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COMPASS



"I can see the light of the clear blue morning... everything's gonna be alright, it's gonna be okay."

Dear Friends,

Dolly Parton is simply phenomenal. Having written over 3,000 songs, she is not just a songwriter, singer, and performer, she is a humanitarian and a social justice warrior. She sings about love, tolerance, and acceptance, and her songs teach us to treat one another well. She has captured the hearts of so many, on both sides of the aisle. We have sung along with her songs on the radio, we have danced to her music at weddings, and we have found hopeful inspiration in her lyrics. We can all find ways to connect to Dolly and her ability to be her unapologetic and fabulous authentic self.

Recently Tennessee has been in the headlines announcing new laws taking away the freedom of LGBTQ+ people, drag queens, and women, and news of legislators being silenced for speaking up for justice. At GMCW, we use art to speak up for justice and to speak to both sides of the aisle. Each time we sing an anthem, we dance a step, we tell our stories — and especially when we throw on our Western boots — we have an opportunity to change hearts and move toward a more accepting and equitable world. Music has the power to do that unlike any other medium. Your being here enables us to do this work and to keep the music going. Thank you for joining us for *DOLLY*, and for enabling our song over the past 42 seasons!



Thea Kano
Artistic Director



Justin Fyala
Executive Director



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THEA KANO
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

JUSTIN FYALA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DOLLY

CONDUCTOR
THEA KANO

ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR
C. PAUL HEINS

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR
CHIPPER DEAN

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
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JEFFREY HOLLANDS
& BENN MAY

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JARROD BENNETT &
BERNARD VICARY

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SOLOMON
HAILESELASSIE

SOUND DESIGN
MARK
KLEIN

DANCE CAPTAINS
JAMES ELLZY &
JEFFREY HOLLANDS

REHEARSAL PIANIST
MICHAEL
LODICO

SEASONS OF LOVE PIANIST
STEVEN
ALLEN

BAND

PIANO
THEODORE
GUERRANT

GIUITAR
KIMBERLY
SPATH

BANJO
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CRAIG CIPOLLINI

**CLOGGING
CHOREOGRAPHER**
CHIPPER
DEAN

DIRECTOR
SOLOMON
HAILESELASSIE

PROGRAM

DOLLY

Thea Kano, Conductor
C. Paul Heins, Associate Conductor

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC AND 17TH STREET DANCE

9 to 5.....Music and lyrics by Dolly Parton
Arranged by David Maddux

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Here You Come Again.....Music and lyrics by Barry Mann
and Cynthia Weil
Soloist: Jahtay Teh
Arranged by Thea Kano

Speaker: Thea Kano

Islands in the Stream.....Music and lyrics by Barry Gibb,
Soloists: Zac Barger and Paul Negrón
Maurice Gibb, and Robin Gibb

POTOMAC FEVER

Jolene.....Music and lyrics by Dolly Parton
Soloist: Kevin Thomason
Arranged by Pentatonix

Speaker: Michael B. Smith

POTOMAC FEVER AND GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Rainbowland.....Music and lyrics by Miley Cyrus
Soloists: Michael B. Smith
and David Treacher
Arranged by Timothy Morrell and Jo Lee

Travelin' Thru.....Music and lyrics by Dolly Parton
Soloist: JJ Vera
Arranged by Robert T. Boaz

Speakers: Nick Lawton, Keygan Miller, and Gregg Moreland

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

My Tennessee Mountain Home.....Music and lyrics by Dolly Parton
featuring Yeti Davis (Neil Offner)
Arranged by Clifford W. King

*In my Tennessee mountain home
Life is as peaceful as a baby's sigh.
In my Tennessee mountain home,
Crickets sing in the fields nearby.*

Speaker: Anjali Murthy

GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS

Coat of Many Colors.....Music and lyrics by Dolly Parton
Soloists: (in order of appearance)
Anjali Murthy, Victor Kidwell, Mia Garcia,
Asher Wise, Lucas Olivo, and Maddy Dean
Arranged by C. Paul Heins

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Two Doors Down.....Music and lyrics by Dolly Parton
Soloist: Ryan Smith

Speaker: Dillon Lewis

The Grass is Blue.....Music and lyrics by Dolly Parton
Arranged by Sheryl Neal

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC AND 17TH STREET DANCE

Rocky Top.....Music and lyrics by Felice and Boudleaux Bryant
Arranged by Thea Kano

Speakers: Thea Kano and Nicole Streeter

SEASONS OF LOVE

Together You and I.....Music and lyrics by Dolly Parton
Soloist: Freddie Quimbley Arranged by Anthony Ronté Pierce
Pianist: Steven Allen

Jesus and Gravity.....Music and lyrics by Craig Wiseman
Soloists: Brent Almond, and Betsy Ulmer
Gabriel Lopez, and Micah Yarbrough Arranged by Anthony Ronté Pierce
Pianist: Steven Allen

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Speaker: Adam Greczkowski

Backwoods Barbie.....Music and lyrics by Dolly Parton
Soloist: Adam Greczkowski Arranged by Stephen Oremus

Speaker: Jarrod Bennett

ROCK CREEK SINGERS

I Will Always Love You.....Music and lyrics by Dolly Parton
Arranged by Mac Huff

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC AND 17TH STREET DANCE

Why'd You Come in Here Lookin' Like That.....Music and lyrics by Bob Carlisle
Soloists: David Treacher and Randy Thomas
and Joe Wrenn Arranged by Steve Milloy

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Peace Train.....Music and lyrics by Yusef Cat Stevens
Arranged by Tim Sarsany

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC, GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS

Light of a Clear Blue Morning.....Music and lyrics by Dolly Parton
Soloists: Gia-Ninh Chuang, Arranged by Dave Volpe
Keygan Miller, and Drew Thatcher



SMALL ENSEMBLES

POTOMAC FEVER

Mike Allen
Peter Cheney
Jake Cundiff
Jim Gruschus
Gibson Haynes
Matt Holland

Jonathan Malavé
John Marsh
Josh Millson-Martula
Shawn Morris
Paul Negron
Steve Shi

Michael B. Smith
Kevin Thomason
Santos Torres
David Treacher
Cooper Westbrook

ROCK CREEK SINGERS

Michael Aylward
Zachary Barger
Billy Barry
Eric Belkengren
Jarrod Bennett
Rick Bennett
Jonathan Chaffin
Ethan Chiang
André Cotten
Giancarlo D'Elia
Bob Dragoset
Robert Finn

Anthony Gipson
Rob Hall
Ben Harris
Mark Hegedus
Michael Hughes
Henry Johnson
John Jowers
Paul Kelsch
James Madigan
Joal Martin
Kevin Morris
Javon Morris-Byam

James Murphy
Patrick Nelson
Joshua Peterson
Larry Poole
Jack Reiffer
Sean Robinson
Craig Ruskin
Lonny Smith
Jason Suggs
James Turner
Brian Watts
Chuck Willett

SEASONS OF LOVE

Tommie Adams
Brent Almond
Marcus Brown
Alex Domini
Michael Dumlao
Jeffrey Fleming
Daniel Grahn
Hunter Jackson
Cole Jaconski

Jamel Jones
Joseph Jozlin
Faraz Khan
Joseph Levin-Manning
Gabriel Lopez
Donald Medor
Neil Offner
Freddie Quimbley
Alexis Vida Rangel

Mikal Rasheed
Colin Smith
Lamar Smith
CJ Sylvanus
Matthew Teubert
Jahdiel Torres Cabá
Dennis Vonasek
Micah Yarbrough

17TH STREET DANCE

Danny Aldous
Carlos Barillo
Sean Cator
Craig Cipollini
Iván Dávila
James Elzzy
Adam Greczkowski

Jeffrey Hollands
Neal Going
Cole Jaconski
Daniel Kingsley
Tim Lewis
Kat Lieder
Michael McGovern

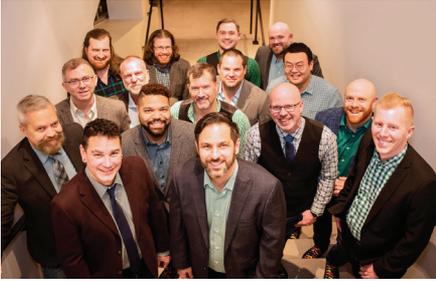
Darryl Pilate
Jamey Sadownick
Brandon Steele
Brook Urquhart
Matt Williamson
Matthew Zagorski

GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS

Maysen Bedsole
Ben Biggs
Cal Cain
Hannah Clopper
Victor Coleman
Maddy Dean
Aspen Dooley
Adam Downey

Lawrence Florio
Mia Garcia
Luke Hoppe
Victor Kidwell
Logan Lipshultz
Ash Lynch
Iris Maas
Anjali Murthy

Emory Neuman
Lucas Olivo
Ailsa Ostovitz
Ziv Stuart
Ezra Thomas
Elena Vol
Asher Wise



Potomac Fever
Photo by Pradipta Banerjee



Rock Creek Singers
Photo by Pradipta Banerjee



Seasons of Love
Photo by Pradipta Banerjee



17th Street Dance
Photo by Pradipta Banerjee



GenOUT Youth Chorus
Photo by Craig Cipollini

WHO'S WHO



Thea Kano (Artistic Director) (she/her)

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 founded the New York City Master Chorale in 2005 and served as its artistic director until spring 2019. 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.



Theodore Guerrant (Principal Accompanist) (he/him)

Now in his 40th 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 traveled with the Chorus to various cities across the United States, two Canadian provinces, three Scandinavian countries, and can be heard on many GMCW recordings. Dr. Teddy received 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 in Buriton, England, with Denise Lassimonne. Dr. Teddy is also organist-choirmaster at Christ Church Parish Kensington (Episcopal), accompanist for the National Philharmonic Chorale, and associate

director-accompanist for the Central Maryland Chorale. He also teaches on the staff of the University of Maryland School of Music as a coach-accompanist.



C. Paul Heins (Associate Conductor) (he/him)

C. Paul Heins joined the GMCW artistic team as associate conductor in the 2014 – 2015 season. Dr. Heins's principal role with GMCW is directing the GenOUT Youth Chorus, an outreach ensemble for LGBTQ+ and allied youth founded in 2015. Under Dr. Heins's leadership, GenOUT has grown from its inaugural class of nine singers to a current enrollment of 23 singers representing 16 schools in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Over the past seven years, more than 120 students from over 75 schools have participated in GenOUT Youth Chorus and camps, and notable performance venues have included the Kennedy Center, the Library of Congress, the Washington National Cathedral, and the White House for President Obama. In addition to its regular performances with GMCW, GenOUT's collaborations have included Nashville's Major Minors, The Musicianship's Washington Youth Chorus, The Washington Chorus, Mosaic Harmony, and the Children's Chorus of Washington.

In February 2023, GenOUT traveled to Cincinnati, Ohio to perform at the national conference of the American Choral Directors Association. As one of eight Insight Choirs, GenOUT showed how vocal ensembles are communities that provide a sense of belonging to marginalized populations.

Dr. Heins's previous appointments include Georgetown University (Concert Choir director), the Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington (director), the Washington Master Chorale (assistant director), Washington Men's Camerata (accompanist/associate conductor), and the College of William & Mary (interim choir director). He was musical director for three GMCW musicals (*Ruthless*, *When Pigs Fly*, and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*). 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*. Dr. Heins has presented at conferences of the American Choral Directors Association and Chorus America, and has served as guest clinician for DCPS music festivals and teacher workshops.



Ronté Pierce (Seasons of Love Director) (he/him)

Ronté Pierce brings over 33 years of singing, performing, and directing experience with faith-based, community, academic, and choral vocal ensembles, as well as experience with musical theater and opera to his position as the director of the Seasons of Love ensemble.

Ronté's musical journey began in Durham, NC, where he participated in the children's choir of his childhood church. It was there that his love of singing and directing gospel music was cultivated and he eventually started a successful singing group, served as a worship leader, and directed three choirs at his home church.

Ronté's musical experiences with his childhood church inspired him to study voice at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in Durham, NC. He was a member of the NCCU Concert Choir, NCCU Touring Choir, NCCU Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and NCCU Opera Workshop. Upon receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Music, he began a teaching career with the hopes of inspiring others to express themselves with music.

Ronté currently serves as one of three music teachers at Jackson-Reed High School in Washington, DC where he directs a successful choir program. He believes that the best teachers are those who continue to engage in the learning process, which has led him to pursue and receive a Master of Music degree from Boston University (2012) and an Education Specialist degree from Grand Canyon University (2021).

WHO'S WHO



Solomon HaileSelassie (Stage Director) (he/him)

Solomon HaileSelassie is a director, stage manager, designer, and filmmaker. Since 2015, he has served as GMCW's stage manager for our main stage concerts. He attended the Duke Ellington School of the Arts and Winston Salem State University where he trained in both vocal music and theater, New York Film Academy, and received his substantive professional training at The Studio Theatre and 2nd Stage.

His recent directing credits include *The Passage*; *Phones*; *Lunch Dream*; *Girls*; *Waiting for Godot*; *The Shape of Things*; *Three in a Hallway* (*Ebenezer's Ghosts*); *[Almost] William Shakespeare's, National Lampoon's, Family Guy's, MTV's: The Real Thanksgiving Vacation at Macbeth's* (working title); *Punching People You Never Met*; *Georgia Avenue Nocturne*; *Hello | Brother*; *Sonata*; *Carrie*:

The Musical (assistant director); *The Rocky Horror Show* (assistant director); and *Twisted* (assistant director).

Solomon was born and raised in DC and is proud to be a very-native son. He is the Resident Production Designer/Manager for the Library of Congress, the Resident Stage Manager for Longacre Lea, where he is a company member, and is the Founding Director of Artistic Collaboration for Annexus Theatre Company. He continues to be a non-equity professional stage manager because he is committed to maintaining access to high quality stage managers for small, underfunded, or under recognized professional theaters.



Danny Aldous (Choreographer) (he/him)

Danny Aldous grew up in Hershey, PA and started tap dancing at age eight. He and his six siblings all danced, sang, and performed. Danny graduated from Brigham Young University and was in the Men's Chorus & Young Ambassadors, a musical theater performing group. Danny has performed in numerous musicals and dance shows over the years, most often as Don Lockwood in *Singin' in the Rain*, and was the understudy for a national tour. Fifteen years ago, Danny started his own dance school, E-Dance Center, located in Elizabethtown, PA. He teaches tap, clogging, and pop video classes to all ages. He's happy to be a part of 17th Street Dance!



James Ellzy, II (Choreographer/Dance Captain) (he/him)

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. It was also in San Diego that James began to direct. He directed the Gay Men's Chorus of San Diego's full production 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, audition co-coordinator, and board of directors... and delights in them all! By day, James is a family physician with Oracle Health and a proud Navy veteran.



Craig Cipollini (Choreographer) (he/him)

Craig Cipollini began with GMCW in 2004 as a featured dancer. His background as a performer is primarily musical theater, having performed all over the United States 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 for many years including performances in Toronto and in Budapest, Hungary. He also performed with them when they appeared on NBC-TV's *America's Got Talent* where they reached the Top 40.

Craig has worked extensively as a director and choreographer.

Some musicals he has directed and/or choreographed include *Cabaret*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Will Rogers Follies*, *Annie*, *Hair*, *Carousel*, *Sugar Babies*, *Anything Goes*, *42nd Street*, 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 has been GMCW's resident choreographer since 2006. 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/visual communications, a masters degree in arts management, and is also a freelance illustrator.



Chipper Dean (Clogging Choreographer) (he/him)

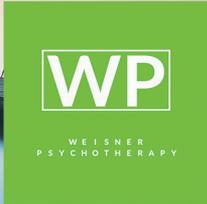
A member of GMCW since September 2012, Chipper has led the production team since 2018 — as production manager from 2018 to 2022 and now as director of production. He coordinates a team of skilled staff and volunteers supporting the Chorus in rehearsals, productions, tours, and other events. He has also served GMCW as Bass Section Leader (2013 – 2015), Membership President (2015 – 2017), and Associate Production Manager (2017 – 2018). Currently, he serves as Membership Committee Chair on the Board of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA Choruses), an international organization of LGBT-identified choruses, and as production manager of the quadrennial GALA Festival. He is also an associate member of the US Stage Managers' Association.

He has a Bachelor of Science in psychology (minor in music) and Master of Science in mental health counseling from Stetson University in his native DeLand, Florida and a PhD in educational and developmental psychology from Columbia University in New York. In his day job, he serves as program director at the National Institutes of Health, coordinating research efforts in behavioral health (mental health and substance use), health equity and social determinants of health, and cancer prevention and treatment.



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PORTRAITS

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June 2024

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SAIL is an intergenerational 501(c)3 nonprofit with diversity in identities, cultures, ethnicities, and abilities. We take an intersectional approach to educating and informing communities on diversity issues, especially connected to marginalized gender identities and sexualities.

Build an Inclusive Community



We collaborate with your organization, business, or school, to design workshops and resources to support your training needs, along with direct consultation. Contact us today!



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- Youth Groups
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GMCW MEMBERS

TENOR ONE

Michael Aylward
Joseph Baerenz
Rick Bennett
Thomas Boeke (SL)
Derrick Brown
Phillip Carson
Peter Cheney
Zeus de los Santos
Alex Domini
Vinz Dy Cruz
Adam Edgerton
Jimmy Edwards
Shirra Edwards
Jeffrey Fleming
Randyn Fullard
Jay Gilliam
Mark Hegedus
Matt Holland
Mitch Huber
Henry Johnson
Todd Katschke
Faraz Khan
Keegan Kienzle
Joseph Levin-
Manning
Katherine Liedler
Gabriel Lopez
Craig Lustig
John Marsh
Joal Martin
Rinaldo Martinez
Josh Medrano
Kerry Neal
Dennis Palaganas
Sharon Palmer
Sophia Pizzi
Deborah Potter
Freddie Quimbley
Tyson Reed
Gary Regan
Simon Regenold
Jack Reiffer
Ellery Rhodes
Mario Sengco
Timothy Sensenig
April Sizemore-
Barber
Kevon Smith
Lamar Smith (SL)
Ryan Smith
Jason Suggs
Matthew Teubert
Kevin Thomason
Santos E. Torres
James Turner
Steven West
James W. Williams
Seth Woodall

TENOR TWO

Timothy Allmond, Jr.
Brent Almond
Ramsey Amad
Tom Augustin
Paul M. Baker (SL)
Jay Ball
Pradipta Banerjee
Eric Belkengren
Jonathan Chaffin
Nick Chantiles
Adrian Chiodo
Adrien Chorn
Scott A. Concilla
André Cotten
Tony Cui
Tony Cunningham
Giancarlo D'Elia
Travis Jon Dichoso
James Dryburgh
Darryl Eaton
Jhonny Escorcía
Morgan Ewing
Evan R. Fitts
Arthur Gabel
Anthony Gipson
Brian Glover
Neal Going
Carter Grimes
Dan Gurchinoff
Schlebach
Trevor Haren
Drew Hastie
Clark Henderson
Kyle Holland
Elwin Jones III
John Jowers
Matt Komornik
Brian Kuhn
Scott Linder
James Madigan
Jonathan Malavé
Quincy Mata
Don Medor
Jay Michal
Keygan Miller
Josh Millson-
Martula
Javon Morris-Byam
Stephen Naimoli
John O'Brien
Neil Offner
Pavan Panjeti
Elishua Perez
Joshua Peterson
Ronté Pierce
Darryl Pilate
Chad Rabago
Mikal Rasheed

Bill Robinson
Sean Robinson
Jami J. Rodgers (SL)
Kenneth Roraback
Robert Serpa, Jr.
Steven Shi
Scott Starin
Gregory Stowers
Jim Tavener
Drew Thatcher
Michael Toth
Guye Turner
Alex Tyson
Alessandro Valera
JJ Vera
Bernard Vicary
Nicholas Walker
Hirsch
Bryce Weems
Silvio Weisner
Kevin Wenzel
Cooper Westbrook
Matthew
Williamson
Joe Wrenn (SL)
Micah Yarbrough

BARITONE

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Robert M. Agnello
Ralph Alston (SL)
Frank Anania
Schylar Baber
Zachary Barger
Billy Barry
Matthew Barth
Joseph Berlin
Adam Boyd
Sam Brinton
Bart Brooks
Joe Canter
Nicholas Castro
Donald Chandler
Jeffrey Chelsky
Cory Claussen
Larry Cohen
Jake Cundiff
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Marc de la Peña
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Tommy Do
Carlton Doctor
Morgan Dori
Michael Dumlao
James Elzy (SL)
Micah Escobedo
Cliff Gilbert
Adrian Gillem
Robert Ginzel
Michael Gottlieb
Daniel Grahn
Adam Greczkowski
Christopher Grieder
Rob Hall
Ben Harris
Howland Hartley
Gregoriah Hartman
Kenneth Hewitt
James Hillis
Raymond Hoffman
Hunter Jackson
Jamel Jones
Joseph Jozlin
David Karnick
Paul Kelsch
Gary Keltz
Brett Kessler (SL)
Doug Kilburg
Stuart Kopperman
Chris Kuchnicki
Daniel Lacovara
Benjamin Lee
Dillon Lewis
Bill Lipsett
Jiyang Liu
Nico MacDougall
Steven Magenheimer
Benn May
Chase Mayo
David McAuley
Michael McGovern
Michael McKibben
Alex Melnik
Nicholas Miller
Ross Miller
Matty Mitchell
Gregg Moreland
Kevin M. Morris
Shawn Morris
Dana Nearing
Paul Negron
Patrick R. Nelson
Stan Nowicki
Derek Orr
Jim Orrell
Tolga Ozturk
Jian Pang
Reginald Paros
Trevor Partridge
Eitan Perlin
Gregory Pivcan
Lawrence Poole
Andrew Powaleny
Charles Ramsey
Vida Rangel
Thomas Reiker
David Rico Mora
Kenneth Riley

Jamey Sadownick
 Jordan Sanz
 Marcos Sastre
 Kellen Schefter
 Tavon Shiheem
 Derek J. Smith
 Lonny Smith
 Michael B. Smith
 Shawn Strout
 Kia Suban
 Alex Surles
 Carlton K. Taylor, Jr.
 Jahtay Teh
 Joaquin Vargas
 Dennis Vonasek
 Topher Wanamaker
 Brian Watts
 John Weibel
 Richard Weinberg
 Charles Willett
 Ray Yankey

BASS

Jay Adams
 Mike Allen (SL)
 Ben Aparicio Coto
 W. Eric Balthrop
 Jarrod Bennett
 Marcus Brown
 Rav Casley Gera
 Sean Cator
 Ethan N. Chiang

Gia-Ninh Chuang
 Rick Davis
 Chipper Dean
 Robert Dragoset
 Robert E. Finn
 Brett Fox
 Romm Gatongay (SL)
 Jim Gruschus
 Alex Gurchinoff
 Schlebach
 Gibson Haynes
 John-Paul

Hayworth
 Michael Hughes
 Cole Jaconski
 Dennis Jaffe
 Frederick King
 John Knapp
 Alan Laing
 Nick Lawton
 Samilet Lee (SL)
 John Levensgood
 Gari Lewis
 Andrew McIlroy
 James Murphy
 Rob Neighbour
 Yoshiyuki Nishio
 Ronald Norberg
 Edward Oseroff
 Todd Paul
 Dana Peterman
 Dean Reichard

William Riggins
 Carlos Rodriguez
 Murray Sandmeyer
 John Santell
 Alec Sherman
 Morgan Slusher
 Colin Smith
 William Stroupe
 Jahdiel Torres Cabá
 David Treacher
 Dustin Winkel

SUPPORT

Danny Aldous
 Sherri Bale
 Carol Barillo
 Michael Bigley
 Jerry Blackmon
 Michael
 Cunningham
 Mark Di Phillippo
 Brian Doyle
 Robert
 Featherstone
 Solomon
 HaileSelassie
 Carroll Hanson
 Steve Herman
 Eve Hill
 Jeffrey Hollands
 Derrick Jones
 Daniel Kingsley

Mark Klein
 Robert Klein (SL)
 Frederick J. Krebs
 Greg Kubiak
 Tim Lewis
 Betsy Libretta
 Dale Mott
 Steven Oatmeyer
 Robert Pare Jr
 John U. Robinson
 Brandon Steele
 Nicole Streeter
 Gary Turner
 Brook Urquhart
 Matthew Zagorski

SL = Section Leader



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Vice Chair.....	James Ellzy
Secretary.....	Ray Hoffman
Treasurer.....	Jack Reiffer
Brent Almond, Sherri Bale, Rick Bennett, Michael Bigley, Romm Gatongay, Adrian Gillem, Robert Ginzel, Carroll Hanson, Howland Hartley, Eve Hill, Fred Krebs, Steve Oatmeyer, Alexis Vida Rangel, Jeb Stenhouse, Micah Yarbrough (<i>ex officio</i>)	

Artistic Staff

Artistic Director.....	Thea Kano
Associate Conductor.....	C. Paul Heins
Seasons of Love Director.....	Ronté Pierce
Production Director.....	Chipper Dean
Stage Director.....	Solomon HaileSelassie
Technical Director.....	Jarrod Bennett
Principal Accompanist.....	Theodore Guerrant
Accompanist.....	Michael Lodico
Accompanist.....	Alex Tang

Administrative Staff

Executive Director.....	Justin Fyala
Director of Development.....	André Coleman
Director of Marketing.....	Craig Cipollini
Director of Patron Services.....	Kirk Sobell
Outreach Manager.....	Michael Hughes
GenOUT Company Manager.....	Matty Mitchell

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Membership President.....	Micah Yarbrough
Vice President for Membership.....	Paul Negron
Vice President for Events.....	Ralph Alston
Vice President for Communications.....	Santos Torres
Vice President for Volunteerism.....	Matt Williamson
Vice President for Outreach.....	Giancarlo D'Elia
Vice President for Social Justice Programs.....	Keygan Miller
Vice President for Diversity & Inclusion.....	Nico MacDougall

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager.....	Solomon HaileSelassie
Associate Production Manager.....	Mark Klein
Production Crew Chief.....	Bernard Vicary
Stage Crew.....	Michael Cunningham, John Goodrich, Josh Millson-Martula, Bernard Vicary
Set Construction.....	Jarrod Bennett, Brian Kuhn, Jonathan Malavé, Josh Millson-Martula, Bernard Vicary
Dance Captain.....	James Ellzy
Rehearsal Pianist.....	Michael Lodico
Seasons of Love Accompanist.....	Dr. Steven Allen
Video Editor.....	Michael B. Smith
House Manager.....	Bob Klein
Archival Video.....	Steve Herman, Stone Lyons
ASL Interpreter.....	Jamie Sycamore

Special thanks to the Lincoln Theatre team.

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.

Kenny Aaron
Jan Albright
Richard Allen
Jim Arshem
Milton Artis
Tom Avenmarg
Chuck Bailey
Nelson Bain
Michael Baker
Ben Barker
Dean Barnes
Bill Barry
Will Bellais
Roger Bergstrom
Kevin "KC" Berry
Bob Bester
Robert T. Boaz
Michael G. Bohn
Craig R. Bowen
Peter Brayton
Michael Brinkman
Derek T. Bush
C. David Bury
Charles R. Butler, Neto
Ted Butler
Jim Campillo
Russ Capps
Bill Carwithen
Michael Caster
Randy Cooke
Daniel Coombs
Blake Cornish
Leonard Davis
Jim Dice
Howie Ducat
Tom Dudley
Bob Edwards
Don Ellis
Peter Fox
Richard Fromm
Tim Gabel
Jimmy Galdieri
Oscar Garcia-Vera
Thom Gibb
Ciro J. Graziano
Peter Griffith
George Guarino
Ira Haber
Barry Hahn
Roger Harlow
John B. Henderson
Mark Hennen
Scott Herring
Bob Hilby
Jim Hix
Michael Hodge
Marsha Holloman

James Holloway
R. Andy Horsley
Joe Houle
Bill Hunnicutt
Gary L. Janus
Jim Jochen
Gary Johnson
Dan Jones
Sunggyun Kim
Willis R. King
Alex Klebenow
William Kranick
Kevin LaBarge
Steven LeBlanc
Wayne Longest
Steve Maddox
Mark Mannel
Christopher Marquis
Phil Marti
Leonard Matlovich
W. Myron Maye
James McCann
Tim McDonough
Donald McArthur
Michael McElvaine
Kathy McGee
Gordon McGraw III
Jim Meany
Phil Melemed
Jim Mench
Mark Mennel
Jim Moore
John Moran
Ron Moser
Phil Moss
Steve Nelson
David Nieto
J. Richard Norton
Norman Nusinov
Ron O'Leary
Len Padgett
Ron Paglia
Rex Paul
Todd Payich
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Don Poe
Harlan Powell
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Terence Powers
H. Glenn Privette
Dennis Quinn
R.J. Quinn
Steve Rappaport
Steve Reed
Robb Rexroth
Ric T. Rice
Jim Richardson

Tom Roeder
Phil Rogerson
Larry Ross
Tom Sena
Charles L. Sens
David Shingler
Ray Siefer
Brian Smith
B.J. Sobus
Gerry Soucy
Jason Stelling
Duward Sumner
Dennis Swick
James D. Vranekovic
Everett Waldo
Phil Walsh
Benedikt Wassmuth
Dennis Watson
Kevin Webster
Marvin Weeks
Bob Widder
Ed Wilber
Rob Wilkinson
Donald Wolfe
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ABOUT US

MISSION

The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC (GMCW) sings to inspire equality and inclusion with musical performances and education promoting justice and dignity for all.

OVERVIEW

GMCW is the largest LGBTQ+ chorus in the nation's capital. We are a renowned performance group. Since 1981, we've performed shows nationally, internationally, and at-home in Washington, DC. To date, we have 250+ singing members, four select ensembles, a youth chorus, over 500 donors, and an annual audience of 10,000+. Our mission is to use music to promote equality, achieve justice, and overcome our differences. Over the last 42 years, we've put on numerous shows and done hours and hours of community outreach. We've sung and danced our hearts out around the country, including our Equality Tours in 2017, 2018, and 2019. We've been around the world, too, including stops in Cuba, Iceland, and Ukraine. We've sung for the Clintons, the Bushes, the Obamas, and the Bidens. Alongside Alan Cumming, Carol Channing, Chita Rivera, and Angela Lansbury. We've visited many prestigious venues, including the Kennedy Center, the White House, and Carnegie Hall, just to name a few.

HARMONY AWARDS

The Harmony Award is GMCW's highest honor. The awards are presented by the Chorus's Board of Directors to individuals and organizations from the community, and an individual from within the Chorus family. Recipients include:

Individuals from the Community:

Peter D. Rosenstein, LGBTQ+ community activist, 2004
David Catania, DC Councilmember, 2005
Frank Kameny, Gay rights movement pioneer, 2006
Adrian Fenty, DC Mayor, 2007
Noi Chudnoff*, business proprietor and arts patron, 2008
The Right Reverend V. Gene Robinson, Episcopal bishop, 2009
John Berry, Director, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 2010
Barney Frank, U.S. Congressman, Massachusetts, 2012
Eric Schaeffer, Signature Theatre Artistic Director, 2014
Kevin Jennings, GLSEN founder & Obama "safe schools" appointee, 2015
Marsha Pearson, GMCW founder, 2016
Muriel Bowser, DC Mayor, 2018
Wendy Rieger, NBC4-TV news anchor, 2019
Phil Mendelson, DC Council Chairperson, 2022
US Senator Tammy Baldwin, 2023

Organizations:

The Mautner Project, national Lesbian health organization, 2004
Holland & Knight, international law firm, 2005
Food and Friends, food and nutrition service providers, 2006
Metro DC PFLAG, education and advocacy organization, 2007
SMYAL, 2008
Washington DC Metropolitan Police Department's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit, 2009
Immigration Equality, 2010
Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, 2011
Washington Blade, 2012
Team DC, 2014
Williams Institute, 2015
National Center for Transgender Equality, 2016
NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists, 2017
Whitman-Walker Health, 2018
Casa Ruby and NBC Out, 2019
Metro Weekly, 2022
The Wanda Alston Foundation, 2023

Individuals from the Chorus family:

Steve "Soph" Herman, 2004
Gary Regan and Roger Bergstrom, 2005
Carl Baldwin & Gary Turner and David Streit, 2006
Phil Rogerson, 2007
Laurence Rosen, 2008
Michael Baker, 2009
Jeff Buhman, 2010
Greg Kubiak, 2011
Mark Hennen, 2012
Joe Vignali, 2013
Tom Nichols & Dan Chadburn, 2014
Michael E. Hill, 2015
Christopher Grieder & Stuart Kopperman, 2016
John Moran* and Jack Reiffer, 2017
Marcus Brown and Rob Hall, 2018
Charles Berardesco, 2019
Robert T. Boaz*, 2022
Timothy Allmond & Robert Klein, 2023

* posthumously awarded

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Loss of a Family Member

LET'S GET STARTED

Let's take the next step together and start prioritizing your goals, addressing your needs and planning for the future you envision.



LIVE. PLAN. DO!

LIFETIME
SUPPORTER
OF THE LGBTQ+
COMMUNITY



Joshua T. Charles, CFP®

ChFC®, CLU®, ADPA®, CEP®, CLTC, WMS, AIF®

CEO Financial 360, LLC



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SONG LYRICS

NINE TO FIVE

Tumble outta bed and
I stumble to the kitchen,
Pour myself a cup of ambition
An' yawn and stretch an' try to come to life.
Jump in the shower and the blood starts pumpin'
Out on the street the traffic starts jumpin'
With folks like me on the job
From nine to five.

Workin' nine to five,
What a way to make a livin'!
Barely gettin' by, it's all takin' and no givin'.
They just use your mind and
They never give you credit
It's enough to drive you crazy if you let it.

Nine to five; yeah, for service and devotion
You would think that
I would deserve a fair promotion.
Want to move ahead
But the boss won't seem the let me,
I swear sometimes that man is
Out to get me.

They let you dream just to watch 'em shatter.
You're just a step on the boss man's ladder,
But you got dreams he'll never take away.
You're in the same boat with a lotta your friends,
Waitin' for the day your ship'll come in
An' the tide's gonna turn, and
It's all gonna roll your way!

Workin' nine to five,
What a way to make livin'!
Barely gettin' by, it's all takin' and no givin'.
They just use your mind
And you never get the credit.
It's enough to drive you crazy if you let it.

Nine to five; yeah,
They got you were they want you.
There's a better life,
And you think about it, don't you?
It's a rich man's game,
No matter what they call it,
And you spend your life puttin'
Money in his wallet!

Nine to five, what a way to make a livin'!
Barely gettin' by, it's all takin' and no givin'.
They just use your mind
And you never get the credit.
It's enough to drive you crazy if you let it.
Nine to five!

HERE YOU COME AGAIN

Here you come again.
Just when I've begun to get myself together,
You waltz right in the door,
Just like you've done before
And wrap my heart 'round your little finger.

Here you come again.
Just when I'm about to make it work without you,
You look into my eyes and lie those pretty lies
And pretty soon I'm wondrin'
How I came to doubt you.

All you gotta do is smile that smile,
And there go all my defenses.
Just leave it up to you and in a little while
You're messing up my mind and

Filling up my senses.

Here you come again,
Lookin' better than a body has a right to,
And shakin' me up so that all I really know is here
You come again, and here I go.

Here you come again,
Lookin' better than a body has a right to,
And shakin' me up so that all I really know is here
You come again.

All you gotta do is smile that smile,
And there go all my defenses.
Just leave it up to you and in a little while
You're messin' up my mind
And fillin' up my senses.
Here you come again,
Lookin' better than a body has a right to,
And shakin' me up so that all I really know is here
You come again, and here I go.

Here I go. Here I go.

ISLANDS IN THE STREAM

Baby, when I met you there was peace unknown.
I set out to get you with a fine tooth comb.
I was soft inside; There was something going on.
You do something to me that I can't explain;
Hold me closer and I feel no pain.
Every beat of my heart,
We got something going on.
Tender love is blind; it requires a dedication.
All this love we feel needs no conversation.
We ride it together, ah, uh,
Making love with each other, ah, uh.

Islands in the stream, that is what we are,
No one in between. How can we be wrong?
Sail away with me to another world,
And we rely on each other, ah, uh,
From one lover to another, ah, uh.

I can't live without you if the love was gone.
Everything is nothing if you got no one;
And you did walk in tonight,
Slowly losing sight of the real thing.

That won't happen to us and we got no doubt.
Too deep in love and we got no way out
And the message is clear,
This could be the year for the real thing.

No more will you cry. Baby, I will hurt you never.
We start and end as one in love forever.
We can ride it together, ah, uh,
Making love with each other, ah, uh

Islands in the stream, that is what we are.
No one in between. How can we be wrong?
Sail away with me to another world,
And we rely on each other, ah, uh.
From one lover to another, ah, uh.

JOLENE

Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene,
I'm begging of you please don't take my man.

Your beauty is beyond compare,
With flaming locks of auburn hair,
Ivory skin and eyes of emerald green,
Your smile is like a breath of spring,

Your voice is soft like summer rain,
I cannot compete with you, Jolene
He talks about you in his sleep,
There's nothing I can do to keep
From cryin' when he calls your name: Jolene

And I can easily understand
How you could easily take my man
But you don't know what he means to me, Jolene.

Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene
Oh, I'm begging of you please don't take my man.

Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene
Please don't take him just because you can.

Well, you could have your choice of men,
But I could never love again,
And he's the only one for me, Jolene.

I had to have this talk with you,
My happiness depends on you
And whatever you decide to do, Jolene.
Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene

Oh, I'm begging of you, please don't take my man.
Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene
Please don't take him just because you can.
Please don't take him even though you can.
Oh, please don't take him even though you can.
Oh, Jolene

RAINBOWLAND

Livin' in a rainbow land,
Where everything goes as planned, and I smile.
'Cause I know if we try,
We could really make a difference in this world.
I won't give up, won't sleep a wink.
It's the only thought I think.
You know where I stand.
I believe we can start livin' in a rainbow land.

Living in a rainbow land, where you
And I go hand in hand;
Oh, I'd be lying if I said everything was fine
All the hurt, all the hate and the hate
All the hurt and the hate and
The bigotry that's gone on here.
But, oh, we are rainbows, me and you,
Every color, every hue
So shine, shine on through.
Together, we can start livin' in a rainbow land.

Living in a rainbow land
Where skies are blue and things are grand.
Oh wouldn't it be nice to live in paradise,
Where we're free to be exactly who we are.

Let's all dig down deep inside.
Brush the judgment and fear aside.
Make wrong things right, and end the fight
'Cause I promise ain't nobody gonna win.

Joyful, joyful, joyful, joyful,
Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
Friends of harmony and love
Our hearts unfold like flowers before you,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of pain and sadness.
Drive the dark of doubt away.
Living in a rainbow land where you and
I go hand in hand together.
Change things forever.

I know there's got to be a greater plan.
We are rainbows, me and you,
Every color, every hue so shine.
Bask in love and pure aca-gladness.
Shine on with your light.
Together, we can start living in a rainbow land.
Rainbow land

TRAVELIN' THRU

[Oh... Oh... Mmm... Mmm...]
Well I can't tell you where I'm goin',
I'm not sure of where I've been.
But I know I must keep travelin'
'til my road comes to an end.
I'm out here on my journey
Tryin' to make the most of it.
I'm a puzzle, I must figure out
Where all my pieces fit.

Like a poor wayfaring stranger
That they speak about in song.
I'm just a weary pilgrim tryin' to find
What feels like home.
Where that is, no one can tell me.
Am I doomed to ever roam?
I'm just travelin', travelin', travelin',
I'm just travelin' on.

Questions, I have many; answers, but a few.
We're here to learn the spirit burns
To know the greater truth.
We've all been crucified and
They nailed Jesus to the tree;
And when I'm born again,
You're gonna see a change in me.
God made me for a reason, and nothin' is in vain.
Redemption comes in many shapes
With many kinds of pain.

Oh sweet Jesus if you're list'nin',
Keep me ever close to you
As I'm stumblin', tumblin', wanderin';
As I'm travelin' thru.
I'm just travelin', travelin', travelin',
I'm just travelin' thru.
[Woo... Hoo... Woo... Hoo...]

I'm just travelin', travelin', travelin',
I'm just travelin' thru
[Woo... Hoo... Woo... Hoo... Woo... Hoo... Woo... Hoo...]

Oh sometimes the road is rugged,
And it's hard to travel on.
But holdin' to each other,
We don't have to walk alone.
When everything is broken
We can mend it if we try.
We can make a world of difference;
If we want to, we can fly.

Goodbye, little children,
Goodnight, you handsome men.
Farewell to all you ladies
And to all who knew me when.
And I hope I'll see you down the road;
You meant more than I knew.
As I's travelin', travelin', travelin',
Travelin', travelin' thru.

I'm just travelin', travelin', travelin',
I'm just travelin'.
Driftin' like a floatin' boat and
Roamin' like the wind.

SONG LYRICS

Oh, give me some direction,
Lord; let me lean on you
As I'm travelin', travelin', travelin',
I'm just travelin', travelin', travelin',
I'm just travelin' thru.

[Woo... Hoo... Woo... Hoo... Woo... Hoo... Woo... Hoo...]
I'm just travelin', travelin', travelin',
I'm just travelin' thru.
[Woo... Hoo... Woo... Hoo... Woo... Hoo... Woo... Hoo...]

Like the poor wayfarin' stranger
That they speak about in song,
I'm just a weary pilgrim tryin' to
Find my own way home.
Oh, sweet Jesus, if you're out there,
Keep me ever close to you
As I'm travelin', travelin', travelin',
As I'm travelin' thru.
[Woo... Hoo... Woo... Hoo... Woo... Hoo... Woo... Hoo...]

MY TENNESSEE MOUNTAIN HOME

Sittin' on the front porch on a summer afternoon
In a straight-back chair on two legs,
Leaned against the wall.
Watch the kids a-playin'
With June bugs on a string
And chase the glowin' fireflies when evenin'
shadows fall.

In my Tennessee mountain home,
Life is as peaceful as a baby's sigh.
In my Tennessee mountain home,
Crickets sing in the fields nearby.
[Mm, Ooh, Oh, Ah]

Honeysuckle vine clings,
To the fence along the lane.
Their fragrance makes the summer wind so sweet.
[Ooh]
And on a distant hilltop an eagle spreads it's wings,
And a songbird on a fence post sings a melody.

In my Tennessee mountain home,
Life is as peaceful as a baby's sigh.
In my Tennessee mountain home,
Crickets sing in the fields nearby.

In my Tennessee mountain home,
Life is as peaceful as a baby's sigh.
In my Tennessee mountain home,
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In my Tennessee mountain home,
Life is as peaceful as a baby's sigh.
In my Tennessee mountain home,
Crickets sing in the fields nearby.

[Ooh, Mm, Mm, Mm]

COAT OF MANY COLORS

Back through the years I go wand'ring once again,
Back to the seasons of my youth.
I recall a box of rags that someone gave us
And how my mama put the rags to use.

There were rags of many colors
But every piece was small,
And I didn't have a coat
And it was way down in the fall.
Mama sewed the rags together,

Sewing ev'ry piece with love.
She made my coat of many colors that I was so
proud of.

As she sewed, she told a story
From the Bible she had read,
About a coat of many colors Joseph wore,
And then she said,
"Perhaps this coat will bring you good luck and
happiness."
And I just couldn't wait to wear it, and mama
blessed it with a kiss.

My coat of many colors that
My mama made for me
Made only from rags but I wore it so proudly.
Although we had no money,
I was rich as I could be
In my coat of many colors my mama made for me.

So with patches on my britches
And holes in both my shoes,
In my coat of many colors I hurried off to school
Just to find the others laughing
And making fun of me
In my coat of many colors my mama made for me.

And oh, I couldn't understand it, for I felt I was rich,
And I told 'em of the love
My mama sewed in every stitch
And I told 'em all the story
Mama told me while she sewed
And how my coat of many colors was worth more
than all their clothes.

But they didn't understand it
And I tried to make them see
That one is only poor only if they choose to be
Now I know we had no money,
But I was rich as I could be
In my coat of many colors my mama made for me,
Made just for me.

TWO DOORS DOWN

Two doors down
They're laughin' and drinkin' and havin' a party.
And two doors down
They're not aware that I'm around.
But here I am, cryin' my heart out, feelin' sorry
While they're havin' a party just two doors down.

I think I'll dry these useless tears
And get myself together.
I think I'll wonder down the hall
And have a look around.
'Cause I can't stay inside this lonely room
And cry forever.
I think I'd really rather join them
Two doors down, yeah.

Two doors down
They're laughin' and drinkin' and havin' a party.
And two doors down
They're not aware that I'm around.
'Cause here I am no longer cryin', feelin' sorry.
We're having a party just two doors down.

I can't believe I'm standin' here, dry-eyed,
All smiles and talkin',
Making conversation with the
New love I have found.
I ask him if he'd like to be alone
And we start walkin'

Down the hall to my place waitin' two doors down.
Two doors down
They're laughin' and drinkin' and havin' a party.
But two doors down
We're not aware that they're around
'Cause here we are feelin' everything but sorry.
We're havin' our own party two doors down.

THE GRASS IS BLUE

My world has changed, it's been rearranged.

I've had to think up a way to survive.
Since you said it's over, and told me goodbye.
Well, I just can't make it one day without you,
Unless I pretend that the opposite's true.

Rivers flow backwards, valleys are high.
Mountains are level, truth is a lie.
I'm perfectly fine, and I don't miss you.
The sky is green, and the grass is blue.

How much can a heart and a troubled mind take.
Where is that fine line before it all breaks?
Can one end their sorrow just cross over it
And into that realm of insanity's bliss? That bliss!

There's snow in the tropics, there's ice on the sun.
It's hot in the Arctic, and crying is fun.
And I'm happy now and I'm glad we're through.
And the sky is green and the grass is blue. So blue.

And the rivers flow backwards,
And my tears are dry.
Swans hate the water, and eagles can't fly.
But I'm alright now, now that I'm over you.
And the sky is green, and the grass is blue, so blue.
And I don't love you, and the grass is blue.
The grass is blue.

ROCKY TOP

Well I wish that I was on old Rocky Top,
Down in the Tennessee hills;
Ain't no smoggy smoke on Rocky Top,
Ain't no telephone bill.
Once I had a man on Rocky Top,
Half bear, other half cat;
Wild as a mink, but sweet as soda-pop,
I still dream about that;

Rocky Top, you'll always be
Home sweet home to me;
Good ol' Rocky Top; Rocky Top, Tennessee;
Rocky Top, Tennessee.

Once two strangers climbed ol' Rocky Top,
Lookin' for a moonshine still;
Strangers ain't come down from Rocky Top,
Reckon they never will;
Corn won't grow at all on Rocky Top;
Dirt's too rocky by far
That's why all the folks on Rocky Top
Get their corn from a jar

Rocky Top, you'll always be
Home sweet home to me;
Good ol' Rocky Top; Rocky Top, Tennessee;
Rocky Top, Tennessee.

I've had years of cramped-up city life
Trapped luck a duck in a pen;
All I know is it's a pity life;
Can't be simple again;

Rocky Top, you'll always be
Home sweet home to me;
Good ol' Rocky Top; Rocky Top, Tennessee;
Rocky Top, Tennessee.
Rocky top, Tennessee.

TOGETHER YOU AND I

My love for you is deeper
Than the depths of any ocean,
And as faithful as the stars that grace the night.
As constant as the sun making its journey
Through the heavens
And we will always be together you and I.

Together you and I can stop the rain
And make the sun shine
Paint a pretty rainbow brushed
With love across the sky
Together you and I belong like a songbird
And a song
And we'll always be together you and I.

Life with you is sweeter
Than the fragrance of the flowers
And as happy as the laughter of a child
As peaceful as a river endless lasting as forever
You know we'll always be together you and I.

Together you and I can stop the rain
And make the sun shine
Paint a pretty rainbow brushed with love
Across the sky
Together you and I belong like a songbird
And a song
And we'll always be together you and I.

I'll always be beside or close behind you
Wherever you go, you'll always know
I'll always find you.

Together you and I can stop the rain
And make the sun shine
Paint a pretty rainbow brushed
With love across the sky
Together you and I belong like a songbird
And a song
And we'll always be together you and I.

We'll always be together you and I
Forever together, together forever you and I
Forever together, together you and I will always be
Together you and I.

JESUS AND GRAVITY

I'm to the point where it don't add up
I can't say I've come this far with my guitar
On pure dumb luck
That's not to say I know it all
'Cause every time I get too high up
On my horse I fall.

'Cause I've got
Something lifting me up
Something holding me down
Something to give me wings and
Keep my feet on the ground
I've got all I need,
Jesus and gravity

But I'm as bad as anyone
Taking all these blessings in my life
For granted one by one

SONG LYRICS

When I start to thinking it's all me
Well something comes along and
Knocks me right back on my knees.

And I've got
Something lifting me up
Something holding me down
Something to give me wings and
Keep my feet on the ground
I've got all I need, Jesus and gravity.

He's my friend
He's my light
He's my wings
He's my flight.

And I've got
Something lifting me up
Something holding me down
Something to give me wings and
Keep my feet on the ground
I've got all I'm gonna need,
I got Jesus, I got Jesus.

I got
Something lifting me up
Something holding me down
Something to give me wings and
Keep my feet on the ground
I've got all I'll ever need,
'Cause I got Jesus and gravity.

I got
Something lifting me up
Something holding me down
Something to give me wings and
Keep my feet on the ground
I've got all I'll need
'Cause I've got Jesus and gravity.

Jesus, I've got Jesus, I've got Jesus
He's my everything
He lifts me up
He gives me wings
He gives me hope
And He gives me strength
And that's all I'll ever need.

As long as He keeps lifting me up
He is my life
He is my God
He is my wings
He is my flight
Lift me, I've got Jesus, I've got Jesus
And that's all I need.

BACKWOODS BARBIE

Now, I've always been misunderstood
Because of how I look.
Don't judge me by the cover
'Cause I'm a real good book.
So read into it what you will, but see me as I am.
The way I looks is just a country girl's idea of glam.

I grew up poor and ragged,
Just a simple country girl.
I wanted to be pretty
More than anything in the world,
Like Barbie or the models in the
Frederick's catalog.
From rags to wishes in my dreams,
I could have it all.

I'm just a backwoods Barbie,
Too much makeup, too much hair.
Don't be fooled by thinking
That the goods are not all there.
Don't let these false eyelashes
Lead you to believe that
I'm as shallow as I look, 'cause I run true and deep.

I'm just a backwoods Barbie
In a push-up bra and heels.
I might look artificial, but where it counts I'm real.
Yes, I can see where I could be misjudged upon
first glance,
But even backwoods Barbies
Deserve a second chance.

All dolled up and hopin'
For a chance to prove my worth,
'Cause even backwoods Barbies
Get their feelings hurt.

I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

If I should stay, Well I would only be in your way
And so I'll go, and yet I know
I'll think of you every step of the way.

And I will always love you. I will always love you.

Bitter-sweet memories
That is all I'm taking with me.
So, goodbye. Please, don't cry.
We both know that I'm not what you, you need.

And I will always love you. I will always love you.

And I hope life treats you kind
And I hope you have all that you ever dreamed of
And I wish you joy and happiness
But above all this I wish you love.

And I will always love you. I will always love you.
I will always love you. I will always love you.
Always love you.

WHY'D YOU COME IN HERE LOOKIN' LIKE THAT

Why'd you come in here lookin' like that
In your cowboy boots and your painted on jeans?
All decked out like a cowgirl's dream,
Why'd you come in here looking like that?

Here comes my baby, draggin' my heart behind.
He's drivin' me crazy. Who says love is blind?
He's got a wanderin' eye and a travelin' mind,
Big ideas and a little behind.
Out with a different woman every night,
But I remember when he was mine!

Why'd you come in here lookin' like that
In your cowboy boots and your painted on jeans?
All decked out like a cowgirl's dream,
Why'd you come in here looking like that?
Why'd you come in here lookin' like that
When you could stop traffic in a gunny sack?
Why, you're almost givin' me a heart attack
When you waltz right in here lookin' like that?

I just can't stand it, to see him on the town.
He's out slow dancin' with every girl around.
I'm a softhearted woman, he's a hardheaded man
And he's gonna make me feel
Just as bad as he can.

He's got himself a mean streak a half a mile wide
And now he's dancin' on this heart of mine!

Why'd you come in here lookin' like that
In your cowboy boots and your painted on jeans?
All decked out like a cowgirl's dream,
Why'd you come in here looking like that?

Why'd you come in here lookin' like that
In your high-heeled boots
And your painted on jeans?
All decked out like a cowgirl's dream,
Why'd you come in here looking like that?
Why'd you come in here lookin' like that
When you could stop traffic in a gunny sack?
Why, you're almost givin' me a heart attack
When you waltz right in here lookin' like that?

Why'd you come in here lookin' like that?
Why'd you come in here lookin' like that?
Why'd you come in here lookin' like that?

PEACE TRAIN

Now I've been happy lately,
Thinkin' about the good things to come,
And I believe it could be,
Something good has begun.

Oh, I've been smilin' lately,
Dreamin' about the world as one.
And I believe it could be, someday it's gonna come.

'Cause out on the edge of darkness
There rides a peace train,
Oh, peace train take this country,
Come take me home again.

Now I've been smiling lately,
Thinkin' about the good things to come.
And I believe it could be.
Something good has begun.
Oh, peace train soundin' louder,
Glide on the peace train.
Oo ah ee yah ee yah
Come on the peace train.
Peace train holy roller,
Everyone jump on the peace train.
Oo ah ee yah ee yah
Come on the peace train.

Get your bags together,
Go bring all your good friends, too.
Because it's getting' nearer,
It soon will be with you.

Oh come and join the living,
It's not so far from you.
And it's getting nearer, soon it will all be true.

Oh peace train soundin' louder,
Glide on the peace train.
Oo ah ee yah ee yah
Come on the peace train.
Peace train.

Now I've been cryin' lately,
Thinkin' about the world as it is.
Why must we go on hating?
Why can't we live in bliss?

'Cause out on the edge of darkness
There rides a peace train.
Oh peace train take this country,

Come take me home again.
Oh peace train soundin' louder,
Glide on the peace train,
Oo ah ee yah ee yah
Come on peace train.

Peace train holy roller,
Everyone jump on the peace train.
Oo ah ee yah ee yah
Come on the peace train.

Come on peace train,
Yes it's the peace train.

LIGHT OF A CLEAR BLUE MORNING

It's been a long dark night and
I've been a waiting for the morning.
It's been a long hard fight
But I can see a brand new day dawning.
And I've been looking for the sunshine 'cause
I ain't seen it in so long.
Everything's gonna work out just fine,
Everything's gonna be all right
That's been all wrong.

'Cause I can see the light of a clear blue morning
I can see the light of a brand new day
I can see the light of a clear blue morning
Everything's gonna be all right.
It's gonna be okay.

It's been a long, long time
Since I've known the taste of freedom
And those clinging vines that had me bound,
Well I don't need them.
Ooh, I've been like a captured eagle,
Ooo, you know an eagle's born to fly
Ooo Now that I have won my freedom,
Like an eagle I am eager for the sky.

'Cause I can see the light of a clear blue morning
I can see the light of brand new day
I can see the light of a clear blue morning
Everything's gonna be all right It's gonna be okay.

'Cause I can see the light of a clear blue morning
I can see the light of brand new day
I can see the light of a clear blue morning
Everything's gonna be all right.
It's gonna be okay.

'Cause I can see the light of a clear blue morning
I can see the light of brand new day
I can see the light of a clear blue morning
Everything's gonna be all right.
It's gonna be okay.

But I can see the light of a clear blue morning.
I can see the light of brand new day
I can see the light of a clear blue morning
Everything's gonna be all right,
Everything's gonna be all right
Everything's gonna be all right,
Everything's gonna be all right
It's gonna be okay!



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Photos from our March 2023 concert *WHITNEY* by Ward Morrison.



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PHENOMENAL WOMEN

Throughout our 2022 – 2023 Season, we have been highlighting and honoring phenomenal women who have been pioneers, leaders, or inspirations in our lives. This month we feature the star of our show, the incomparable Dolly Parton.



“It’s a good thing I was born a girl, otherwise I’d be a drag queen.” — Dolly Parton

Dolly Parton is an American singer-songwriter, actress, philanthropist, and businesswoman, known primarily for her decades-long career in country music. After achieving success as a songwriter for others, Parton made her album debut in 1967 with *Hello, I’m Dolly*, which led to success during the remainder of the 1960s, before her sales and chart peak came during the 1970s and continued into the 1980s. With a career spanning over 50 years, Parton has been described as a “country music legend” and has sold more than 100 million records worldwide, making her one of the best-

selling female artists of all time. She has had 25 singles reach No. 1 on the Billboard country music charts, a record for a female artist (tied with Reba McEntire). She has 44 career Top 10 country albums, a record for any artist, and she has 110 career-charted singles over the past 40 years. As an actress, she has starred in films such as *9 to 5* and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, as well as *Rhinestone*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Straight Talk*, and *Joyful Noise*.

She also co-owns The Dollywood Company, which manages a number of entertainment venues, including the Dollywood theme park, the Splash Country water park, and several dinner theater venues including The Dolly Parton Stampede and Pirates Voyage. She has founded a number of charitable and philanthropic organizations, chief among which is the Dollywood Foundation, which manages a number of projects to bring education and poverty relief to East Tennessee where she grew up.

Her literacy program, Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, a part of the Dollywood Foundation, mails one book per month to each enrolled child from the time of their birth until they enter kindergarten. Currently, over 1,600 local communities provide the Imagination Library to almost 850,000 children each month across the US, Canada, the UK, Australia, and the Republic of Ireland. In 2018, Parton was honored by the Library of Congress because of the “charity sending out its 100 millionth book”. In 2006, Parton published a cookbook, *Dolly’s Dixie Fixin’s: Love, Laughter and Lots of Good Food*.

The Dollywood Foundation, funded from Parton’s profits, has been noted for bringing jobs and tax revenues to a previously depressed region. Parton also has worked to raise money for several other causes, including the American Red Cross and HIV/AIDS-related charities.

Dolly has been an outspoken advocate for LGBTQ+ people, declaring her support for marriage equality and she holds an annual gay day for her LGBTQ+ fans at her Dollywood theme park. She says, “I just think it’s not my place to judge, to criticize, and I think people should be allowed — they’re going to love who they love, and if they’re going to be with who they’re going to be with, they should have whatever benefits they can have. I’m not God. I’m not a judge.”





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CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE

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.

1991

Fred Boykin
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
Laurence A. Rosen

1999

Jerry Carpenter
Bob Dragoset
Thom Gibb

2000

Christopher Grieder
Gary Turner
Joe Vignali
Marvin Weeks

2001

Joe Cannon
Teddy Guerrant
Steven Haber
John Perkins
Michael B. Smith

2002

Carl Baldwin
Barry W. Bugg
Michael Cunningham
Dan Patton
Todd Paul

2003

Tom DiGiovanni
Rick Johnson
Kathy McGee
Chuck Walker

2004

Scott Button
Robert Klein
Jerry Lee
Harold Lewis
Jack Reiffer

2005

Jeff Van Luyn
Stuart Kopperman
Edward P. Oseroff

2006

David Bielenberg
Joe Canter
Bill Cutter
Matt Komornik
Barrett Whitener

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

Jay Ball
Thea Kano
Steve Pflasterer
Andy Van Etten

2011

Sherman Blow
Robert T. Boaz
Peter Fox
Andrew Harmon

2012

Craig Cipollini
Ron Norberg
John "JQ" Quiñones
Shannon Rozner

2013

Joe Bloomer
Marcus Brown
Sean Robinson

2014

Timothy E. Allmond
Raymond Burditt
Mary Scott
Ryan L. Williams

2015

Emérito Amaro-
Carambot
Larry Cohen
John-Paul Hayworth
Rob Serpa, Jr.

2016

Chris Asaro
Rick Davis
Suzette Derrevere
James Ellyz
Rob Neighbour
Lyn VanNoy

2017

Jarrold Bennett
Chipper Dean
Jay Gilliam
Matt Graf

2018

Howland Hartley
Mark Hegedus
Dan Kaufman
Mario Sengco

2019

Jim Arshem*
Corey Bent
Romm Gatongay
Matt Holland
Mark Klein
Samilet Lee
John U. Robinson

2020

Ben Harris
Derrick Jones
Betsy Libretta
Kevin Thomason
Bernard Vicary

2021

Michael Dumlao
Jim Gruschus
C. Paul Heins
Jim Madigan
Raymond Rinaldo
Bryce Weems
Micah Yarbrough

2022

Brent Almond
Tom Boeke
Jonathan Chaffin
Michael Hughes
Brett Kessler

* posthumously awarded

The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC'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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In a world where religious leaders and their organizations have too often embodied the oppression and rejection that many of us have suffered, a growing number of synagogues, congregations, and other faith-based organizations are welcoming and celebrating LGBTQ+ persons. We proudly list them here as our **PARTNERS IN HARMONY**. We recommend them to any who are looking for a faith community to call home. Visit gmcw.org for links to all of these faith-based organizations.

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In Loving Memory of Dean Barnes (1984 – 2022)



Our thoughts and reflections go out to the family and friends of **Dean Barnes**, who passed away last year. Dean was a GMCW member for many years and danced in many of our concerts. He was a gifted mathematician, passionate performer, and lovable goofy geek-at-heart. In high school, he was in drama and choir.

In Loving Memory of Kevin Webster (1958 – 2023)



Our thoughts also go out to the family and friends of **Kevin Webster**, who passed away in April. Kevin was a GMCW member for many years. He loved to travel, was an avid tennis player, and shared his mother's and sister's love of crafting and knitting, donating many original hand-sewn items to our Spring Affair auctions over the years.



Rest in peace, dear friends.



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