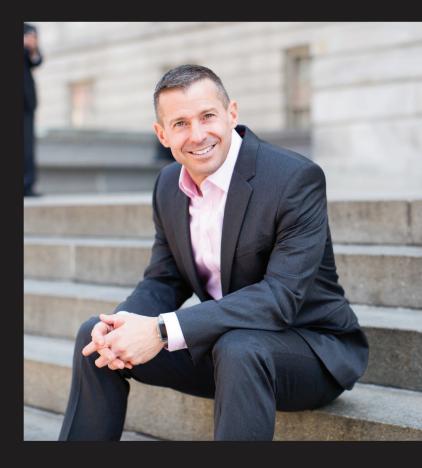


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Welcome to The Holiday Show. As we celebrate musical traditions from around Dear GMCW Family, the world, we invite you to lose yourself in our lush harmonies, soaring melodies, and fabulous dance numbers. We're so glad and grateful that you are here!

For many of us in the LGBTQ+ community, the results of the election continue to be troubling, perplexing, and, frankly, hurtful. No matter what the future brings, GMCW will always choose love over hate, joy over fear, and togetherness over division. We will continue to raise our voice to challenge the status quo, advocate for the marginalized, and work towards a society where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

As we turn the page into December and the New Year, let's raise a toast to four more years of singing and building lasting friendships and an even stronger community. Four more years of raising our voice to fight for a more just and empathetic world, and four more years of making our voice heard by creating beautiful art that inspires change and lifts hearts.

Thank you for joining us and for your unwavering support. We wish you a joyous holiday season and a new year filled with peace, progress, and justice.

In joyful protest, Thea & Justin

PS To keep our voice going strong no matter what the future brings, please give today at www.gmcw.org.



Thea Kano Artistic Director



Justin Fyala **Executive Director**



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TECHNICAL DIRECTOR JARROD BENNETT

COSTUME DESIGN

JEFFREY HOLLANDS

LIGHTING DESIGN **SOLOMON** HAILESELASSIE

INSTRUMENTALISTS

PIANO **THEODORE GUERRANT**

BASS ARNOLD GOTTLEIB DANNY VILLANUEVA

PERCUSSION

CHOREOGRAPHY

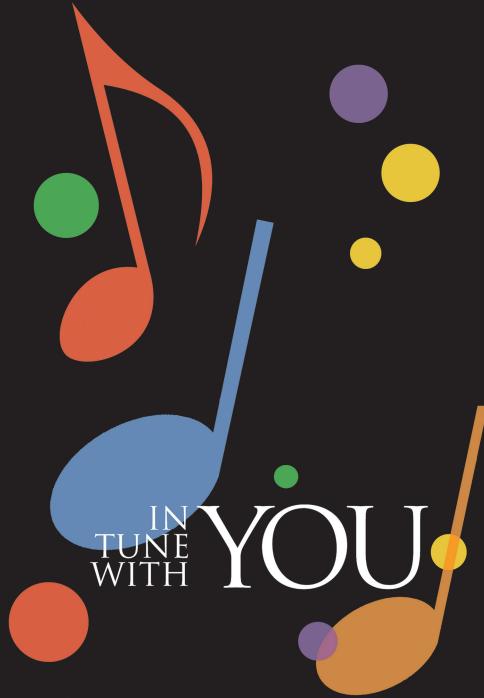
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PRESHOW: WORLD MUSIC C	OLLECTIVE			
	Music by Deepak Ram			
	Music by Cristian Perez			
	Music by Noah Getz			
Caravan	Music by Juan Tizol			
GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC, WORLD MUSIC COLLECTIVE, AND 17TH STREET DANCE				
Christmas Isn't Christmas 'Til \	You Get HereMusic and lyrics by			
	Kylie Minogue, Steve Anderson,			
	and Karen Poole			
	Arranged by Chad Weirick			
GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC AND WORLD MUSIC COLLECTIVE Feliz NavidadMusic and lyrics by José Feliciano				
	Arranged by Tim Sarsany			
GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WAS				
Winter Proverbs	Music by Frances Farrell			
	Texts from Chinese, English, German, Guinean, and Irish proverbs			
	"Ode to the West Wind" by Percy Bysshe Shelley			
	Ode to the West Willa by Percy Byssile Silelley			
GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC AND 17TH STREET DANCE				
Paso Na Sinta Ko	Traditional Filipino Christmas Carol			
	Music and lyrics by Francis Dandan			
	and Aureo Estanislao			
	Arranged by Bobby Buchanan			
Ang Pasko Ay Sumapit	Traditional Filipino Christmas Carol			
	Music and lyrics by Vicente Rubi and Levi Celerio			
	Arranged by Bobby Buchanan			
GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS Speaker: Anjali Murthy				
Sanna Sannanina	South African Folk Song/African Folk Song Arranged by Catherine DeLanoy			
I'll Be Home For Christmas	Music and lyrics by Walter Kent			
	and Kim Gannon			
	Arranged by Paul Langford			
GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC AND GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS Speaker: Joseph Levin-Manning				
Peace, Salaam, Shalom	Music and lyrics by Pat Humphries			
,	and Sandy Opatow			
	,			

You are invited to join in singing: Peace, salaam, shalom.

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON Speaker: Samilet Lee	, DC
Silent Night	Arranged by Dan Forrest
GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON The Man with the Bag	
POTOMAC FEVER Speaker: David Treacher	
My Grown-Up Christmas List Soloists: Gia-Ninh Chuang, Jay Malavé, and Cooper Westbr	and Linda Thompson Jenner
12 Days of Christmas/Africa Soloists: Steven Shi, Shawn Morris, Kevin Thomason, and Jack Marsh	Music and lyrics by Frederic Austin, David Paich, and Jeffrey T. Porcaro Arranged by Richrd Gregory and Ken Purchase
GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON Favorite OneMusic an	, DC AND 17TH STREET DANCE nd lyrics by Cy Coleman, Betty Comden, and Adolph Green
GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON Hanukkah Rhapsody Soloists: Alex Domini and Will Prater	, DC Based on Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 by Franz Liszt Arrangement and lyrics by Eric Lane Barnes
	Music and lyrics by Nicholas Ryan Kelly
GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON See Amid the Winter's Snow/Lo How A F	

See Amid the Winter's Snow/Lo How A Rose......Music and lyrics by

Edward Caswall Additional Lyrics by S.K. Hill Arranged by Eugene Butler

Adapted for TTBB chorus by M. Howarth

Speakers: Thea Kano and Justin Fyala

SEASONS OF LOVE

Give Love on Christmas Day.....Music and lyrics by Freddie Perren, Alphonso Mizell, Christine Yarian, Soloist: Gabriel Lopez Piano: Kevin Huang Berry Gordy, and Deke Richards Arranged by Ronté Pierce

(continued on next page)



Now Behold the Lamb......Music and lyrics by Kirk Franklin Soloists: Chris Murphy Arranged by Ronté Pierce and Freddie Quimbley

Piano: Kevin Huang

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Speaker: Drew Hastie

Love is Christmas.....Music and lyrics by Sara Bareilles

Soloist: Valerie Flores

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

TeXmas Hold 'Em......Music and lyrics by Beyoncé Knowles, Brian
Vincent Bates, Raphael Saadiq, Elizabeth Boland,
Megan Buelow, and Nathan Farraro
Arranged by Charles Beale
Parody lyrics by Zac Barger

THERE IS NO INTERMISSION AT THIS PERFORMANCE OF THE HOLIDAY SHOW





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SMALL ENSEMBLES

POTOMAC FEVER

Mike Allen Peter Cheney Gia-Ninh Chuang Jake Cundiff Alex Dean Jim Gruschus Gibson Haynes Matt Holland Jonathan Malavé John Marsh Josh Millson-Martula Shawn Morris

Paul Negron Steve Shi Michael B. Smith Kevin Thomason David Treacher Cooper Westbrook

ROCK CREEK SINGERS

Michael Aylward
Zachary Barger
Billy Barry
Eric Belkengren
Jarrod Bennett
Rick Bennett
Javon Byam
Jonathan Chaffin
Alex Chan
Ethan Chiang
Bob Dragoset
Robert Finn

Anthony Gipson Rob Hall Andrew Harmon Ben Harris Michael Hughes Henry Johnson Paul Kelsch Sean Link Armando Loney James Madigan Joval Martin Keygan Miller Patrick Nelson Trevor Partridge Joshua Peterson Larry Poole Jack Reiffer Sean Robinson Craig Ruskin Lonny Smith Drew Thatcher James Turner Brian Watts Chuck Willett

SEASONS OF LOVE

Tommie Adams
Brent Almond
Memory Bowman
Derrick Brown
Marcus Brown
Christopher Daniels
Alex Domini
Michael Dumlao
Jeffrey Fleming
Valerie Flores
Timothy Foley
Johnny Geth

Christopher Gillespie Kevin Huang Neiko James Joseph Levin-Manning Gabriel Lopez Michael Makardish James McMaster Donald Medor Jaylan Monroe Chris Murphy Ronté Pierce Freddie Quimbley

Mikal Rasheed Tyson Reed Simon Regenold Christian Rodney Jacques Rozier Colin Smith Lamar Smith Matthew Teubert Jahdiel Torres Cabá Dennis Vonasek Monté Willis Jr. Micah Yarbrough

17TH STREET DANCE

Sean Cator Craig Cipollini Iván Dávila James Ellzy Adam Greczkowski Jeffrey Hollands Cole Jaconski Daniel Kingsley Franky Lieder Julia Murcia Jayson Phuah Darryl Pilate Jamey Sadownick Brook Urquhart Yuri Velasquez Chris Weaver Matt Williamson Matt Zagorski

GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS

Cal Ausema Maysen Bedsole Ben Biggs Zach Briskin-Watson Anya Cardiff Victor Kidwell Avani Konek Gail McKinney Anjali Murthy Ailsa Ostovitz Callum Seay-Lee Birch Shea Hannah Sisema Ziv Stuart Ezra Thomas Asher Wise



Rock Creek Singers



Potomac Fever



17th Street Dance



GenOUT Youth Chorus



Seasons of Love

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 the 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. Since its inception, more than 150 students from over 80 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 presents an annual *Youth Invasion* show plus around 20 outreach events around the DMV area.

GenOUT participated in the 2016 and 2024 GALA Choruses Festivals and was featured as an Insight Choir at the 2023 national conference of the American Choral Directors Association.

Dr. Heins's previous appointments include Georgetown University (Concert Choir director) and the Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington (director). Before joining the GMCW artistic staff, he was a guest 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 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 quest clinician for DCPS music festivals and teacher workshops.



Ronté Pierce (Assistant Conductor) (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 film maker. Since 2021, he has served as GMCW's resident stage director. He attended the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, where he trained in both vocal music and theater, Winston Salem State University, and New York Film Academy. He received his substantive professional training at the Studio Theatre and 2nd Stage. 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. His directing credits include The Passage, Phones, Lunch Dream, Girls, Waiting for Godot, The Shape of Things, Three in a Hallway (Ebenezer's Ghosts), Punching People You Never Met, and Sonata; Carrie: The Musical (assistant director).



Danny Aldous (Tap 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!



Craig Cipollini (Choreographer) (he/him)

Craig Cipollini is a director and choreographer based in DC. As a dancer, he toured with productions of A Chorus Line and 42nd Street, in addition to many regional, summer stock, and dinner theater credits. Some musicals he has directed and/or choreographed include Cabaret, Thoroughly Modern Millie, The Will Rogers Follies, Carousel, Anything Goes, 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 and The Rocky Horror Show, as well as Men In Tights: A Pink Nutcracker (2010), Seven, Divas, A Gay Man's Guide to Broadway, and That '80s Show.



James Ellzy, II (Choreographer) (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 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 productions of Oliver Button is a Sissy and Nutcracker: Men in Tights, and was invited to serve as an international judge for Showcasel, 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. By day, James is a family physician at the Defense Health Agency.



Matt Zagorski (Choreographer) (he/him)

Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Matthew discovered his passion for dance at the age of 10. Following in the footsteps of his sister, he began taking classes in ballet, tap, and jazz. He danced competitively throughout high school and began instructing and choreographing at local dance studios in 2012. After relocating to Washington, DC, Matthew was thrilled to continue his dance journey when he joined GMCW's dance ensemble, 17th Street Dance, in 2023. Matthew has a Bachelor of Science in Business and Juris Doctor from Duquesne University. He currently works as an attorney within the Federal government. Matthew lives in northeast DC with his husband of six years.







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GUEST ARTIST



The **World Music Collective** is a mixed instrumentation chamber ensemble representing diverse musical heritages with improvisation as a common theme. Each member is an internationally recognized performer, composer, and improviser based in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Performing a blend of jazz, world music, and contemporary styles, their focus includes entertainment, education, and social justice.

- Noah Getz is a Grammy-nominated artist who has been hailed as a "highly skillful and an even more highly adventurous player" (Washington City Paper). He has performed and lectured worldwide, including appearances at the Melbourne Recital Centre, Carnegie Hall, and The Royal Conservatory of Brussels, to name a few.
- Sitar player Snehesh Nag has received international acclaim, having performed for audiences across multiple cities in India, the US, and Canada.
- Cristian Perez is an Argentine-American guitarist/composer/arranger
 who has performed internationally (Bulgaria, Canada, South Korea, Bolivia,
 China, Dominican Republic) and continues to be very active in the local
 music scene. He graduated from GMU with a Bachelor's in classical guitar
 and a Master's in jazz studies and he is an adjunct professor at NOVA
 Community College.
- Drummer Advait Shah received advanced training from Ustad Tari Khan in Chicago, IL, and has performed with Nisar Bazmi, Ustad Nafiz, Ali Khan, Arun Ramamurthy, Pandit Subroto, and Roy Choudury. Through his training and self study, Advait has developed a unique style which creatively blends a mix of East and West.
- **Zoë Jorgenson Speirs** is a bassist, composer, and educator whose music is deeply rooted in jazz, indie, folk, and ambient genres. She has been hailed for her innovative approach to melodic bass and vocal lines, using both to weave throughout the space of a modern jazz quartet.







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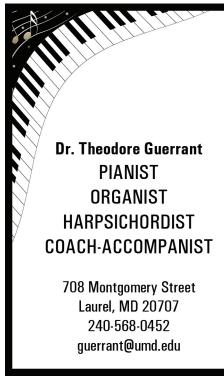
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IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN E. PERKINS

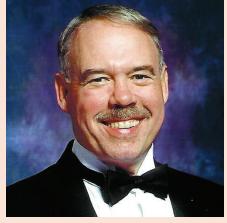
March 3, 1942 — February 8, 2024

John Perkins was a staunch supporter and friend of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC for more than 40 years.

He was involved with the Chorus since its founding in 1981, serving as Chairman of the Capital Club and Secretary of the Board of Directors, and the second full-time Executive Director of GMCW (1997-2001).

He received the GMCW President's Award in 1994, and was inducted into the GMCW Circle of Excellence in 2001.

In 1982 John played a key role in persuading the George Washington University Board of Trustees to allow GMCW to perform at Lisner Auditorium after the Board of Trustees disapproved of GMCW renting the venue because GMCW is a gay organization. Simply put, John's diplomacy, intervention and superb negotiation skills in that matter avoided a lawsuit (or at a minimum a civil rights complaint by GMCW with the DC Commission on Human Rights). And it is a significant milestone in the history of the Chorus.



Born in Piqua, Ohio, John and his family moved to Orlando, Florida, in 1948. He received bachelor's and master's degrees in music history and literature from Florida State University, where he also played trumpet and produced and directed programs for WFSU-FM and TV.

Following college, John served two years in the U.S. Army. He settled in Washington, DC, where he held senior management positions with the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation, Trade Communications, Inc., the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, and at George Washington University, where he was the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs.

John also served on the Mayor's Advisory Committee on GLBT Affairs in Washington, DC, and on the boards of directors for the Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry and the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts.

John moved to Orlando in 2001 to care for his parents at the end of their lives. While there, he co-founded The Orlando Chorale and served as the Executive Director for eight years. He was also an organizational consultant for the Orlando Children's Chorus and a volunteer for Mad Cow Theatre.

John also read and traveled extensively and, in 2011, returned to his beloved Capitol Hill neighborhood in Washington, DC, where he spent the last years of his life enjoying music, theatre, and friends.

LEADERSHIP

Chair	Tomeika Bowden Ray Hoffman John-Paul Hayworth Michael Bigley, Romm Gatongay,
Artistic Staff	T I 1/
Artistic DirectorAssociate Conductor	
Assistant Conductor	
Production Director	
Stage Director	
Technical Director	
Principal Accompanist	Theodore Guerrant
Accompanist	
Accompanist	Michael Lodico
Administrative Staff	
Executive Director	3
Director of Development	
Director of Marketing	
Director of Patron Services	
Outreach Manager	
GenOUT Chorus Manager Marketing Assistant	
GMCW Membership Officers	
Membership President	Shawn Morris
Vice President for Membership	

Vice President for Communications.......Thomas Reiker
Vice Presidents for Visibility & Activism......Gregoriah Hartman and Sam Lee
Vice President for Volunteers......Carter Grimes

PRODUCTION STAFF

Dance Captains		James Ellzy and Jeffrey Hollands
Properties & Costume Co	ordinator	Benn May
Rock Creek Singers Rehe	arsal Pianist	Alex Chan
Seasons of Love Accompa	nist	Kevin Huang
Production Crew Chief		Benn May Alex Chan Kevin Huang Bernard Vicary
Transportation Coordinat	or	Josh Millson-Martula
Stage Crew	Jerr	ry Blackmon, Michael Cunningham,
3		Mark Klein, John Levengood,
		Josh Millson-Martula, Kris Muench
Rehearsal Setup CrewW. Eric Balthrop, Greykell Dutton, Nick Walker H		Greykell Dutton, Nick Walker Hirsch,
•	Conor Kelly, Erik Ro	odriquez, Jon Schmidt, Derek Smith
Build Crew		Praddy Bannerjee, Rav Casley Gera,
	David Co	owley, Mike DeMeo, Greykell Dutton,
	Alex Gerhard, A	anthony Gipson, Adam Greczkowski,
	Brian Kuhn, John Levengood	, Josh Millson-Martula, Kris Muench,
		antos Torres, Nicholas Walker Hirsch
House Managers		Bob Klein and Erik Rodriquez
Archival Video		Stone Lyons and Steve Herman
		Jaime Sycamore

Special thanks to Silvio Weisner and to the Lincoln Theatre crew.

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 John Benton 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 Joaquin Fajardo Peter Fox Richard Fromm Tim Gabel Jimmy Galdieri Oscar Garcia-Vera Thom Gibb Ciro J. Graziano Peter Griffith George Guarino Ira Haber Ray Hagen

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 Will Lee Betsy Libretta 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

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PROGRAM NOTES

Winter Proverbs Text Origin

By Canadian composer Frances Farrell

Texts from Chinese, English, German, Guinean, & Irish proverbs and Shelley's "Ode to the West Wind"

Cited as a Chinese proverb, the lyrics to this first movement, "The pine stays green in winter; wisdom in hardship," speak to the steadfastness of winter, ice, and pine trees. These sentiments are underscored by the austere treatment of voices and rhythms, as though the voices themselves were frozen. The second movement is a playful realization of the word "dance" that is found in this English proverb: "They that sing in summer, must dance in winter."

The third movement is based on the [German] proverb "Those who don't pick roses in the summer, won't pick them in winter, either." This tongue-in-cheek treatment of the lyrics asks choristers to confront the thorny issue of how to pronounce the word "either." The final movement comprises several proverbs: "O wind, if Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" (from Percy Bysshe Shelley's "Ode to the West Wind"), "No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow" (Guinean proverb), and "The snow melts the soonest when the winds begin to sing" (Irish proverb). This movement is punctuated by sweeping vocal lines meant to emulate the movement of the wind. The last few measures of this piece recall the opening idea of the first movement.

Texts:

<u>Proverb I</u>: "The Pine in Winter" (Chinese proverb) The pine stays green in winter. Wisdom in hardship.

<u>Proverb II</u>: "Winter's Dance" (English proverb) They that sing in summer Must dance in winter.

<u>Proverb III</u>: "Cold Comfort" (German proverb) Those who don't pick roses in the summer Won't pick them in winter, either.

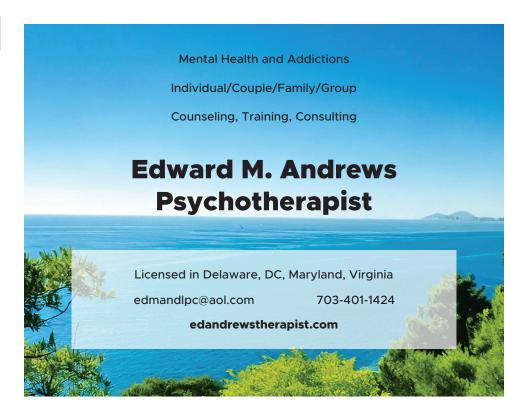
Proverb IV: "How Long the Winter" (Shelley's "Ode to the West Wind" and Guinean & Irish proverbs) O Wind, if Winter comes, can Spring be far behind? No matter how long the Winter, Spring is sure to follow. If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?

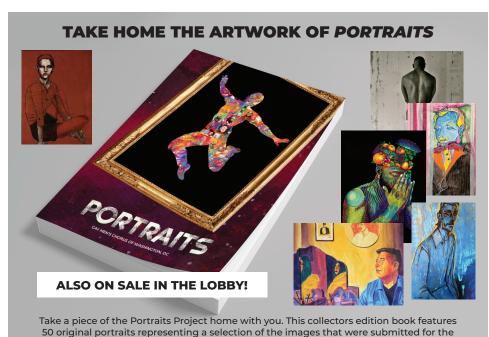
O, when the winds begin to sing,

Snow melts soonest when the winds begin to sing.

No matter how long the Winter, Spring is sure to follow. If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?

O, Wind, O!





Portraits Project, including the nine portraits that were ultimately chosen for the premiere.

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SONG LYRICS

Christmas Isn't Christmas 'Til You Get Here

It's been a long time to Be missing you, you, you You're on your way now lover And I'm over the moon Everything's all in place But there is one thing clear Christmas isn't Christmas 'Til you get here

Those sleigh bells ring, ring, ring Whole room is bling, bling, bling So many fairy lights are busy sparkling They glimmer and they glow It's all for you my dear Christmas isn't Christmas 'Til you get here

There's a present by the fireplace Wrapped especially for you All I want is just to see your face That's how you make My wish come true!

The second hand ticks by, Giving me butterflies. You're getting close now baby, I can feel it inside! And when you're holding me, That's when you make my year! Christmas isn't Christmas 'Til you get here.

Christmas isn't Christmas without you Christmas isn't Christmas without you Christmas isn't Christmas without you

There's a present by the fireplace Wrapped especially for you — All I want is just to see your face That's how you make My wish come true!

I hear the doorbells chime. Baby you're right on time. That little taste is it. I'm looking right in your eyes.

I better run run, run, Because it's all so real. Christmas isn't Christmas 'Til you get here. Christmas isn't Christmas 'Til you get here. Christmas isn't Christmas 'Til you get here Get your fine self here!

Feliz Navidad

Feliz Navidad Feliz Navidad Feliz Navidad Prospero año y Felicidad

I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas! I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas! I wanna wish you a Merry Christmas From the bottom of my heart!

(repeat)

Winter Proverbs

Proverb I: "The Pine in Winter" The pine stays green in winter. Wisdom in hardship.

Proverb II: "Winter's Dance" They that sing in summer Must dance in winter.

Proverb III: "Cold Comfort"
Those who don't pick roses
In the summer
Won't pick them in winter, either.

Proverb IV: "How Long the Winter"
O Wind, if Winter comes,
Can Spring be far behind?
No matter how long the Winter, Spring is
sure to follow.
If Winter comes,
Can Spring be far behind?
O, when the winds begin to sing,
Snow melts soonest
When the winds begin to sing.
No matter how long the Winter, Spring is
sure to follow.
If Winter comes,
Can Spring be far behind?
O, Wind, O!

Paso Na Sinta Ko

Pasko na, sinta ko Hanap-hanap kita Bakit nagtatampo't Nilisan ako? Kung mawawala ka Sa piling ko, sinta Paano ang Paskong Inulila mo? Savana, sinta Ang sinumpaan At pagtitinginang tunay Nais mo bang Kalimutang ganap Ang ating suyuan at galak? Kung mawawala ka Sa piling ko sinta Paano ang Paskong Alay ko sa 'yo?

(Translation) It's Christmas Now, Love

It's Christmas now. love I've been looking for you Why'd you get mad and Leave me? If you'll disappear From my side, love How will Christmas be Now that you've left me alone? What a waste, love The vows And real understanding Do you want To completely forget Our wooing and joys? If you'll disappear From my side, love What's going to happen to the Christmas I dedicate to you?

Ang Pasko Ay Sumapit

Ang Pasko ay sumapit Tayo ay mangagsiawit Ng magagandáng himig Dahil sa ang Diyos ay pag-ibig

Nang si Kristo'y isilang May tatlóng haring nagsidalaw At ang bawat isá ay nagsipaghandóg Ng tanging alay.

Bagong Taón ay magbagong-buhay Nang lumigayà ang ating Bayan Tayo'y magsikap upang makamtán Natin ang kasaganaan!

Tayo'y mangagsiawit Habang ang mundó'y tahimik. Ang araw ay sumapit Ng Sanggól na dulot ng langit.

Tayo ay magmahalan, Ating sundín ang Gintóng Aral At magbuhát ngayon, Kahit hindî Paskô ay magbigayan!

(Translation) Christmas Has Arrived

Christmas has come Come, let us go forth singing Beautiful hymns For God is love.

When Christ was born, There were three kings who did visit, And each one did present A unique offering.

'Tis New Year, So we must reform our lives That joyful might be our Nation; Let us strive that we might achieve Prosperity!

Come, let us go forth singing, Whilst the world is silent The day has arrived, Of the Infant sent from heaven.

Let us love one another, May we follow the Golden Rule, And from now on Though it not be Christmas, Let us keep giving.

Sanna Sannanina (Hosanna)

Sanna sannanina, Sanna, sanna, sanna. Sing noel, sing noel, noel, noel, Sing we all noel.

I'll Be Home for Christmas

Oh, I'm dreaming tonight Of a place I know Even more than I usually do, And although it seems It's a long road back, I promise you:

I'll be home for Christmas, You can count on me. Please have snow and mistletoe And presents under the tree. Christmas Eve will find me Where the love-light gleams. I'll be home for Christmas, If only in my dreams.

Peace, Salaam, Shalom

Peace, Salaam, Shalom (repeat) We believe in Peace (repeat) We will work for Peace (repeat) We can live in Peace (repeat)

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, Love's pure light
Radiant beams of thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, Thy birth, Thy birth
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth

Silent night, holy night, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, at Thy birth, Silent night, holy night, Wondrous star, lend Thy light

SONG LYRICS

With the angels let us sing Aleluia To the King. Christ the Savior, Christ is born. Christ the Savior is born.

Betelehemu

Betelehemu (repeat 24 times) Awa yio ri Baba gbojule Awa yio ri Baba fehinti Awa yio ri Baba gbojule Awa vio ri Baba fehin — Nibola Nibo labi Jesu Nibo labe bi i Nibo labi Jesu Nibo labe be - Betelehemu ilu ara Nibe labi Baba o daju Betelehemu ilu ara Nibe labi Baba o daju lyin, iyin, iyin nifun o lyin, iyin, iyin nifun o Adupe fun o, adupe fun o, Adupe fun ojo oni Baba oloreo lyin fun o Baba, lyin fun o Baba lyin fun o Baba anu Baba toda wasi

Betelehemu (repeated)

Awa yio ri Baba gbojule Awa yio ri Baba fehinti Awa yio ri Baba gbojule Awa yio ri Baba fehin – Nibola Nibo labi Jesu Nibo labe bi i Nibo labi Jesu Nibo labe be — Betelehemu ilu ara Nibe labi Baba o daju Betelehemu ilu ara

The Man with the Bag

Up on the house top reindeer pause, Out jumps good old Santa Claus Down through the chimney With lots of toys, All for the little ones' Christmas joys Ho, ho, ho, who wouldn't go

Old Mr. Kringle, is soon gonna jingle The bells that'll tinkle All your troubles away Ev'rybody's waitin' For the man with the bag 'Cause Christmas is comin' again

He's got a sleighful, It's not gonna stay full He's got stuff to drop At ev'ry step of the way Ev'rybody's waitin' For the man with the bag 'Cause Christmas is comin' again

He'll be here
With the answers to the prayers
That you've made through the year
You'll get yours if you've done
Ev'rything you should
Extra special good
He'll make this December
The one you'll remember
The best and the merriest
You ever did have
Ev'rybody's waitin'
For the man with the bag
'Cause Christmas is comin' again

Come on and bring it Santa!
Ho, ho, ho, ho, ho
You need to bring it Santa!
Dashing through the snow
Ho, ho, ho who wouldn't go?
Ho, ho, ho who wouldn't go
Up on the house top click, click, click
Down through the chimney with
Good Saint, good Saint,
Good Saint Nick!

He'll be here
With the answers to the prayers
That you've made through the year
You'll get yours if you've done
Everything you should
Extra special good

He'll make this December The one you'll remember The best and the merriest You ever did have Everybody's waitin' For the man with the bag 'Cause Christmas is comin' again

Ev'rybody's waitin' For the man with the bag 'Cause Christmas, Christmas, Christmas Is comin again! Christmas is comin' again!

My Grown-Up Christmas List

Do you remember me I sat upon your knee I wrote to you With childhood fantasies Well I'm all grown up now And still need help somehow I'm not a child But my heart still can dream

So here's my lifelong wish My grown up Christmas list Not for myself but for a world in need

No more lives torn apart

That wars would never start And time would heal all hearts And everyone would have a friend And right would always win And love would never end, no This is my grown up Christmas list

As children we believe
The grandest sight to see
Was something lovely
Wrapped beneath the tree
But Heaven only knows
The packages and bows
Can never heal a hurting human soul

No more lives torn apart That wars would never start And time would heal all hearts And everyone would have a friend And right would always win And love would never end, no This is my grown up Christmas list

What is this illusion called The innocence of youth Maybe only in our blind belief can we ever find the truth

No more lives torn apart
That wars would never start
And time would heal all hearts
And everyone would have a friend
And right would always win
And love would never end, no
This is my grown up Christmas list
This is my grown up Christmas list

12 Days of Christmas/Africa

On the first day of Christmas My true love gave to me, A partridge in a pear tree On the second day of Christmas My true love gave to me, Two turtle doves And a partridge in a pear tree

On the fourth day of Christ
On the third day of Christmas
My true love gave to me,
Five golden rings
Four calling birds, three french hens,
Two turtle doves
And a partridge in a pear tree

On the ninth day of Christmas On the eighth day of Christmas My true love gave to me Nine ladies dancing Eight maids a milking Seven swans a swimming Six geese a laying, five

You better not shout,

You better not cry, You better not in a pear tree

On the ninth (no) On the eighth (no)

Deck the halls with boughs of holly Here we come awassailing Among the leaves so Fa la la la la la la Four calling birds Three French hens Two turtle doves The boar's head in hand bear Bedeck'd with bays And partridge in a pear tree

On the eleventh day of Christmas
My true love gave to me
Eleven pipers piping
Ten lords a leaping
Nine ladies dancing
Eight maids a milking
Seven swans a swimming
Six geese a laying
Five golden rings
Four calling birds
Three french hens
Two turtle doves
And Rudolph the red nosed reindeer

On the twelfth day of Christmas My true love gave to me I have a little dreidel, I made it out of clay, And when it's dry and ready A dreidel I shall play. Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel

On the twelfth days of Christmas

On the twelfth day my true love gave to me Twelve drummers drumming Like Olympus above the Serengeti Eleven pipers piping, ten lords a leaping

Nine ladies dancing
They were dancing for me
Eight maids a milking
They were milking just for me
I had Christmas down in Africa
Onna deck the halls
And do the things we never had
Partridge in a big pear tree
Partridge in a big pear tree

Favorite One

We want you to know Our holiday show Now features our favorite ho, ho, ho

SONG LYRICS

We give you Mrs. Claus's bouncing son. Wherever he goes this jolly old soul Brings presents and cheer And love to everyone Hooray for our favorite one.

(Repeat)

Hooray for our favorite, Hooray for our favorite, Hooray for our favorite one Hooray!

Hanukkah Rhapsody

Hanukkah! Hanukkah! Festival of lights! Goes on for eight nights And one recites A blessing for the lights Which one of them ignites From left to right

This is my fav'rite part Of the whole eight nights. Baruch... Sha-nu, Ah Amen. Amen

A mitzvah from the heart.
But come on, dear,
So much to Hanukkah,
And that's your fav'rite part?
What about potato latkes?
Me, I like potato latkes.
Hanukkah is latkes served
With lots of applesauce.
Latkes, latkes, we love latkes.
Hanukkah is latkes with sour cream.

Hanukkah! Hanukkah!
Night number four! Night four!
Don't make this a chore! A chore!
We've done this before
Recite with me, I implore
This blessing that I adore
The blessing of the menorah.
Please sing with me.
Baruch atah hashem Eloheinu
Melech Ha-olam a-sher kidh shanu
B'mitz vo-tav vah-tzi va-nu.
Amen, Amen.

What about a jelly donut?
Me, I like a jelly donut.
Hanukkah is jelly donuts
Known as sufganyiot.
Jelly do-nut, jelly do-nut
Hanukkah as long as it's fried.
After all is said and done,
There's nothing that can beat the fun
Of spinning dreidels
'Round and 'round.

A better time cannot be found. Are you freaking kidding me? Some crappy chocolate's all you win.

Nun or gimel, hei or shin, O let the dreidel game begin! Nun or gimel, hei or shin, O let the dreidel game begin! Candles, I love the candles. In the shine of candlelight.

Candles, I love the candles.
Growing brighter, brighter, brighter With each passing night.
Candles, I love the candles.
The children's candles,
I love the candles.
I love the...
Hanukkah!
Potato latkes applesauce is...
Hanukkah! A nightly blessing,
Window-dressing.

On the first night, there's a present.
On the second night, a present.
Present, present, present, present!
It's a present every night!
Jelly donuts may be pleasant,
But admit it: it's the presents!
It's so fun to open presents
In the glow of candlelight.
Presents! Presents! We love presents!
Presents! Presents! Gifts and presents!
Aha! Voilà! Ta-da! Hanukkah!

Cold Moon

We lift a song against the winter's hush We lift a glass against the looming cold We lift a candle high A fading flicker on the longest night We carol only to the ringing dark

Hark! Hear the bells Sweet silver bells All seem to say Throw cares away Christmas is here Bringing good cheer To young and old Meek and the bold

Now the cold moon paints our steps in faded blue
We speak of last year's resolutions failed And all our fragile hopes
We tell our sorrows to the longest night And hear them echo
In the ringing

Hark! Hear the bells Sweet silver bells All seem to say Throw cares away Christmas is here Bringing good cheer To young and old Meek and the bold

When the songs of good and cheer Drone dismally When the sweet silver bells Clang endlessly on We will walk homeward Under frozen stars and pause Hearing only the north wind Seeing only our shadows on the snow Feeling only the wonder Of the cold moon's glow

Hark! Hear the bells Sweet silver bells All seem to say Throw cares away Christmas is here Bringing good cheer To young and old Meek and the bold

And in another cold moon
May we find
Find the peace we've sung
So long about
May the waning dark attend
Our hopes this time
May the waning dark attend
Our hopes this time
And may the candle burn a little
Brighter on the longest night
May we find new songs to sing

See Amid the Winter's Snow/Lo How A Rose

See amid the winter's snow Blossoms hiding there below Soon the warming sun appears Cycling life through all the years

Dormant earth is called again from sleep Life's eternal promise keep For from the gray and white and cold Comes the spring foretold.

Keep me safe and guide my way Show me goodness every day Let the story told by earth Kindle my renewing birth

Dormant earth is called again from sleep Life's eternal promise keep For from the gray and white and cold Comes the spring foretold.

See amid the winter's snow What seemed death so still below Is but sleep from which we rise To a world reborn revised. Dormant earth is called again from sleep Life's eternal promise keep For from the gray and white and cold Comes the spring foretold.

Give Love on Christmas Day

I don't care if the house is packed, Love is simply joy that I'm home. I don't care if the carpet's stained. Our little room is warm and stable. Love is who we are O00... Season can contain it. Love... Love would never fall for that. Ooo..., Ooo..., Ooo... Let love lead us. Love is Christmas. Why so scared that you'll mess it up, When perfection keeps you haunted? All we need is your best, my love; That's all anyone ever wanted. Love is how we do. Let no judgment overrule it. Love, I look to you, and I sing Ooo..., Ooo..., Ah..., Ah..., Ooo... Let love lead us. Love is Christmas. Let love lead us. Love is Christmas.

Now Behold the Lamb

Now behold the Lamb The Precious Lamb of God Born into sin that I may live again The Precious Lamb of God

Now behold the Lamb The Precious Lamb of God Born into sin that I may live again The Precious Lamb of God

Holy is the Lamb The Precious Lamb of God Why You love me so, Lord I shall never know The Precious Lamb of God

Holy is the Lamb The Precious Lamb of God Why You love me so, Lord I shall never know The Precious Lamb of God

Now behold the Lamb The Precious Lamb of God Born into sin that I may live again He's the precious Lamb of God

When I always didn't do right I went left, He told me to go right But I'm standing right here In the midst of my tears, Lord I thank You to be the Lamb of God Thank You for the Lamb

SONG LYRICS

The Precious Lamb of God Because of Your grace I can finish this race The Precious Lamb of God

Even when I broke, broke Your heart My sins tore us apart But I'm standing right here In the midst of my tears I claim You to be the Lamb of God

New life can begin For You washed away, Washed away every one of my sins Whom the Son sets free, Is truly free indeed I claim You to be the Lamb of God

Now behold the Lamb The Precious Lamb of God Born into sin that I may live again

The Precious Lamb of God Oh oh oh Oh, oh, oh, Why You love me so, Lord I shall never know Why You love me so, Lord I shall never know

Why You love me so, Lord I shall never know
The Precious Lamb of God
Oh, oh, oh
Oh, oh, oh
Oh, oh, oh
Why You love me so, Lord
I shall never know
The Precious Lamb of God

Love is Christmas

I don't care if the house is packed Or the strings of light are broken I don't care if the gifts are wrapped Or there's nothing here to open

Love is not a toy, And no paper will conceal it Love is simply joy that I'm home

I don't care if the carpet's stained, We've got food upon our table I don't care if it's gonna rain, Our little room is warm and stable

Love is who we are, And no season can contain it Love would never fall for that

We sing, "Ooh Ooh, ooh" Let love lead us, love is Christmas Why so scared that you'll mess it up When perfection keeps you haunted? All we need is your best, my love, That's all anyone ever wanted

Love is how we do, Let no judgment overrule it Love, I look to you, and I sing

Ooh Ooh Ooh Ooh

Let love lead us, love is Christmas Let love lead us, love is Christmas

TeXmas Hold 'Em

This is Christmas (woo),
Merry Christmas (hey),
So lay your cards down,
Down, down, down
So wrap your presents
And roast some chestnuts
Stick around, 'round,
'Round, 'round (stick around)

And I'll be damned
If I can't kiss on you
Under mistletoe, Santa, too
It's a real-life carol
And a real-life hoedown
Don't be a Grinch,
Come take it to the floor now, woo

We put the tree up Ain't it pretty Out of tinsel, it's just a pity Sparkling lights up and we're vibin' Sweet hot cocoa, sugar cookies, Sparklin' wine, yeah Ooh, on this special night Sugar plums are dancing And the kids are sleeping right Ooh, put the angel on the tree Then back under the mistletoe, boy, Kiss me, baby please

This is Christmas (woo), Merry Christmas (hey) So lay your cards down, Down, down down So wrap your presents (woo) And bake some cookies (hey) Stick around, 'round, 'Round 'round

And I'll be damned If I can't kiss on you Under mistletoe, Santa, too It's a real-life carol And a real-life hoedown Don't be a Grinch, Come take it to the floor now, woo And I'll be damned If I can't kiss on you Under mistletoe, Santa, too It's a real-life carol And a real-life hoedown Don't be a Grinch, Come take it to the floor now, woo

Woo-hoo Woo-hoo

There's some reindeer on the rooftop Sleigh bells are ringing Holiday magic Jolly old St. Nick is right back at it And in the morning there'll be snow And good yuletide, yeah Ooh, on this special night Sugar plums are dancing And the kids are sleeping right Ooh, put the angel on the tree Then back under the mistletoe, boy, Kiss me, baby please

This is Christmas (woo), Merry Christmas (hey) So lay your cards down, Down, down, down So wrap your presents (woo) And roast some chestnuts (hey) Stick around, 'round,
'Round, 'round And I'll be damned
If I can't kiss on you
Under mistletoe, Santa, too
It's a real-life carol
And a real-life hoedown
Don't be a Grinch,
Come take it to the floor now, woo

And I'll be damned
If I can't kiss on you
Under mistletoe, Santa, too
It's a real-life carol
And a real-life hoedown
Don't be a _____,
Come take it to the floor now, woo

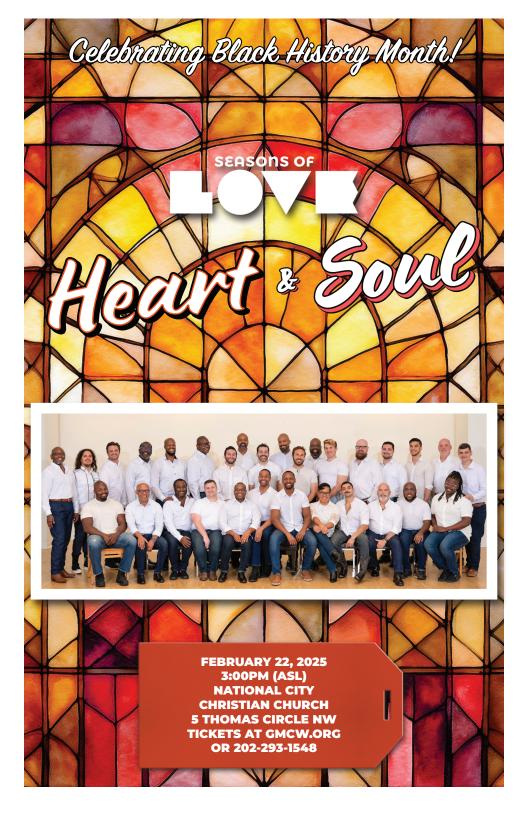
Take it to the floor now, ooh Cheer, presents, joy To the floor now, ooh Bells, bows, gifts (ooh, ooh, ooh) Come take it to the floor now, ooh

And I'll be damned If I can't kiss on you Under mistletoe, Santa, too Bells, bows, gifts Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas, shoot









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

Tammy Baldwin, US Senator, 2023

Joaquin "Jocko" Fajardo*, 2024

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

GLSEN. 2024

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 Buhrman, 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

Thea Kano and Theodore Guerrant, 2024

* posthumously awarded



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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 athome 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 44 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.

PHOTOS















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 Larry Cohen John-Paul Hayworth Rob Serpa, Jr.

2016

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

2017

Jarrod 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

2023

Michael Aylward Rick Bennett Justin Fyala Solomon HaileSelassie Keygan Miller Paul Negron Kirk Sobell Santos Torres

2024

Mike Allen Ralph Alston David Karnick Bill Lipsett Shawn Morris Nicole Streeter

^{*} posthumously awarded

OVATION SOCIETY

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.

GMCW Ovation Society

Robert Agnello & Jerry Pape

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Bill Ashley

Thomas Augustin

J. Max Barger

Susan Barrett

Curtis Bell*

Roger Bergstrom*

Jeff Bonnell

Fred Boykin & Jack Killen

Peter Brayton*

Michael Brinkman*

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Joe Canter

Russ Capps* & Ken Yazge

Steve Crutchfield & Richard Ormseth

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William Moran

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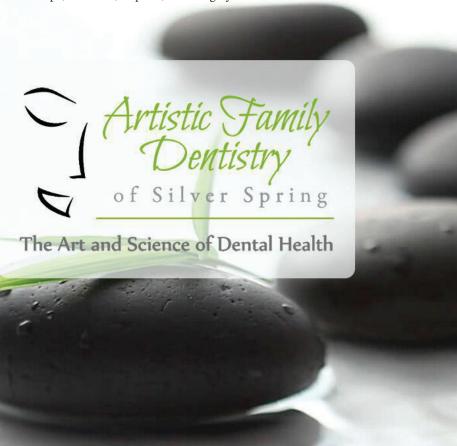
Robert Wilkinson* & Kevin Gowen

Jim Woods & Scott Shields

* Deceased

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* deceased











PARTNERS IN HARMONY

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 faithbased 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.

Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church

Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation All Souls Church Unitarian

All Souls Episcopal Church

Arlington Presbyterian Church

Augustana Lutheran Church

Bet Mishpachah

Bethel United Church of Christ

Bethesda United Church of Christ Bethesda United Methodist Church

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Beverley Hills Community United Methodist Church

Bull Run Unitarian Universalist Church Burke Presbyterian Church

Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church

Capitol Hill United Methodist Church

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

Center for Spiritual Living — Metro

Christ Church + Washington Parish

Christ Congregational Church

Christ Episcopal Church Kensington

Church of the Ascension

The Church of the Epiphany Church of the Pilgrims

Clarendon Presbyterian Church

Commonwealth Baptist Church

Congregation Ner Shalom

Dignity Washington

Dumbarton United Methodist Church Emmanuel Episcopal Church

Fairlington Presbyterian Church

Fairlington United Methodist Church

The Falls Church Episcopal

First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, DC

First Christian Church of Falls Church

First Congregational United Church of Christ

Foundry United Methodist Church

Friends Meeting of Washington (Quakers) Georgetown Lutheran Church

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Hope United Church of Christ

Immanuel Presbyterian Church

Kol Ami: Northern Virginia Jewish

Reconstructionist Community

Little River United Church of Christ

Luther Place Memorial Church

Lutheran Church of the Reformation

Many Voices

Metropolitan Community Church of Northern Virginia

Metropolitan Community Church of Washington

Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

National City Christian Church New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

Oaklands Presbyterian Church

Oseh Shalom

Rising Sun Outreach Ministry

River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ

Rockville Presbyterian Church

St. Alban's Episcopal Church St. Anne's Episcopal Church

St. George's Episcopal Church, Glenn Dale Parish

St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square

St. John's Episcopal Church, Norwood Parish

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church

St. Thomas' Parish Episcopal Church

Takoma Park Presbyterian Church

Temple Rodef Shalom

Tikkun Leil Shabbat

Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Sterling

The United Church — Die Vereinigte Kirche

Unity Fellowship Church of Washington, DC

Unity of Fairfax

Universalist National Memorial Church

Washington City Church of the Brethren

Washington Ethical Society

Washington National Cathedral Westminster Presbyterian Church

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

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PASSPORTS

