason Varvas 2004
Kevin Webster 1993
Jim Williams 1991

Second Tenors

Tsar Agus 2003
Ryan Athearn 2001
Carl Baldwin 1992
Ben Balmaceda 2006
Jeremy Bauer 2005
Eric Belkengren 2001
Roger Bergstrom 1985
Sherman Blow 2004
Kevin Boswell 2005
Wynn Bressler 2003
Dave Carmody 1999
Edgar Casas 2005
Forrest Clift 2004
Paul E. Cline 1996
Chris Cochran 1995
Harvey Cohen 1985
Tony Cunningham 2002
Rob Driggers 2002 (RCS)
Paul Foley 2004
Martin Haley 2004
Jeff Hamlin 2000
Sean Hanrahan 2002
Andrew Harmon 2002 (RCS)
Michael Hayes 2004
Mark Hennen 2004
Rick Jacobs 2000
Colin James 2006
Micah Jensen 2005
Robert Johnson 2005
David L. Jonas 2001
Matt Komornik 1993
Stuart Kopperman 1996
Mark Leger 2005
Lee Lowder 2004
Leo Luberecki 2002 (SL)
Jim Madigan 1991 (RCS)
Ryan Masser 2005
Donald McArthur 2006
Gordon Mehlman 2004
Tom Nichols 1997
John O'Brien 2004
Darren O'Neill 2002 (RCS)
Guy Parker 2006
Stan Piotroski 1991
Reg Richards 2003 (RCS)
Scott Reiber 2004 (PF)
David Robinson 1988 (SL)
Sean Robinson 2000 (RCS)
Steven Sanders 2003
Charles Sarner 1993
Paul Singletary 2000
Jeff Sliauzis 2003
Robert Smith 2003
Scott Starin 2000 (RCS)
Shawn Strout 2003
Mead Summer 2001
Michael Taylor 2001
Michael Toth 2004
Luis Vasquez 2005
Marc Villafana 2002
Anthony Vitelli 2002
Gary Voudrie 2005
Chuck Walker 1995
Bryce Weems 2002

GMCW CHORUS MEMBERS

John White 1999
Ryan Williams 2004
Alexander Wright 2004
Jerry Yoder 2003
Mark Young 2006
Justin Zimmerman 2004

Baritones

Robert M. Agnello 2002 (SL)
Eric Akridge 1995
Mitch Alvarado 2005
Emerito Amaro-Carambot 2006
Ted Arceneaux 2005
Brian Bartlett 2005
Corey Bent 1994
Brad Benton 2003
Mark Blaylock 2002 (PF)
Brian Blubaugh 2004
Aidan Blue 2006
Robert Boaz 1997
PJ Brennan 2004
David Bruce 2005
Jeremy Brumbelow 2003
Doug Campbell 2004
Joe Canter 1994
Don Chandler 1997
Franklin Chappell 2005
Daniel Eduardo Clavel 2006
Larry Cohen 1986
Paul Colloton 2006
Chip Crews 1991
Lenny Davis 2002
Giuseppe DeBartolo 2002 (RCS)
Richard East 2005
Maurice Fox 2002 (RCS)
Chris Fredericks 2005
Brett H. Freeman 2004
Thom Gibb 1990
Stuart Goldstone 2001
Martin Good 2000
Christopher Grieder 1990
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Dan Hann 2002
Howland Hartley 2001
Michael Hill 2003 (PF)
George Huffman 2000 (RCS)
Josh Kaplan 2006
Paul Kelsch 2002
Benjamin Kong 2005
Paul Lee 2003
William Lee 2001
Bill Lipsett 1991
Mark Mann 2004
Reggie Meneses 2005
Jonathan Mikhalevsky 2004
Ralph Moore 2003
Dale Mott 2006
Charlie Mountain 2002 (PF)
Mike Nguyen 2004
Ron Norberg 2002
Edward P. Oseroff 2000
Nick Pietras 2004
Larry Poole 2005
Steve Rappaport 1994 (SL)
Juan Rodriguez 2005
Will Rumble 2002
Burl Salmon 2004
Brian Schulli 2003 (RCS)
Bob Sheavly 1999
Jeff Shields 2005
Michael Smith 1990 (PF)
Steve Spar 1996
Rodney Stephens 2005
Will Stevenson 2005
Carl Stewart 2002
L. Owen Taggart 2002
Gregory Tepe 1994
Mike Weber 2006
John Weibel 1985

Basses

Michael Armentrout 2002
Jack Bailey 2005
Michael Baker 1981
W. Eric Balthrop 1993
Felix Boccadoro 2001
Michael Brinkman 2000 (SL)
Marcus Brown 2004 (SL)
Russ Capps 1999 (PF)
Aaron J. Clarke 2004
Tom DiGiovanni 1999
Dean Donovan 1997
Bob Dragoset 1984 (RCS)
Robert Featherstone 1998
Craig Ferrier 2003
Ken Fox 2005
Jimmy Galdieri 2001
Jim Gruschus 1995 (RCS)
Michael Hart 2001
John-Paul Hayworth 2005
Bob Hilby 1999
Andy Hoffmann 2006
Michael Hughes 2002
Dennis Jaffe 1998
Dan Kaufman 1990
Paul Leavitt 2001 (RCS)
Jerry Lee 1993
Mark Lefler 2004
Harold Lewis 1995
Michael Lohmann 2000 (RCS)
Stephen McGregor 2005
Jim Murphy 1988 (RCS)
Rob Neighbour 1992
Yoshi Nishio 1999 (RCS)
Todd Paul 1994
Steven Pflasterer 1987
David Ponder 2005
Scott Pritchett 2006
John Quiñones 1990
Bob Reeg 1995
Travis Reid 2004
Craig Ruskin 2001 (PF)
Morgan Slusher 2000
Warren Turner 1993
Tom VandenBosch 2005
Andy VanEtten 2006
Austin Vines 2004
Joachim Voss 2003
Brian Walther 2003 (RCS)
Jim Weinstein 2006
Terry Welling 2005
Barrett Whitener 1998
Dennis Williams 2004
Paul Wilson 2006
Paul Winters 2000
Francis Yasharian 2006

(PF) Member of Potomac Fever

(RCS) Member of Rock Creek Singers

(SL) Section Leader

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Jeffrey Buhrman
Tom Dudley *
Steve Herman
Jim Holloway
Steve Maddox *
Dr. Jim Richardson
Ron Sabacek
B. J. Sobus
Bruce Trinkley
Everett Waldo
Bob Wonneberger
Michael Ziskind

1992
Michael Bohn
Eric Korpon
Darrell Netherton
Harry Powers
Michael Rivard
Rick Rosendall
David Sisson
Duward Sumner

1993
Craig Bowen *
Peter Brayton
Phil Rogerson

1994
Rod Fiorito
Scott Pierce *
David Streit
Robert Wheeler

1995
Darrell Lewis
Len Padgett
Jim Peterson

1996
Michael Baker
Roger Bergstrom
Dick Dorr
Dennis Swick *

1997
Jack Gerard
Charlie Merk
Michael Milano
Gary Regan

1998
Kevin Doss
Robb Rexroth
Larry Rosen

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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 late 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 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's King's Dominion.

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

In School Performances
In April 2004, GMCW performed 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 at area independent and public schools have occurred.

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 language interpreters at its concerts for the deaf and hearing impaired.

Benefit Support & Performances
The Chorus regularly supports and performs at events for other area not-for-profit organizations, such as the Human Rights Campaign, 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 PFLAG, Food & Friends, NOVAM and Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

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OVATION SOCIETY

The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC's Ovation Society

GMCW's **Ovation Society** is an initiative that recognizes and honors 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 we can recognize those individuals for their generosity.

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

If not, we hope 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 valued at only 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 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 Andrew Hoffmann at 202-293-1548.

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FROM THE CHORUS PRESIDENT

Tom DiGiovanni

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In 1981, a new chorus was founded by a band of merry men (and one merry woman). They called it the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington. At the time, the idea of an openly gay singing group was a relatively daring concept.

Perhaps the earliest members had several motivations for joining this adventure: singing, self-acceptance, making a political statement, coming out; educating others about the gay experience and, yes, fun...finding new friends, dating opportunities and perhaps a husband.

In many ways, our first 25 years of growth are similar to those of an average person's development. We've been creating ourselves. We've built an impressive and robust organization, heralded by *The Washington Post* as "One of the world's best male choruses." We've been a vital contributor to our peers in DC's gay and arts scenes, we've taken care of ourselves through coming out experiences, sickness and death, and we've shared the highs of many firsts (singing at presidential events, national television broadcasts, at Carnegie Hall and on tour in Europe).

Now that we've reached a modicum of confidence (as many 25-year-olds do), I predict our next 25 years hold the promise of more abundant contributions to different gay and non-gay communities.

This year, GMCW began a process of redirecting our growth — in more outwardly focused ways. Interestingly enough, the board, the staff and the membership arrived at the same "growing point" from slightly different places. The leadership sees an opportunity for chorus members to share their non-musical talents with the larger community as ambassadors of GMCW, members seek better ways to recruit and retain a more diverse body of singers, both want to expand the audience base (while keeping our core supporters). The synergy and shared sense of purpose is more than coincidental. It feels right. By reaching out, we will grow and be stronger for it.

In 1981, our signature piece was "We Kiss in the Shadows." Twenty-five years later, it's "Changing Hearts." The power of our dreams has taken us on an extraordinary journey within a generation.

Thank you for joining us this afternoon — and for being a part of our 25-year run. The best is yet to come. Stay tuned.

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Scurti & Gulling 59
Steptoe & Johnson LLP 58
Steve Weinberg 95
Michelle Zavos 93

Merchandise

Absolut Vodka 5
Backstage, Inc. Costumes 87
Barefoot Cellars Winery 16
Bo Concept Home Furnishings 13
Capitol Video Sales 90
Candleman 68
Continental Jewelers 88
HRC Action Center & Store 48
Illuminations 86
Logan Hardware 90
Lambda Rising 52
Leather Rack 84
Pulp 84
Miller Brewing Company 28
SCAN Furnishings 14

Realtors

Arlington Realty 95
Antonio Casanez 85
John Cooney 60
Dwight and David 10
Jim Firkser 59
Lance Horsely 64
Rod Howard & John Williams 62
Jim Johnson 60
Joe Lagomarcino 74

LIST OF ADVERTISERS

Linda Low....42
Martin & Jeff....62
William Murphy....63
Joe O'Hara....84
Larry Perrin....27
Steve Pflasterer....63
Private Properties....74
Chuck Riley....99
Ryan Snedaker....56
Tutt, Taylor & Rankin....90

Religious Organizations

Bet Mishpachah....80
Christ Congregational Church United Church of Christ....78
Dignity Washington....78
Foundry United Methodist Church....54
Interfaith Fairness Coalition of Maryland....79
Open Door Metropolitan Community Church....78
St. James Episcopal Church....54
St. Margaret's Episcopal Church....78
Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington....79

Restaurants & Catering

1409 Playbill Café....83
Alero....92
America....82
Annie's Paramount Steak House....24
Ben's Chili Bowl....66
Busboys and Poets....71
Café Berlin....83
Café La Ruche....82
Café Luna....76
Capitol City Brewing Company....5
Dakota Cowgirl....83
David Greggory....98
Eden....67
Freddie's....40
Grillfish....70
Lauriol Plaza....67
Logan Tavern....70
Luna Grill....71
Merkado Kitchen....70
Mimi's....71
Pizzeria Paradiso....56
Santa Fe Café....83
Siné Irish Pub....94
Skewers....82
Tonic....85
U-topia....82

Services

A Cleaning Service....94
Aurora Hills Cleaners....94
Capital Party Rentals....70
Chandler Piano Services....86
DC Lottery....36
EU Services Printing/Mailing....64
John C. Flood Plumbing/Heating....76
Maid to Clean....76
Olde Town School for Dogs....90
Omni Studios Graphic Design....91
On-Site Productions....74
Persaud Construction....17
Salon Blue, Hairstylists....88
Sam's Monogram....94
Solutions By Scott....40
Verizon....41

Travel

American Airlines....12
Hotel Helix....71
Hyatt Regency Washington....2, 22
Key West Oasis....12
Passport Executive Travel....88
RSVP Cruises....9

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Sunday, December 3 at 3 pm
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Christmas stays with you forever. Remember sleigh riding down your favorite hill and coming home to grandma's Chrismas cookies? Remember *It's a Wonderful Life* and Radio City Music Hall Rockettes? Your first Christmas with a partner or the first one without someone you love? It's a holiday gift from our family to yours.

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Saturday, March 24 at 3 pm and 8 pm
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