



9TH ANNUAL

# YOUTH INVASION



**GEOUT**  
YOUTH CHORUS

C. PAUL HEINS, DIRECTOR

WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
**VOICES OF HOPE YOUTH CHOIR**

**APRIL 27, 2025**  
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# PROGRAM

9TH ANNUAL

## YOUTH INVASION

C. Paul Heins, Conductor

### GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS

Sisi Sote.....	Music by Andy Beck Swahili text
Yemaya.....	Afro-Cuban chant Arranged by Diana V. Sáez
El sol brillará otra vez.....	Music & lyrics by Suzzette Ortiz English translation by René Ginett
Shepherd's Song.....	Folk song from Inner Mongolia Arranged by Shirley W. McRae
Sesere Eeye.....	Traditional song from the Torres Strait Islands Transcription by Matthew Doyle
GenOUT Canon.....	Music by Thomas Tallis Lyrics by C. Paul Heins

### GENOUT SELECT ENSEMBLE

Crowded Table.....	Music & lyrics by Natalie Hemby, Lori McKenna, & Brandi Carlile Arranged by Andrea Ramsey
Anybody Have a Map?.....	Music & lyrics by Benj Pasek & Justin Paul From <i>Dear Evan Hansen</i> Arranged by Mark Brymer
Look to the Rainbow.....	Music & lyrics by E.Y. "Yip" Harburg & Burton Lane From <i>Finian's Rainbow</i> Arranged by Mark Hayes

### VOICES OF HOPE

Fight Song.....	Music & lyrics by Rachel Platten & Dave Bassett Arranged by Roger Emerson
Carry the Light.....	Music & lyrics by Andy Beck
This is Me.....	Music & lyrics by Benj Pasek & Justin Paul From <i>The Greatest Showman</i> Arranged by Mac Huff

### GENOUT SELECT ENSEMBLE & VOICES OF HOPE

I Choose Love.....	Music by Mark A. Miller Lyrics by Lindy Thompson
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### GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS & VOICES OF HOPE

I Lift My Voice.....	Music & lyrics by Andrea Ramsey Harmonies by C. Paul Heins
Give Us Hope.....	Music by Jim Papoulis Lyrics by Jim Papoulis, Leo Schaff, & Regine Urbach Arranged by Francisco J. Nuñez

**GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS**

Anthem.....Music by Jennifer Higdon  
Poem by Elaine Sexton, after Francis Alys

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

Make Them Hear You.....Music by Stephen Flaherty  
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens  
From *Ragtime*  
Arranged by Jeff Funk

**GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS & ALUMNI**

I Was Here.....Music & lyrics by Gary Burr, Hillary Scott,  
& Victoria Shaw  
Arranged by Alan Billingsley

**GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS**

Why We Sing.....Music & lyrics by Greg Gilpin

**GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS AND VOICES OF HOPE**

Truly Brave.....Music & lyrics by Sara Bareilles,  
Jack Antonoff, Billy Steinberg, & Tom Kelly  
Arranged by Mac Huff





# GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS

The GenOUT Youth Chorus is the Washington, DC, area's only vocal ensemble for LGBTQ+ and allied youth. An outreach ensemble of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC, GenOUT operates under the two-fold mission to give LGBTQ+ and allied youth a voice through song, and to connect that voice to community. The ensemble is open to all singers between the ages of 13 and 18. Since its debut in spring 2015, the GenOUT Chorus has performed at the Lincoln Theatre, the Kennedy Center, Washington National Cathedral, the White House, the Library of Congress, the GALA Choruses Festival and the ACDA National Conference. More than 150 singers from over 75 schools have participated in GenOUT.

C. Paul Heins, Director  
Javon Byam, Chorus Manager  
Barbara Schelstrate, piano  
Chris Chlumsky, bass  
Jo Huling, percussion

## GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS

Cal Ausema  
Maysen Bedsole (SE)  
Ben Biggs \* (SE)  
Zach Briskin-Watson \* (SE)  
Anya Cardiff  
Xavier Finch  
Victor Kidwell \* (SE)  
Avani Konek  
Ira Miner (SE)

Anjali Murthy \* (SE)  
Ailsa Ostovitz \* (SE)  
Callum Seay-Lee  
Birch Shea  
Hannah Sisan  
Ziv Stuart  
Ezra Thomas (SE)  
Asher Wise

(SE) = Select Ensemble member  
\* = Youth Leadership Team member



# VOICES OF HOPE

The Voices of Hope Youth Choir communicates Unitarian Universalist principles through songs of justice and activism and is guided by issues important to the youth. Participants use a multi-arts environment to deepen their sense of belonging and grow in confidence. Musically, participants sing, dance, and play instruments according to interest and ability, and theatrically use improvisation games.

Laura Weiss, Director

Autumn Yates, Assistant Director

Joy Barbosa

Saige Bilidas

Marcus Bogart

Aurora Campos-Poehnert

Ethan Chichka

Chloe O'Hearn

Jocelyn Orban

Noor Parsons

Hayden Rothermel

Betty Schlageter-Prettyman

Lily Shipley

Elowyn Silva

Maya Smith

Logan Vera

Maddox Vera

Adia Weiss

Daphne Wheeler

Rebecca Wheeler

Annaleigh Yates

Finn Yates

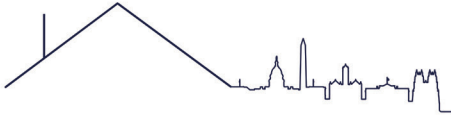
Milo Yates

Oliver Yates





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# C. PAUL HEINS



## GenOUT Youth Chorus Director (he/him)

C. Paul Heins joined the GMCW artistic team in the 2014 – 2015 season. As Associate Conductor, one of his chief responsibilities has been the direction of the GenOUT Youth Chorus. Now celebrating its tenth season, GenOUT is a leader among the network of LGBTQ+ and allied youth choruses. More than 150 singers from over 75 schools around the DC metro area have participated in GenOUT since January 2015.

Before joining GMCW, Dr. Heins was the director of the Concert Choir at Georgetown University and of the Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington. He 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 were Edward Maclary, Patrick Walders, and Mark S. Kelly (conducting); William Montgomery and Judith Bentley (flute); and Virginia Marks and Victoria Harris (piano). His doctoral research focused on Lukas Foss's 1942 cantata *The Prairie*.

Dr. Heins is a frequent guest pianist, flutist, conductor, and presenter in the DC area. He serves on the boards of the Cathedral Choral Society and the MD/DC state chapter of ACDA, as well as the LGBTQ+ Steering Committee for DC Public Schools and the Community Advisory Board for the CDC's Prevention Research Center at the University of Maryland.

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# GENOUT SUMMER CAMP



## GenOUT Summer Camp

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Final concert Friday, June 27 at 6:00pm at Clarendon United Methodist Church

To register, e-mail [cpheins@gmcw.org](mailto:cpheins@gmcw.org).





# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Speakers:	Anjali Murthy, Maysen Bedsole, Ziv Stuart, Asher Wise, Ira Miner, Ailsa Ostovitz, Ben Biggs, Hannah Sisan
ASL instruction:	Silvio Weisner
Chinese language coaching:	Yiming Xu
GenOUT Youth Leadership Team:	Ben Biggs, Ailsa Ostovitz, Victor Kidwell, Zach Briskin-Watson, Anjali Murthy
GenOUT Accompanist Team :	Michael Lodico, Barbara Schelstrate, Jason Sherlock, Alex Tang
GenOUT Rehearsal Team:	Michael Aylward, Chipper Dean, Karen Garlick, Carter Grimes, Gregoriah Hartman, Hey-Jin Kong, Nico MacDougall, Benn May, Shawn Morris, Becca Schaefer, Mario Sengco, Emily Shaw, Dana Shea, Brian Watts
GMCW Production Team:	Chipper Dean, Mark Klein, Michael Cunningham

## Special thank you to:

- Parents/guardians and families of our youth singers, for their steadfast support
- The clergy, staff, and congregation of St. Thomas' Parish Episcopal Church, for welcoming us into this space
- The staff and singers of The Thirteen, for sectionals and masterclasses
- The GMCW baking team, led by Zac Barger, for hosting today's post-concert reception

## PAST YOUTH INVASION COLLABORATORS

2017	Arlington Children's Choir
2018	The Musicianship's Washington Youth Choir
2019	Potomac Fever and Rock Creek Singers
2020	Children's Chorus of Washington
2021	Virtual concert
2022	Mosaic Harmony
2023	Adat Shalom's Chords of Glory and Seasons of Love
2024	Jackson-Reed High School Choir



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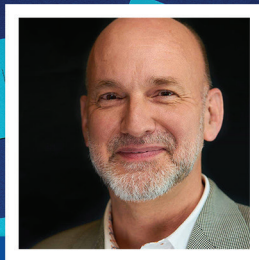
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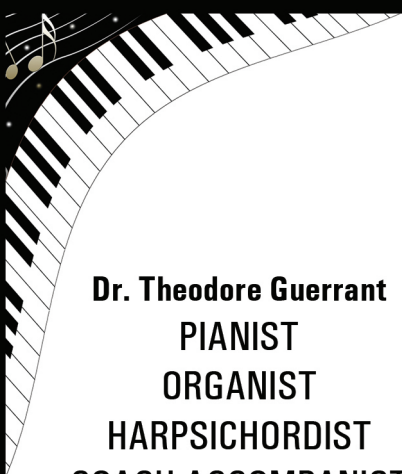
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# SONG LYRICS

## SISI SOTE

Sisi sote ni furaha. Kusherehekea!  
Sisi sote ni furaha. Kusherehekea!

This is a time for singing — kumba.  
This is a day of joy — furaha.  
This is a time to celebrate — Kusherehekea!

Sisi sote ni furaha. Kusherehekea!  
Sisi sote ni furaha. Kusherehekea!

Makofi mikono yako!  
Hoja yo miguu yako!  
Makofi mikono yako!  
Hoja yo miguu yako!

This is a time for dancing — ngoma.  
This is a day of joy — furaha.  
This is a time to celebrate — Kusherehekea!

Sisi sote ni furaha. Kusherehekea!  
Sisi sote ni furaha. Kusherehekea!

Makofi mikono yako!  
Hoja yo miguu yako!  
Sisi sote ni furaha. Sisi sote!

*(translation)*  
All of us are joyful. Celebrate!  
All of us are joyful. Celebrate!

Clap your hands!  
Move your feet!  
Clap your hands!  
Move your feet!

All of us are joyful. Celebrate!  
All of us are joyful. Celebrate!

Clap your hands!  
Move your feet!  
All of us are joyful. All of us!

## YEMAYA

Aseseu Yemaya  
Olodo Yemaya

*(translation)*  
Great goddess / mother Earth  
We pray to you

## EL SOL BRILLARÁ OTRA VEZ

Aunque mi voz callara, mi alma cantará.  
En tiempo de angustia y desolación,  
Si la luna y el sol de jaran de brillar,  
No pierdo la esperanza, la mañana llegará.

Even if the love  
That's in the world turns into hate,  
Even if a war  
Would bring the dark and separate,

May the sunlight rise again  
And hope in our hearts remain.

When the winter comes  
And turns the colors all to gray,  
Spring will bring a rainbow  
In the sky to celebrate.

Nada de turbe mi alma ten fe  
Que el sol brillara otra vez, otra vez.  
Traera un nuevo amanecer.  
El sol brillara otra vez.

*(translation)*  
Even if my voices kept quiet,  
My soul would sing.  
In time of distress and desolation,  
If the sun and moon will shine,  
I don't lose hope; tomorrow will come.

No troubling, my soul; have faith  
That the sun will shine again, again.  
It will bring a new dawn.  
The sun will shine again.

## SHEPHERD'S SONG

Lan lan de tian kong shang  
Piao zhe na bai yun  
Bai yun de xia mian gai zhe xue  
Bai de yang qun

Blue, blue are heavens  
Where warm breezes blow  
White clouds look down upon  
White flocks below

White lambs, the silver stars,  
Shine over the plain  
Filling the grasslands with sweet life again  
Ooooohh...

*(translation)*  
White clouds float in the blue sky  
Underneath the white clouds  
Are snow-white sheep

## SESERE EEEYE

Sesere eeye, sesere eeye,  
Nar in narin a roparte.  
Sesere eeye, sesere eeye,  
Nar in narin a roparte.  
Roparte marowski amma te sesere eeye.  
Roparte marowski amma te sesere eeye.

*(translation)*  
A hero turns himself into a kingfisher bird  
and dives in and out of the water from his  
canoe, catching fish at daybreak.



## GENOUT CANON

We join our hands, our hearts, our song  
In this place where we all belong.  
No one can take our pride away.  
We grow in courage everyday.

## CROWDED TABLE

You can hold my hand  
When you need to let go.  
I can be your mountain  
When you're feeling valley-low.

I can be your streetlight  
Showing you the way home  
You can hold my hand  
When you need to let go.

I want a house with a crowded table  
And a place by the fire for everyone.  
Let us take on the world  
While we're young and able  
And bring us back together  
When the day is done.

If we want a garden,  
We're gonna have to sow the seed,  
Plant a little happiness,  
Let the roots run deep.

If it's love that we give,  
Then it's love that we reap.  
If we want a garden,  
We're gonna have to sow the seed.

Yeah, I want a house with a crowded table  
And a place by the fire for everyone.  
Let us take on the world  
While we're young and able  
And bring us back together  
When the day is done.

The door is always open,  
Your picture's on my wall.  
Everyone's a little broken,  
And everyone belongs.  
Yeah, everyone belongs.

I want a house with a crowded table  
And a place by the fire for everyone.  
Let us take on the world  
While we're young and able  
And bring us back together  
When the day is done.  
And bring us back together  
When the day is done.  
And bring us back together  
When the day is done.

## ANYBODY HAVE A MAP?

Can we try to have an optimistic outlook?  
Can we buck up just enough to see the  
world won't fall apart?

Maybe this year, we decide  
We're not giving up before we've tried?  
This year, we make a new start.

Another stellar conversation  
For the scrapbook  
Another stumble as I'm reaching  
For the right thing to say  
Well, I'm kinda coming up empty  
Can't find my way to you.

Does anybody have a map?  
Anybody maybe happen to know  
How the hell to do this?  
I don't know if you can tell  
But this is me just pretending to know.  
So where's the map? I need a clue  
'Cause the scary truth is  
I'm flying blind,  
And I'm making this up as I go.

Another masterful attempt  
Ends with disaster  
Pour another cup of coffee,  
And watch it all crash and burn  
It's a puzzle, it's a maze  
I try to steer through it a million ways,  
But each day's another wrong turn.

Does anybody have a map?  
Anybody maybe happen to know  
How the hell to do this?  
I don't know if you can tell  
But this is me just pretending to know.  
So where's the map? I need a clue  
'Cause the scary truth is  
I'm flying blind,  
And I'm making this up as I go.

Does anybody have a map?  
Anybody maybe happen to know  
How the hell to do this?  
I don't know if you can tell  
But this is me just pretending to know.  
So where's the map? I need a clue  
'Cause the scary truth is  
I'm flying blind, I'm flying blind,  
I'm flying blind, I'm flying blind,  
I'm flying blind,  
And I'm making this up as I go  
As I go. As I go. As I go.

## LOOK TO THE RAINBOW

On the day I was born,  
Said my father, said he:  
"I've an elegant legacy waiting for thee.  
'Tis a rhyme for your lips  
And a song for your heart  
To sing it whenever the world falls apart."

Look, look, look to the rainbow.  
Follow it over the hill and stream.  
Look, look, look to the rainbow.  
Follow the fellow who follows a dream.

# SONG LYRICS

'Twas a sumptuous gift  
To bequeath to a child  
Oh, the lure of that song  
Kept my feet running wild.  
For you never grow old,  
And you never stand still,  
With whippoorwills singing  
Beyond the next hill.

Look, look, look to the rainbow.  
Follow it over the hill and stream.  
Look, look, look to the rainbow.  
Follow the fellow who follows a dream.

So I bundled me heart,  
And I roamed the world free,  
To the east with the lark,  
And the west with the sea,  
And I searched all the earth  
And I scanned all the skies,  
But I found it at last  
In my own true love's eyes.

Look, look, look to the rainbow.  
Follow it over the hill and stream.  
Look, look, look to the rainbow.  
Follow the fellow who follows a dream.

Follow the fellow, follow the fellow,  
Follow the fellow who follows a dream  
Follow your dream!

## FIGHT SONG

Like a small boat on the ocean  
Sending big waves into motion,  
Like how a single word  
Can make a heart open,  
I might only have one match  
That I can make an explosion.

And all those things I didn't say  
Were wrecking balls inside my brain  
And I will scream 'em aloud tonight.  
Can you hear my voice this time?

This is my fight song,  
"Take-back-my-life" song,  
"Prove-I'm-alright" song,  
My power's turned on.  
Starting right now, I'll be strong.  
I'll play my fight song.  
And I don't really care if nobody else believes  
'Cause I've still got a lot of fight left in me.

Losin' friends and I'm chasin' sleep,  
Everybody's worried 'bout me.  
In too deep, say I'm in too deep.  
And it's been two years, I miss my home,  
But there's a fire burnin' in my bones.  
I still believe, yeah, I still believe.

And all those things I didn't say  
Were wrecking balls inside my brain  
And I will scream 'em aloud tonight.

Can you hear my voice this time?  
This is my fight song,  
"Take-back-my-life" song,  
"Prove-I'm-alright" song,  
My power's turned on.  
Starting right now, I'll be strong.  
I'll play my fight song.  
And I don't really care if nobody else believes  
'Cause I've still got a lot of fight left in me.  
A lot of fight left in me.

Like a small boat on the ocean  
Sending big waves into motion,  
Like how a single word can make a heart  
open,  
I might only have one match that I can make  
an explosion.

This is my fight song, (Hey!)  
"Take-back-my-life" song, (Hey!)  
"Prove-I'm-alright" song, (Hey!)  
My power's turned on. (Hey!)  
Starting right now, I'll be strong. (Hey!)  
I'll play my fight song. (Hey!)  
And I don't really care if nobody else believes  
'Cause I've still got a lot of fight left in me.  
No, I've still got a lot of fight left in me.

## CARRY THE LIGHT

I will carry the light,  
Like a candle that shines in the night,  
I'll be a beacon that's burning bright,  
I will carry the light.

I will carry the light,  
Like a candle that shines in the night,  
I'll be a beacon that's burning bright,  
I will carry the light.

Lux aeterna, lux aeterna,  
The light inside of me,  
Lux aeterna, lux aeterna,  
Will shine eternally.

There's a light that's inside  
That I'm not gonna hide,  
'Cause that light will make the embers ignite.  
And the light that's in me will forever be.  
I will carry the light

Lux aeterna, lux Aeterna,  
The light inside of me,  
Lux aeterna, lux Aeterna,  
Will shine eternally.

## THIS IS ME

I am not a stranger to the dark.  
"Hide away," they say,  
"Cause we don't want your broken parts."  
I've learned to be ashamed of all my scars.  
"Run away," they say,  
"No one'll love you as you are,"

I won't let them break me down to dust,  
I know that there's a place for us,  
For we are glorious.

When the sharpest words  
Wanna cut me down,  
I'm gonna send a flood,  
Gonna drown 'em out,  
I am brave, I am bruised,  
I am who I'm meant to be,  
This is me.

Look out, 'cause here I come,  
And I'm marching on to the beat I drum.  
I'm not scared to be seen,  
I make no apologies,  
This is me. Oh...

Another round of bullets hits my skin,  
Well, fire away, 'cause today  
I won't let the shame sink in.  
We are burstin' through the barricades  
And reachin' for the sun,  
We are warriors  
That's what we've become.

I won't let them break me down to dust,  
I know that there's a place for us,  
For we are glorious.

When the sharpest words  
Wanna cut me down,  
I'm gonna send a flood,  
Gonna drown 'em out,  
I am brave, I am bruised,  
I am who I'm meant to be,  
This is me.

Look out, 'cause here I come,  
And I'm marching on to the beat I drum.  
I'm not scared to be seen,  
I make no apologies,  
This is me. Oh...

When the sharpest words  
Wanna cut me down,  
I'm gonna send a flood,  
Gonna drown 'em out,  
This is brave, this is bruised,  
This is who I'm meant to be,  
This is me.  
Look out, 'cause here I come,  
And I'm marching on to the beat I drum.  
I'm not scared to be seen,  
I make no apologies,  
This is me. Oh...  
This is me!

### **I CHOOSE LOVE**

In the midst of pain, I choose love.  
In the midst of pain, I choose love.  
In the midst of pain,  
Sorrow falling down like rain,  
I await the sun again, I choose love.

I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.  
In the midst of war, I choose peace.  
In the midst of war,  
Hate and anger keeping score,  
I will seek the good once more,  
I choose peace.  
I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise.  
When my world falls down, I will rise.  
When my world falls down,  
Explanations can't be found,  
I will climb to higher ground, I will rise.  
I will rise.

In the midst of pain, I choose love.  
In the midst of pain, I choose love.  
In the midst of pain,  
Sorrow falling down like rain,  
I await the sun again, I choose love.  
I choose love.

### **I LIFT MY VOICE**

When I lift my voice, let it be in song.  
A defiant note in the face of wrong.  
I won't stand alone, we'll stand side by side,  
'Cause we know that love is always justified.  
When they try to divide us,  
It will only unite us.  
I lift my voice.

When I lift my voice, let it be for good.  
Let me care as much as I know I should.  
I won't stand alone, we'll stand side by side,  
'Cause we know that love is always justified.  
When they try to divide us,  
It will only unite us.  
I lift my voice.

### **GIVE US HOPE**

Listen to the sound of my voice.  
Can you feel the beat of my heart?  
Listen to the questions I have.  
Listen to me.  
It's all very simple to see what we need.

Give us hope, my voice is calling.  
Can you see? Look in my eyes.  
Can you feel? My hand is reaching.  
Give us hope and we'll show you the way.

Listen to the sound of my voice.  
Can you feel the beat of my heart?  
Listen to the questions I have.  
Listen to me.  
We are the future, help us believe.

Give us hope, my voice is calling.  
Can you see? Look in my eyes.  
Can you feel? My hand is reaching.  
Give us hope and we'll show you the way.

# SONG LYRICS

Take my hand, now look in my eyes.  
Tell me what you see.

Give us hope, my voice is calling.  
Can you see? Look in my eyes.  
Can you feel? My hand is reaching.  
Give us hope and we'll show you the way.

Give us hope, my voice is calling.  
Can you see? Look in my eyes.  
Can you feel? My hand is reaching.  
Give us hope and we'll show you the way.  
Show you the way (my voice is calling).  
Show you the way (my voice is calling).  
Show you the way.

## ANTHEM

As long as I am marching, I'm not quitting.  
As long as I am marching, I'm not hiding.  
As long as I am marching, I am not under  
the desk, behind bars, in a closet.

As long as I am marching, I'm not asking.  
As long as I am marching, I'm not hating.  
As long as I am marching, I am not just  
talking, I am not standing still.

As long as I am marching,  
I'm not crushed. Pride!  
I am not mincing words. Pride!  
I am strong if I am marching. Pride!  
I am fierce if I am marching. Pride!  
I am blazing. Pride!  
I am luminous. Pride!  
I am accompanied. Pride!  
I am marching, I'm amazing. Pride!  
As long as I am marching, I am seen.  
I'm okay marching.

As long as I am not okay, I march, I march,  
I march with pride!

## MAKE THEM HEAR YOU

Go out and tell our story,  
Let it echo far and wide.  
Make them hear you, make them hear you.  
How justice was our battle,  
And how justice was denied.  
Make them hear you, make them hear you.

And say to those who blame us  
For the way we chose to fight  
That sometimes there are battles  
Which are more than black or white,  
And I could not put down my sword  
When justice was my right  
Make them hear you, make them hear you.

Go out and tell our story  
To your daughters and your sons  
Make them hear you, make them hear you.  
And tell them, in our struggle,  
We were not the only ones.

Make them hear you,  
Make them hear you.

Your sword can be a sermon,  
Or the power of the pen.  
Teach every child to raise their voice,  
And then, my family, then  
Will justice be demanded by ten million  
righteous friends?  
Make them hear you.  
When they hear you, I'll be near you... again!

## I WAS HERE

You will notice me;  
I'll be leaving my mark  
Like initials carved in an old oak tree,  
You wait and see.

Maybe I'll write like Twain wrote,  
Maybe I'll paint like Van Gogh,  
Cure the common cold, I don't know,  
But I'm ready to start,  
'Cause I know in my heart.

I wanna do something that matters,  
Make something different,  
Something that sets the whole world  
on its ear.

I wanna do something better  
With the time I've been given,  
And I wanna try to touch a few hearts  
in this life.

Leave nothing else  
Than something that says: I was here.

I will prove you wrong.  
If you think I'm all talk, you're in for a shock,  
'Cause this dream's too strong,  
And before too long:

Maybe I'll compose symphonies,  
Maybe I'll fight for world peace,  
'Cause I know it's my destiny to leave more  
than a trace of myself in this place.

I wanna do something that matters,  
Make something different,  
Something that sets the whole world  
on its ear.

I wanna do something better  
With the time I've been given,  
And I wanna try to touch a few hearts  
in this life.

Leave nothing else  
Than something that says: I was here.  
I was here, I was here, I was here...

I wanna do something that matters,  
Make something different,  
Something that sets the whole world  
on its ear.

I wanna do something better  
With the time I've been given,  
And I know that I will do more



Than just pass through this life.  
I'll leave nothing less  
Than something that said:  
I was here.  
I was here, I was here.

### WHY WE SING

A sound of hope, a sound of peace,  
A sound that celebrates  
And speaks what we believe.  
A sound of love, a sound so strong.  
It's amazing what is given  
When we share a song.

This is why we sing, why we lift our voice,  
Why we stand as one in harmony.  
This is why we sing, why we lift our voice.  
Take my hand and sing with me.

Soothe a soul (soothe a soul),  
Mend a heart (mend a heart),  
Bring together lives  
That have been torn apart.  
Share the joy (share the joy),  
Find a friend (find a friend),  
It's a never-ending gift  
That circles back again.

This is why we sing, why we lift our voice,  
Why we stand as one in harmony.  
This is why we sing, why we lift our voice.  
Take my hand and sing with me.

Music builds a bridge,  
It can tear down a wall.  
Music is a language that can speak  
To one and all.

This is why we sing, why we lift our voice,  
Why we stand as one in harmony.  
This is why we sing, why we lift our voice.  
Take my hand and sing with me.  
This is why we sing, we sing, we sing!

### TRULY BRAVE

You with the sad eyes:  
Don't be discouraged, oh I realize  
It's hard to take courage.  
In a world full of people,  
You can lose sight of it all,  
And the darkness inside you  
Makes you feel so small.

You can be amazing, you can turn a phrase  
into a weapon or a drug.  
You can be the outcast or be the backlash  
or somebody's lack of love,  
But I wonder what would happen.  
But I see your true colors shining through.  
I see your true colors,  
And that's why I love you.  
So don't be afraid to let them show.  
I wanna see you, just wanna see you,

I wanna see you, I wanna see you be brave.

Show me your smile then,  
Don't be unhappy, can't remember when...  
Everybody's been there,  
Everybody's been stared down  
By the enemy

I last saw you laughing. If this world makes  
you crazy, and you're takin' all you can bear...

Fallen for the fear and  
Done some disappearin',  
Bow down to the mighty,  
Don't run,  
Just stop holdin' your tongue.  
Just call me up, and you know I'll be there  
Maybe there's a way out  
Of the cage where you live  
Call me up, and you know I'll be there,  
Call me up, come on  
Maybe one of these days  
You can let the light in  
And show me  
How big your brave is.

Say what you wanna say,  
And let the words fall out honestly.  
I wanna see you be brave.  
What you wanna say,  
And let the words fall out honestly.  
I wanna see you be brave.

Don't be afraid to let them show:  
Your true colors,  
Your true colors are beautiful.

And since your history of silence.  
I can't remember when  
I saw you laughing.  
Let your words be anything but empty.

Why don't you tell them the truth?  
Just call me up, and you know  
I'll be there. And I'll see your...

Say what you wanna say,  
And let the words fall out honestly.  
...True colors shining through.  
I see your true colors,  
You're beautiful...

I wanna see you be brave, brave.  
...like a rainbow,  
And I'll see your true colors.

Don't be afraid. I wanna see you be brave.  
Let them show.  
I wanna see you,  
Just wanna see you,  
I wanna see you.

I wanna see you be brave. Call me, call me.  
I wanna see you,  
Just wanna see you,  
I wanna see you.

Don't be afraid.  
Oooooohh...



Celebrating the Beauty of Love  
No matter who you are. No matter who you love.



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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](http://gmcw.org) for links to all of these faith-based organizations.

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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 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, and 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.





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and will always be a  
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