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> AARP is proud to sponsor the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC



Welcome to The Holiday Show with the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC!

Let's forget about politics for a while, shall we? After all, 'tis the season of love and gratitude! Tonight we celebrate our diversity through stories and song. Tonight we raise our voice to encourage and promote equality, and to sing against the hate that is threatening our country. And tonight we celebrate YOU!

We are grateful to our supporters who enable us to raise our voice in the quest for equality. Thanks to your tremendous support, we are able to take center stage in theaters, in schools, at festivals, and at protests — locally, nationally, and around the world — and sing to inspire equality and inclusion, promoting justice and dignity for all.

This holiday season we encourage you to take a moment to express love for family and friends, and embrace the diversity that is the fabric of our country. Build peace. Seek out a forgotten friend. Write a love letter. Write more thank you notes. Encourage youth. Thank a member of the military for their service. Keep a promise. Find the time. Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen. Try to understand. Appreciate. Be kind. Be gentle. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more. Speak up against hate. Express gratitude. Welcome a stranger. Speak your love. Speak it again. Speak it still once again! And make them hear you. Together, let's make America great — and GAY — again!

May joy, peace, and love be yours this holiday season and in the year to come.



Thea Kano Artistic Director



Justin Fyala Executive Director

WELCOME





Justin Fyala

Executive Director

Thea Kano Artistic Director

Brought to you by



Stage Direction by Frank D. Shutts II Music Direction by Thea Kano Choreography by Joshua Chambers, Craig Cipollini, and James Ellzy

Band

PianoTheodore Guerrant
BassMary Scott
DrumsAdam Ashforth
GuitarYoshiyuki Nishio
CelloTommie Adams, Jr.

Production Staff

FIGURE Stan	
Production Manager	Joe Vignali
Associate Production Managers	Chipper Dean and Betsy Libretta
Stage Manager	Caitlyn Fitzgerald
GenOUT Director	C. Paul Heins
17th Street Dance Director	Craig Cipollini
	Thea Kano and Frank Shutts
Assistant Costumers	Paul Breakiron, Rick Johnson, and Gus Petit
Specialty Costumes	Tony Prestridge
	John U. Robinson
	Jarrod Bennett
	Bryan Adams and Pradipta Banerjee
Set Construction	Bryan Adams, Pradipta Banerjee,
	and members of GMCW
Production Crew Chiefs	Tigger Schwanke and Bernard Vicary
	Mark Klein and Chris Asaro
	Chris Asaro, Jerry Blackmon,
	Michael Cunningham, Kris Muench,
	and the Lincoln Theatre crew
Archival Video	Steve Herman
Archival Audio	Rob Neighbour
House Manager	Bob Klein
	Jamie Sycamore

Special thanks to Myke Taister, Ed Stack, and the Lincoln Theatre stage crew.

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Because fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la was out of the question. Happy holidays from SmithGifford, marketing partner of GMCW.

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MUSICAL NUMBERS



ACT ONE

Elf with sign: Jay Gilliam	
GMCW	
Gloria Fanfare	Jeffrey L. Ames

GMCW and 17TH STREET DANCE

Nutcracker Jingles......Music and Lyrics by James Pierpont Additional Music from THE NUTCRACKER SUITE by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky Arranged by Chuck Bridwell

GMCW

The Christmas Song	Music and Lyrics by Mel Tormé and
	Robert Wells
	Arranged by Mark Hayes

ROCK CREEK SINGERS

Ríu, Ríu, Chíu	Traditional Carol
	Arranged by Jim Leininger
All is Calm	Lyrics by Joseph Mohr
	Music by Franz Gruber
	Arranged by C. Lyn VanNoy

GMCW

One Light	Traditional Welsh Carol
-	Music based on "Tua Bethlem Dref"
	Words and Arrangement by Evan Ramos
Christmas Angel	Carolyn Hanney
Soloists: Robert T. Boaz, Shawn Morris, Alex Tyson	

GMCW and 17TH STREET DANCE

Sleigh Ride......Words by Mitchell Parish

Music by Leroy Anderson Arranged by Hawley Ades

SEASONS OF LOVE

Mary, Did You Know	Music and Lyrics by Mark Lowry
	Arranged by Pentatonix
First Noel/It Is Well	Music by Phillip Bliss
Soloists: Marcus Brown, Romm Gatonga	y, Lyrics by Horatio Spafforo
Tyler Niggel, Calvin Robinson Jason Long, piano	Arranged by Jason Long

GMCW

Soloist: Matthew Horton

O Come, O Come Emmanuel......15th Century French Processional Arranged by Trevor Johnson and Keith McKay Evans

INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

GMCW Gaudete! Christus Natus EstAnonymous (from <i>Piae Cantiones</i> , 1582) Soloists: Guy Bosworth, Gibson Haynes
POTOMAC FEVER Carol of the BellsPeter Wihousky and Mykola Leontovich Arranged by Doug Teel God Rest Ye Merry GentlemenTraditional English Carol Soloists: Robert T. Boaz, Kevin Sweitzer, Cooper Westbrook
GMCW Ocho KandelikasMusic and Lyrics by Flory Jagoda Soloist: Brandon Steele Arranged by J.A. Kawarsky
GenOUT CHORUS Shoulda Been A North Pole ElfLyrics by Andy Beck and Brian Fisher Music by Andy Beck Mid-WinterWords by Christina Rosetti Music by Bob Chilcott
GMCW and 17TH STREET DANCE Favorite OneCy Coleman Special Guest: Brian Reck (Dec 16 8pm) The Reindeer TangoEric Lane Barnes Dasher: Iván Dávila Blitzen: Alon Mazor Donner: Erich Sommerfeldt
GMCW and GenOUT CHORUS Imagine ChristmasTed Arthur Soloist: Will Hernandez

THERE WILL BE ONE FIFTEEN-MINUTE INTERMISSION



GMCW ENSEMBLES

Potomac Fever

Mike Allen Robert T. Boaz Jay Gilliam Jim Gruschus Gibson Haynes

Rock Creek Singers

Michael Aylward Eric Belkengren Jarrod Bennett Richard Bennett Matthew Brewer Jonathan Chaffin Robert Dean Bob Dragoset Rob Finn Tim Gillham Rob Hall

Seasons of Love

Tommie Adams, Jr. Ben Aparicio-Coto Marcus Brown Romm Gatongay Adrian Gillem Joseph Jozlin

17th Street Dance

Paul Breakiron Sean Cator Joshua Chambers Craig Cipollini Iván Dávila

GenOUT Chorus

Camilla Barillas, *Co-President* Sean Bender-Prouty Sydney Colella Brennan Connell, *Social Media Coordinator*

Additional Dancers

Richard Bennett Matt Komornik Matt Holland Jonathan Jones Paul Negron Paul Nicholsen A.J. Rawls

Andrew Harmon Mark Hegedus Kyle Holland George Huffman Paul Kelsch James Madigan Kevin Morris James Murphy Patrick Nelson Joshua Peterson Larry Poole

Nick Lawton Jason Long Jay Michal Tyler Niggel Matthew Ong

James Ellzy Will Hernandez Jeffrey Hollands Jaremy Hill Aaron Jackson

Imari Galloway GG Guajardo Dylan Kleiman Gigi Levin Luke Maddox Lily Matthews Kian Monette

Shawn Morris

Michael B. Smith Jeb Stenhouse Kevin Sweitzer Kevin Thomason Cooper Westbrook

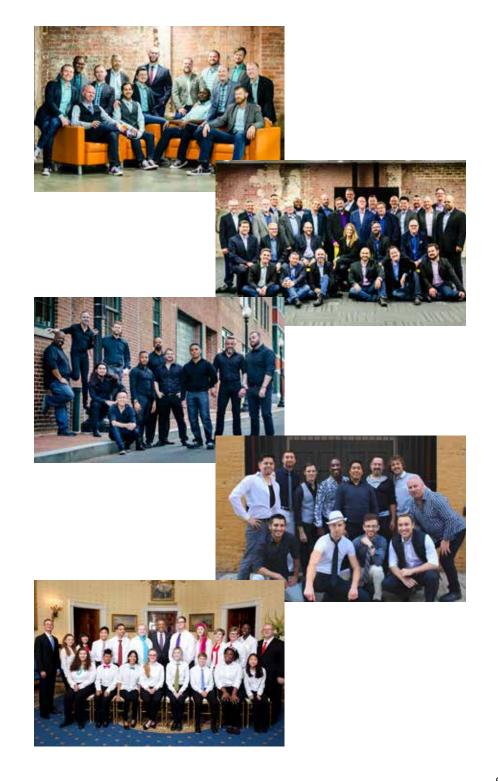
Jack Reiffer James T. Rhodes Raymond Bradley Rinaldo Calvin Robinson Sean Robinson Craig Ruskin David Shotwell Lonny Smith C. Lyn VanNoy Matthew Williamson

Jon Perry Thomas Reiker Calvin Robinson Lamar Smith Cooper Westbrook

Alon Mazor Michael McGovern Erich Sommerfeldt Brandon Steele Matthew Williamson

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WHO'S WHO



Thea Kano, Artistic Director

Dr. Thea Kano, a Northern California native, became active in the arts at an early age. She started playing piano at age four and began taking ballet soon after, a background that has a strong influence on her conducting. Dr. Kano's graceful yet commanding presence on stage and the robust performances she obtains from her musicians have basis in her formal training as a dancer.

Dr. Kano has conducted an extensive range of repertoire with several ensembles, including the Angeles Chorale, The Washington Chorus, and in 2014 assumed the position of artistic director of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC, for which she also directs its acclaimed ensembles Rock Creek Singers and Potomac Fever. In addition, she

oversees GMCW's outreach efforts, including its GenOUT program. A champion of music education, Dr. Kano has devoted countless hours to students of all ages and backgrounds. She believes in the power of music to nurture and believes that classical music should be accessible to all. Dr. Kano's substantial experience in this arena includes: building partnerships with organizations serving disenfranchised adults, hosting workshops with at-risk youth, leading youth arts programs of many sizes, as well as directing award-winning high school and collegiate choruses.

In addition to her work with GMCW, Dr. Kano serves as the artistic director of the New York City Master Chorale, which she founded in 2005. The 80-member group is recognized as one of the finest vocal ensembles in New York City and has performed to sold-out audiences on two continents. Dr. Kano is known for her expressiveness and dynamic conducting and the Chorale has been praised for its balance and richness in tone in performing a variety of musical styles. Under her direction, the Chorale made its debuts at Lincoln Center (2006) and Carnegie Hall (2009), as well as its international debut in Paris, France (2011).

Dr. Kano has prepared choruses for Zubin Mehta, Esa-Pekka Solonen, Emil de Cou, David Hayes, Craig Fleischer, Victor Vener, and Paul Salamunovich. Dr. Kano's various ensembles have performed at the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Disney Hall, Église Saint-Sulpice (Paris), and on the National Mall for the 2009 inaugural ceremonies.

Dr. Kano received her doctorate in choral conducting from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2004. At UCLA, Dr. Kano studied under Donald Neuen, her professional mentor. For her dissertation on Duruflé's *Requiem*, Dr. Kano completed research with L'Association Duruflé in Paris and studied privately with Paul Salamunovich. Dr. Kano holds a Master of Music degree from UCLA and a bachelor's degree in choral music education and piano performance from Arizona State University. Dr. Kano speaks French and actively conducts ensembles in New York City, Paris, and Washington, DC.





Frank D. Shutts II, Stage Director

Frank is thrilled to be working with the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC again. A native of northern Virginia, his interest in theater began at an early age and was shaped by his mentor, Dorthie R. Kogelman. A member of the Educational Theater Association, Frank has directed over 60 productions on the educational, community, and professional levels. Some of his favorites include *Forever Plaid*, *Falsettoland*, *Cabaret*, *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, *The Full Monty*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Avenue Q*, *In the Heights*, and *The History Boys*. Frank is a long-serving board member of The Little Theatre of Alexandria where he served as president for many years. Although they have been together for 36 years, Frank married his high-school sweetheart, Myke, three years

ago this month. An English major with a concentration in dramatic literature, Frank is a major Bardolator! "*Totus mundus agit histrionem.*" Frank directed GMCW's production of *And The Tony Goes To...* in June 2017.



C. Paul Heins, Associate Conductor

C. Paul Heins joined the GMCW artistic team as associate conductor in the 2014 – 15 season. Dr. Heins was previously the director of the Concert Choir at Georgetown University, where he also taught music theory, piano, and introduction to voice, and served as music director for the university's opera and musical theater productions. He served as director of the Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington for nine seasons and was music director for three GMCW musicals (*Ruthless, When Pigs Fly*, and You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown). Past appointments also include the Washington Master Chorale (assistant conductor), Washington Men's Camerata (accompanist), and an interim position as choir director at the College of William & Mary.

Dr. Heins is delighted to be the conductor of the GenOUT Chorus, founded in January 2015 and featured at all of GMCW's major concerts this year. The GenOUT Chorus is open to all young people ages 13 – 18, and its mission is to give a voice to young LGBTQ+ people and their allies, and to connect that voice to the community. In 2016, the GenOUT Chorus was featured at the Kennedy Center, the White House, and at the GALA Choruses Festival in Denver.

Dr. Heins is a frequent guest pianist, flutist, and conductor in the DC area. He was trained in piano and flute at Bowling Green State University (B.Mus.), flute at the University of Maryland (M.Mus.), and choral conducting at the University of Maryland (D.M.A.). His principal teachers have been Edward Maclary, Patrick Walders, and Mark S. Kelly (conducting); William Montgomery and Judith Bentley (flute); and Virginia Marks and Victoria Harris (piano). His doctoral work centered around Lukas Foss's cantata, *The Prairie*.

WHO'S WHO



Craig Cipollini, Choreographer & 17th Street Dance Director

Originally from Baltimore, Craig began dancing at the age of 14. He has an extensive background in theater, primarily musical theater, having performed all over the East Coast and abroad. He toured with productions of *A Chorus Line* and *42nd Street*, in addition to many regional, summer stock, and dinner theater credits. He was also a member of the DC Cowboys Dance Company, performing with the group all over the United States, in Toronto, and in Budapest, Hungary. He also performed with the group when they appeared on NBC-TV's *America's Got Talent* where the group made the Top 40.

Craig has also worked extensively as a director and choreographer. Some shows he has directed and/or choreographed include *Cabaret, Thoroughly Modern Millie, The Will Rogers Follies, Annie, Hair, Carousel,* and *West Side Story,* to name a few. He directed and choreographed *One Night in New York!* at the 2013 Capital Fringe Festival where the show won Best Overall Production and Best Choreography. He directed and choreographed GMCW's productions of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, The Rocky Horror Show,* and *Xanadu,* as well as *Men In Tights: A Pink Nutcracker* (2010), *Seven, Divas, A Gay Man's Guide to Broadway,* and *That '80s Show.* He holds bachelor's degrees in theater and art, with a concentration in visual communications, and a masters degree in arts management. By day, Craig is the director of marketing for GMCW.



Joshua Chambers, Choreographer

Joshua Chambers first joined GMCW as a dancer for our production of *When You Wish* in 2015 where he was finally given the opportunity to perform as a mermaid. His choreographic work can also be seen showcased with the Congressional Chorus of Washington, DC. Josh received his BFA in Dance Education from Shenandoah University in 2007 and quickly joined Regent Seven Seas Cruises as a dancer and dance captain aboard one of their ships. Josh toured with the Shenandoah Dance Ensemble in Taiwan, opened his own adult dance and fitness studio, and currently serves as a counselor in Fairfax County.





James Ellzy, II, Choreographer

James Ellzy began his dance training at Northwestern University in 1989. He performed primarily in musical theater until starting with modern dance in 1999 in San Diego. While in San Diego, he danced primarily with San Diego Dance Theatre and with the California Ballet Company. He also performed with Butterworth Dance Company and LaDiego Dance Theater. He directed the Gay Men's Chorus of San Diego's full productions of *Oliver Button is a Sissy* in 2000 and *Nutcracker: Men in Tights* in 2006. In 2004, he was invited to serve as one of the international judges for *Showcase!*, the Australian national dance competition.

Since moving to DC in 2008, James has performed with Dakshina/

Daniel Phoenix Singh Dance Company and the DC Cowboys. He serves many roles in GMCW depending on the concert: singer, dancer, dance captain, choreographer, stage director, and audition co-coordinator...and delights in them all! By day, James is an active duty family physician in the US Navy.



Theodore Guerrant, Principal Accompanist

Now in his 35th season as GMCW's principal accompanist, "Dr. Teddy" is arguably the longest-tenured collaborative pianist for a single chorus within the entire GALA Choruses network. He has been honored in various ways throughout his more than three decades of service including a Circle of Excellence Award in 2001, with a plaque honoring his 25-year milestone in 2008, and, finally, with a Distinguished Service Award from the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance in 2011 for his long tenure with GMCW. He began with GMCW in 1983 as co-accompanist with Jim Holloway, and has served under every GMCW conductor from founding director Jim Richardson to Thea Kano, traveled with the Chorus to various cities across the United States. two Canadian

provinces, three Scandinavian countries, and can be heard on several GMCW recordings and in Paula Bresnan Gibson's book, *Voices from a Chorus*.

Dr. Teddy, who grew up in College Park, Georgia during the 1950s, studied with his aunt, Eliza Holmes Feldmann, who was then artist-in-residence at Brenau College in Gainesville, Georgia, throughout his high school years. He eventually found himself, as a high school senior, accompanying five choral ensembles and playing five Sunday church services weekly. From there he went on to receive degrees in keyboard performance from the University of Georgia (B.M. piano cum laude; M.F.A. harpsichord), the University of Wisconsin (M.M. piano), the University of Maryland (D.M.A. piano), and the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University (G.P.D. organ), and studied piano additionally in Buriton, England, with Denise Lassimonne.

Aside from GMCW, Dr. Teddy is organist-choirmaster at Christ Church Parish Kensington (Episcopal), accompanist for the National Philharmonic Chorale (formerly the Montgomery County Masterworks Chorus and now the resident chorus of the Strathmore Music Center in Rockville), where he was recently given an award for his 30 years of service to that organization, and associate director-accompanist for the Central Maryland Chorale. He teaches on the staff of the University of Maryland School of Music (where he has also served for more than 30 years) as a coach-accompanist.



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Vocal Coach Emeritus	

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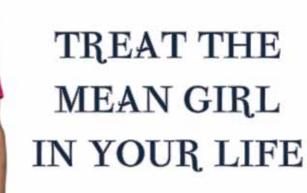
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IN MEMORIAM

We remember our members who have been lost to us over the years. Their spirits live on with us and we honor their memory. Respectfully, we request if you know of anyone whose name has been omitted from this list, please contact us at 202-293-1548 so that we may continue to celebrate and honor the contributions of all of our members.

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OVATION SOCIETY

Circle of Excellence Awards are chosen annually by members of GMCW to recognize the outstanding contributions made by members of the Chorus. These awards honor those individuals who have exemplified the spirit of camaraderie, brother- and sisterhood and community in the Chorus and whose work has had lasting impact over many years.

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Fred Bovkin 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*

2005 Jack Gerard Jeff Van Luvn Charlie Merk Stuart Kopperman Michael Milano Edward P. Oseroff Gary Regan 2006

Kevin Doss

Joe Canter **Bill Cutter** Laurence A. Rosen Matt Komornik **Barrett Whitener**

David Bielenberg

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

Joe Bloomer

Marcus Brown

Sean Robinson

Timothy E. Allmond

Raymond Burditt

Ryan L. Williams

Emérito Amaro-Carambot

John-Paul Hayworth

Suzette Derrevere

Mary Scott

Larry Cohen

Rob Serpa, Jr.

Chris Asaro

James Ellzy

Lyn VanNoy

Rob Neiahbour

Jarrod Bennett

Chipper Dean

Jay Gilliam

Matt Graf

Rick Davis

1999 Jerry Carpenter Bob Dragoset

Christopher Grieder

Thom Gibb

Gary Turner

Joe Vignali

Marvin Weeks

Joe Cannon

Teddy Guerrant

Michael B. Smith

Steven Haber

John Perkins

Carl Baldwin

Dan Patton

Todd Paul

2003

2004

Barry W. Bugg

Tom DiGiovanni

Rick Johnson

Kathy McGee

Chuck Walker

Scott Button

Robert Klein

Harold Lewis

Jack Reiffer

Jerry Lee

Michael Cunningham

2000

2001

2002

Robb Rexroth

1997

1998

2007 Russ Capps Rob Hall Marsha Holloman Paul Leavitt Jim Murphy

2008

Greg Kubiak **Rob Driggers** Michael Hill

2009

Chip Crews

Mark Hennen John O'Brien

2010

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2011

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2012

Craig Cipollini Ron Norberg John "JQ" Quiñones Shannon Rozner

> * posthumously awarded

The Gav Men's Chorus of Washington's **Ovation Society** is an initiative that recognizes and honors those generous individuals and families who have made planned gifts to the Chorus.

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 you will consider joining this special group by including GMCW in your will, as a beneficiary of a retirement account, or by setting up a charitable trust. Planned gifts can greatly reduce the amount of tax paid by your estate at the time of your death and often do not change the amount that would go to your family and friends.

While your attorney or accountant can provide you with more information, GMCW has several corporate sponsors — both financial planners and attorneys — who specialize in LGBTQ estate issues. We are happy to share this resource list with you upon request.

As a member of the Ovation Society, you will be invited to attend special events and receptions especially for **Ovation Society** members.

For further information about GMCW's **Ovation Society** or if you are interested in learning more about the many ways you can include GMCW in your plans, please contact Executive Director Justin Fyala at 202-293-1548 or jfyala@gmcw.org.

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