

# GENOUT

YOUTH CHORUS

## you<sup>th</sup> invasion

SPECIAL 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT



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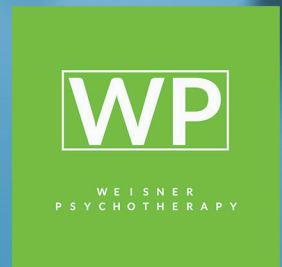
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# WELCOME

Welcome to the 10th anniversary *Youth Invasion*! Today's performance is a celebration of past, present, and future: a tribute to the 160 young people who have sung in GenOUT since 2015, a showcase of the 17 singers who make up our 2025 – 2026 chorus, and a statement of welcome to the youth who will join us in the years to come.

In this anniversary performance, we are joined by alumni whose lives have been shaped by GenOUT and by the mentors in our parent chorus, Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. This program is a token of our gratitude for the bravery of the first GenOUTers — on whose shoulders we stand — and for the tenacity of the GenOUTers of 2020 – 2021, who ensured that the program not only survived the pandemic, but thrived during it! In this concert, we recall with fondness the songs that we sang (and the ones we wrote), the cities we visited (and the people we met), and the venues, both humble and grand, where we raised our voices. We remember the young people who sang with us for years and those who were with us for just a few rehearsals (and everyone in between).

We acknowledge the things that made our program stronger: growing pains that were difficult and collaborations that opened new doors. We recognize — with thankful hearts — the support of our GMCW community, of audience members, of donors, of rehearsal team members, and especially of parents and guardians, without whom GenOUT would have never existed. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of our community for a dozen years and for 10 *Youth Invasion* shows. Today's performance is dedicated to you.



C. Paul Heins  
GenOUT Director

# PROGRAM

SPECIAL 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

## youth invasion

C. Paul Heins, Director  
Javon Byam, Assistant Director

### WHO WE ARE

- Hope Lingers On.....Music by Lissa Schneckenburger  
Arr. Andrea Ramsey
- On Children.....Music by Ysaye M. Barnwell  
Poem by Kahlil Gibran
- One Day.....Music & Words by Phil Lawrence,  
Matthew Miller, Peter Hernandez, & Ari Levine  
Arr. Alvin Mayes

### WHO WE ASPIRE TO BE

- Time After Time.....Music & Words by Rob Hyman & Cyndi Lauper  
Kyler Hewitt, cello Arr. Andy Beck
- We Can Be Kind.....Music & words by David Friedman  
Arr. Kirby Shaw
- The Rainbow Connection.....Music & Words by Paul Williams  
Solo: Ailsa Ostovitz & Kenneth L. Ascher  
Arr. Kate Shipway
- Normal.....Music & Words by Brennan Connell  
Solo: Brennan Connell,  
GenOUT member 2015 – 2021

### OUR HOPES AND DREAMS

- Imagine.....Music & Words by John Lennon  
Arr. Mac Huff
- I, Too, Sing America.....Music by Gwyneth Walker  
Poem by Langston Hughes
- United in Purpose.....Music by Rollo Dilworth  
Text by Maya Angelou

### WHERE WE CAME FROM

- Blackbird.....Music & Words by John Lennon & Paul McCartney  
Solo: Ben Biggs Arr. Audrey Snyder
- World of Love.....Music by C. Paul Heins  
Text adapted from a poem by Aiyanna Montgomery,  
drawn from words by GenOUTers

Reflections by GenOUT alumni  
Anjali Murthy, GenOUT member 2022 – 2025  
Becca Schaefer, GenOUT member 2016 – 2018  
“Where Are They Now?” videos by GenOUT alumni

I Was Here.....Music & words by Gary Burr,  
Featuring GenOUT alumni Hillary Scott, & Victoria Shaw  
Arr. Alan Billingsley

**OUR GMCW COMMUNITY**

Beautiful City.....Music & Words by Stephen Schwartz  
From *Godspell* Arr. Mac Huff  
Featuring GMCW mentors

Ring of Keys.....Music by Jeanine Tesori  
From *Fun Home* Lyrics by Lisa Kron  
Arr. Steve Milloy

Make Them Hear You.....Music by Stephen Flaherty  
From *Ragtime* Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens  
Featuring members of GMCW Arr. Jeff Funk

**GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD WITH LOVE AND WITH PRIDE**

I'm Not Afraid of Anything.....Music & Words by Jason Robert Brown  
From *Songs for a New World* Arr. Javon Byam

Time capsule messages to GenOUTers at the 20th anniversary  
*Youth Invasion* in 2036

Why We Sing.....Music & words by Greg Gilpin  
C. Paul Heins, flute Flute descant by John Romano

# INSTRUMENTALISTS

Kevin Wu, piano  
Guido Vitullo, percussion  
Mark Stroud, bass  
Kyler Hewitt, cello

# GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS

The GenOUT Youth Chorus is the Washington, DC, area's only vocal ensemble for social justice champions. 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 160 singers from over 80 schools have participated in GenOUT.

C. Paul Heins, Director

Javon Byam, Assistant Director & Chorus Manager

## Accompanist Team

Barbara Schelstrate

Kevin Wu

Dalyan Agca

Cal Ausema \*

Ben Biggs \*

Kay Bruff

Xavier Finch

Alia Hemani

Avani Konek

Noah Lowenthal

Ira Miner\*

Aiyanna Montgomery

Malena Mulder

Ailsa Ostovitz \*

Callum Seay-Lee

Charlie Senerchia

Birch Shea

Ziv Stuart

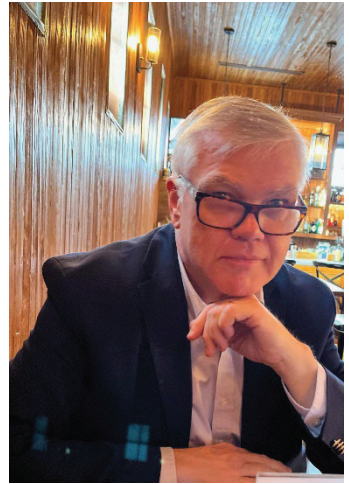
Ezra Thomas \*

\* = member of Youth Leadership Team



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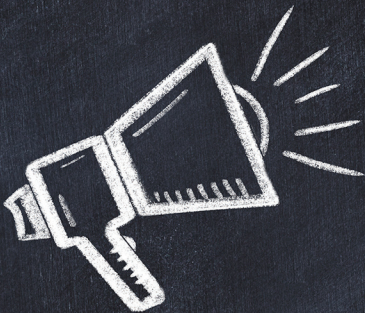
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# C. PAUL HEINS



**C. Paul Heins** (Director) (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 160 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. In January 2026, GenOUT presented a lecture performance at ACDA's Children's & Community Youth Choir Conductors' Retreat in Baltimore.

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 guest clinician for DCPS music festivals and teacher workshops.

## SUPPORT GENOUT

Over our 12-year history, GenOUT has traveled to Denver (for GALA 2016), Nashville (twice: for a 2019 Tour and a 2023 Camp with Major Minors), New York City (with Major Minors in 2022), Cincinnati (for the 2023 ACDA National Conference), and Minneapolis (for GALA 2024) — making music and sharing stories with audiences in each location. GenOUTers frequently comment that these trips are highlights of their experience, facilitating community-building and strengthening ties to the ensemble.

This summer, DC's GenOUT Youth Chorus will join Nashville's Major Minors for a mini-jamboree of GALA Youth Choruses in Asheville, TN. The trip is being planned on six major pillars: music learning/rehearsing (learning a program that is being co-planned with MM musical leadership), music performing (including a tour on the way home), non-music learning (notably about queer history and using one's voice to effect change), service to the community (notably helping in the ongoing recovery efforts following Hurricane Helene), experiencing the culture, history, and people of the Asheville area, and community-building (within GenOUT, with Major Minors, and with two local GALA choruses).

We plan to take every GenOUTer who wants to go, regardless of their financial capacity to pay the trip fee. Please consider making a contribution to GMCW, f/b/o GenOUT, to help us make this trip possible for all GenOUTers.

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

GenOUT Youth Leadership Team:

Cal Ausema, Ben Biggs,  
Ira Miner, Ailsa Ostovitz,  
Ezra Thomas

GenOUT Rehearsal Team:

Michael Aylward, Karen Garlick,  
Carter Grimes, Josh Harrington,  
Gregoriah Hartman, Hey-Jin Kong,  
Nico MacDougall, Jamey Sadownick,  
Becca Schaefer, Mario Sengco,  
Emily Shaw, Silvio Weisner

GMCW Production Manager:

Conor Kelly

Production Team:

Michael Cunningham, Mark Klein

Special thank you to:

- The Thirteen, for musical training
- Craig Cipollini and Michael B. Smith, for video creation and editing
- Parents/guardians and families of our youth singers
- The clergy, staff, and congregation of St. Thomas' Parish Episcopal Church for welcoming us into this space

Financial support is gratefully received from the Georgetown Chorale.



Today's performance is presented with the generous support of  
Partnership Wealth Management.



This project is made possible with support from **It Gets Better**, a nonprofit organization working to uplift, empower, and connect LGBTQ+ youth around the globe. Visit [www.itgetsbetter.org](http://www.itgetsbetter.org).





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# SONG LYRICS

## HOPE LINGERS ON

My mother, when love is gone,  
My mother, when love is gone,  
In our darkest hour, hope lingers on.  
My father, when peace is gone,  
My father, when peace is gone,  
In our darkest hour, hope lingers on.

Refrain:

I will not hate,  
And I will not fear.  
In our darkest hour, hope lingers here.

My sibling, when equality's gone,  
My sibling, when equality's gone,  
In our darkest hour, hope lingers on.  
My neighbor, with tolerance gone,  
My neighbor, with tolerance gone,  
In our darkest hour, hope lingers on.

Refrain

My love, when honor is gone,  
My love, when honor is gone,  
In our darkest hour, hope lingers on.  
My country, when justice is gone,  
My country, when justice is gone,  
In our darkest hour, hope lingers on.

Refrain

## ON CHILDREN

Your children are not your children.  
They are the sons and the daughters  
of life's longing for itself.  
They come through you, but they  
are not from you,  
And though they are with you,  
they belong not to you.

You can give them your love, but  
not your thoughts.  
They have their own thoughts.  
You can house their bodies, but  
not their souls,  
For their souls dwell in a place  
of tomorrow,  
Which you cannot visit, no,  
not even in your dreams.  
You can strive to be like them,  
But you cannot make them just  
like you.

Your children are not your children.

We are the sons and the daughters of  
life's longing for itself.  
We come through you, but we are not  
from you,  
And though we are with you, we  
belong not to you.

You can give us your love, but not  
your thoughts.  
We have their own thoughts.  
You can house our bodies, but not  
our souls,  
For our souls dwell in a place of  
tomorrow,  
Which you cannot visit, no, not even  
in your dreams.  
You can strive to be like us,  
But you cannot make us just like you.

## ONE DAY

Sometimes I lay under the moon  
And thank God I'm breathing.  
Then I pray "Don't take me soon,"  
'Cause I am here for a reason.

Refrain:

Sometimes in my tears I drown  
But I never let it get me down.  
So when negativity surrounds,  
I know someday it'll all turn  
around because  
All my life I've been waiting for,  
I've been praying for,  
For the people to say  
That we don't wanna fight no more,  
There'll be no more wars,  
And our children will play  
One day...

It's not about win or lose  
'Cause we'll all lose  
When they feed on the souls of  
the innocent,  
Blood-drenched pavement,  
Keep on moving,  
Though the waters stay ragin'.  
And in this maze, you can lose  
your way.  
Your way, it might drive you crazy,  
But don't let it faze you, no way.  
I'm here for a reason.

Refrain

## TIME AFTER TIME

Lyin' in my bed, I hear the clock tick  
and think of you.  
Caught up in circles,  
Confusion is nothing new.  
Flashback, warm nights  
Almost left behind.  
Suitcase of memories,  
Time after time.

Sometimes you picture me,  
I'm walkin' too far ahead.  
You're callin' to me,  
I can't hear what you've said.  
Then you say, "Go slow." I fall behind.  
The second hand unwinds.

### Refrain:

If you're lost, you can look  
and you will find me,  
Time after time.  
If you fall, I will catch you,  
I'll be waiting,  
Time after time.

After my picture fades and darkness  
has turned to gray,  
Watchin' through windows,  
You're wonderin' if I'm okay.  
Secrets stolen from deep inside.  
The drum beats out of time.

### Refrain

## WE CAN BE KIND

So many things we can't control,  
So many hurts that happen every day.  
So many heartaches that pierce  
the soul.  
So much pain that won't ever  
go away.  
How do we make it better?  
How do we make it through?  
What can we do when there's  
nothing we can do?

### Refrain:

We can be kind.  
We can take care of each other.  
We can remember that deep down  
inside, we all need the same thing  
And maybe we'll find  
If we are there for each other  
That together, we'll weather whatever

tomorrow may bring.

Nobody really wants to fight.  
Nobody really wants to go to war.  
If everyone wants to make things  
right,  
Then what are we always fighting for?  
Does nobody want to see it?  
Does nobody understand?  
The power to heal is right here in  
our hand.

### Refrain

And it's not enough to talk about it,  
Not enough to sing a song.  
We must walk the walk about it,  
You and I, do or die,  
We've got to try to get along.

### Refrain

And maybe we'll find  
True peace of mind,  
If we always remember  
We can be kind.

## THE RAINBOW CONNECTION

Why are there so many songs  
about rainbows  
And what's on the other side?  
Rainbows are visions, but  
only illusions  
And rainbows have nothing to hide.  
So we've been told, and some choose  
to believe it  
I know they're wrong, wait and see.  
Someday we'll find it,  
The rainbow connection:  
The lovers, the dreamers, and me.

Who said that every wish would be  
heard and answered  
When wished on the morning star?  
Somebody thought of that, and  
someone believed it  
And look what it's done so far.  
What's so amazing that keeps  
us stargazing  
And what do we think we might see?

Someday we'll find it,  
The rainbow connection:  
The lovers, the dreamers, and me.

# SONG LYRICS

All of us under its spell,  
We know that it's probably magic.

Have you been half asleep, and have  
you heard voices?  
I've heard them calling my name.  
Is this the sweet sound that calls the  
young sailors?  
The voice might be one and the same.  
I've heard it too many times to  
ignore it;  
It's something that I'm supposed to be.

Someday we'll find it,  
The rainbow connection:  
The lovers, the dreamers, and me.

La-da-da-dee-da-da-doo,  
Da-da-da-da-da-dee-da-doo.

## **NORMAL**

Didn't ask to be different.  
Always wanted to fit in.  
I'm fighting hard to find my place.  
And I can't find comfort  
In my own skin  
What is normal?

Sports and cars were not for me, no.  
No, dressing up was more my thing.  
I put Ken's head on Barbie dolls.  
Why should I try  
To be like the other guys?

My parents, didn't care that I  
Was leaning more towards girl  
than guy.  
I wanted, wanted happiness,  
But what is normal?  
Why be normal?

Normalcy did not appeal.  
Wore cowboy boots like they  
were heels.  
Laughed it off when people jeered.  
I raise my voice, I sing, I fight,  
So all the kids can sleep at night,  
And know that they are not a crime.  
Why should I dive  
When instead I could leap and fly?

My parents do not care that I  
love Broadway shows and  
rainbow ties,  
'Cause all they want's my happiness,

And that is normal.  
It should be normal.

'Cause parents raise but don't decide  
The you who makes you feel alive.  
If you lean more towards girl than guy,  
And that feels normal,  
Then that is normal.

I know it's hard to find a place  
Where you can shine and still feel safe.  
My world has crumbled many times.  
But if you fall, I'll raise you up.  
We'll climb that mountain to the top,  
And watch the night turn into dawn.

Normal is what you feel inside.  
The pulse that helps you find the light,  
The reason that I sing and fight,  
And that is normal.

'Cause normal is what you feel inside.  
The pulse that helps you find the light,  
The reason that I sing and fight,  
And that is normal.  
Yeah, that's my normal.

## **IMAGINE**

Imagine there's no heaven.  
It's easy if you try.  
No hell below us;  
Above us only sky.  
Imagine all the people  
Living for today.

Imagine there's no countries.  
It isn't hard to do.  
Nothing to kill or die for,  
And no religion, too.  
Imagine all the people  
Living life in peace.

Refrain:  
You, you may say I'm a dreamer,  
But I'm not the only one.  
I hope someday you'll join us,  
And the world will be as one.

Imagine no possessions.  
I wonder if you can.  
No need for greed or hunger;  
A fellowship of man.  
Imagine all the people  
Sharing all the world

Refrain

**I, TOO, SING AMERICA**

My country!  
My country!  
This is my country!  
Mine!

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.  
They send me to eat in the kitchen  
When company comes,  
But I laugh,  
And eat well,  
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,  
I'll be at the table  
When company comes.  
Nobody'll dare  
Say to me,  
"Eat in the kitchen,"  
Then.

Besides,  
They'll see how beautiful I am  
And be ashamed —

I, too, am America.  
I am America.

My country, 'tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee, of thee, I sing.  
Land where my fathers died,  
In bondage, in battle.  
Land of my mother's pride,  
With dignity and daring.  
From every, every mountainside,  
Let freedom ring!

My country!  
My country!  
This is my country!  
I, too, am America!

**UNITED IN PURPOSE**

The onus is upon us all to work  
to improve the human condition.

Perform good deeds,  
for that is truly the way  
To battle the forces of entropy  
That are at work in our world.

The onus is upon us all to work  
to improve the human condition.

The composite of all our efforts  
can have an effect.  
Good done anywhere  
is good done everywhere.

When we unite in purpose,  
We are greater than the sum  
of our parts.  
United in purpose!

**BLACKBIRD**

Blackbird singing in the dead of night,  
Take these broken wings and learn  
to fly.  
All your life,  
You were only waiting for this  
moment to arise.

Blackbird singing in the dead of night,  
Take these sunken eyes and learn  
to see.  
All your life,  
You were only waiting for this moment  
to be free.

Blackbird, fly.  
Blackbird, fly  
Into the light of the dark black night.

Blackbird singing in the dead of night.

Blackbird, fly.  
Blackbird, fly  
Into the light of the dark black night.

Blackbird singing in the dead of night,  
Take these broken wings and learn  
to fly.  
All your life,  
You were only waiting for this moment  
to arise.

**WORLD OF LOVE (POEM)**

We were born from a shelter and  
became one anew.  
Their history is embedded into our  
compositions.  
We are their survival, their strength,  
and revival.  
We live our ancestors' ambitions, but  
we're not theirs.

# SONG LYRICS

Although we come from similar  
walks of life,  
Our souls [soles] are ours, a half-step  
or more, over their strife.  
Sometimes we ask ourselves if we  
carry their legacy right.  
They assure us we're doing just fine

Refrain:

When true freedom rises after this,  
We'll at least be part of its genesis.  
If we're suppressed, our musical notes  
are written in pen.  
This space is safe 'cause we resound.  
We will be found.  
(You know we'll be found.)

Currently, we live as mirrors in the way  
we reflect times.

We're not a paragon of virtue, but we  
at least try to be kind.

Youth has not left us,  
We still have lessons.

I clarify, lest they consider us exempt  
from flaws.

We strive to be love in its truest form:  
Messy, slightly chaotic, but truly  
warm.

Like our forbears taught us:  
The onus is upon us to send kindness  
towards the world that bore us.

Refrain

Have we made you hear us yet?  
We're united in our purpose.  
But our cause won't have effects  
until you feel love, too.  
It's why we sing.

Refrain

## **WORLD OF LOVE (SONG)**

Some in pow'r want to erase,  
To relegate our lives to dust.  
They try to scare, try to debase  
Our love and our fight for a world  
that's just.

What we want is nothing new,  
Our ancestors wanted the same:  
Safety, joy, and freedom, too,  
A world where love is our inspiring  
flame.

Refrain:

To make true freedom flourish, we  
must first fill hearts with love:  
Love of self, love of neighbor, love of  
earth and sky above.  
Some in power have fought us, but  
our ancestors have taught us:  
We can make true freedom flourish  
only in a world of love.

We live our lives as mirrors,  
Reflecting space and time.  
We are not always virtuous,  
But we try hard to be kind.  
Our youth and inexperience  
Cause some dumb mistakes.  
But even in the chaos,  
We know love is all it takes!

Refrain

Have we made you hear us?  
We're united in our purpose:  
To let love win, make freedom ring!  
This is why we sing!

Refrain

## **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:

Refrain:

I wanna do something that matters,  
Say 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 less 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.

Refrain

I was here...

Refrain:

I wanna do something that matters,  
Say 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.

### **BEAUTIFUL CITY**

Out of the ruins and rubble,  
Out of the smoke,  
Out of our night of struggle,  
Can we see a ray of hope?  
One pale, thin ray  
Reaching for the day.

Refrain:

We can build a beautiful city.  
Yes, we can, yes, we can.  
We can build a beautiful city,  
Not a city of angels,  
But we can build a city for all.

We may not reach the ending,  
But we can start.  
Slowly, but truly mending,  
Brick by brick, heart by heart.  
Now, maybe now,  
We start learning how.

Refrain

When your trust is all but shattered,  
When your faith is all but killed,  
You can give up bitter and battered,  
Or you can slowly start to build:

Refrain:

A beautiful city.  
Yes, we can, yes, we can.  
We can build a beautiful city,  
Not a city of angels,  
But finally, a city for all.

### **RING OF KEYS**

Someone just came in the door,  
Like no one I ever saw before.  
I feel...  
I feel...

I don't know where you came from.  
I wish I did.  
I feel so dumb.  
I feel...

Refrain:

Your swagger and your bearing  
And the just-right clothes you're  
wearing,  
Your short hair and your dungarees,  
And your lace-up boots,  
And your keys, oh!  
Your ring of keys.

I thought it was supposed to be  
wrong,  
But you seem okay with being strong  
I want...  
You're so...

It's probably conceited to say,  
But I think we're alike in a certain way.  
I... um...

Refrain

Do you feel my heart saying hi?  
In this whole luncheonette,  
Why am I the only one  
Who sees you're beautiful?  
No – I mean handsome.

Refrain

I know you.

### **MAKE THEM HEAR YOU**

Go out and tell our story,  
Let it echo far and wide,  
Make them hear you,

# SONG LYRICS

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'M NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING**

Jenny's afraid of water.  
I mean, she swims so well, but still,  
She's afraid of water.  
And so she won't go near the sea...  
Not me!

And Katie's afraid of darkness.  
I mean, she sleeps and all, but still  
she's afraid of darkness.  
So when the lights are out, she has  
to hold my hand.  
I don't understand.

I'm not afraid of anything,  
Be it mountains, water, dragons,  
dark, or sky.  
I'm not afraid of anything,  
Tell me, where's the challenge if you  
never try?

So watch me fly!  
I'm not afraid.

Daddy's afraid of babies.  
I mean, he got through me, but now,  
He's afraid of babies.  
Guess he's scared of what they'll be.  
Not me.

And Mama's afraid of crying.  
You know, she tries to hold it in.  
She's afraid of crying.  
And she can look at me with tears  
stuck in her eye,  
And I don't know why.

I'm not afraid of anything,  
Be it growing old or going out of style.  
I'm not afraid of anything.  
Who would give up what they want  
without a trial?  
Another mile!  
I'm not afraid!

And I feel the calling of adventure,  
And I hear the ringing in my ear.  
The lights are glaring, trumpets  
blaring,  
I'm right here!  
And I hear the calling of tomorrow,  
And I feel the stirring in my bones,  
And David loves me...  
He's afraid to hold me.

Listen to the calling of excitement.  
Can you feel the pounding of  
my heart?  
The lights are ready, pulses steady,  
I can start!  
Never stop the calling of a challenge,  
Blessing on the water and the stones,  
And David loves me...  
He's afraid to tell me.  
David loves me...  
He's afraid to trust me.  
He's afraid to hold me,  
And he'll always be...  
He's afraid of me...

And I'm not afraid of anyone!  
I am sure to win with anyone at all.  
I'm not afraid of anyone  
Not a soul alive can get behind  
this wall.

So let them call,  
And watch them fall,  
'Cause after all...  
I'm not  
Afraid.

**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.

Refrain:

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, mend a heart,  
Bring together lives that have been  
torn apart.  
Share the joy, find a friend,  
It's a never-ending gift that circles  
back again.

Refrain

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

Refrain



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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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#### 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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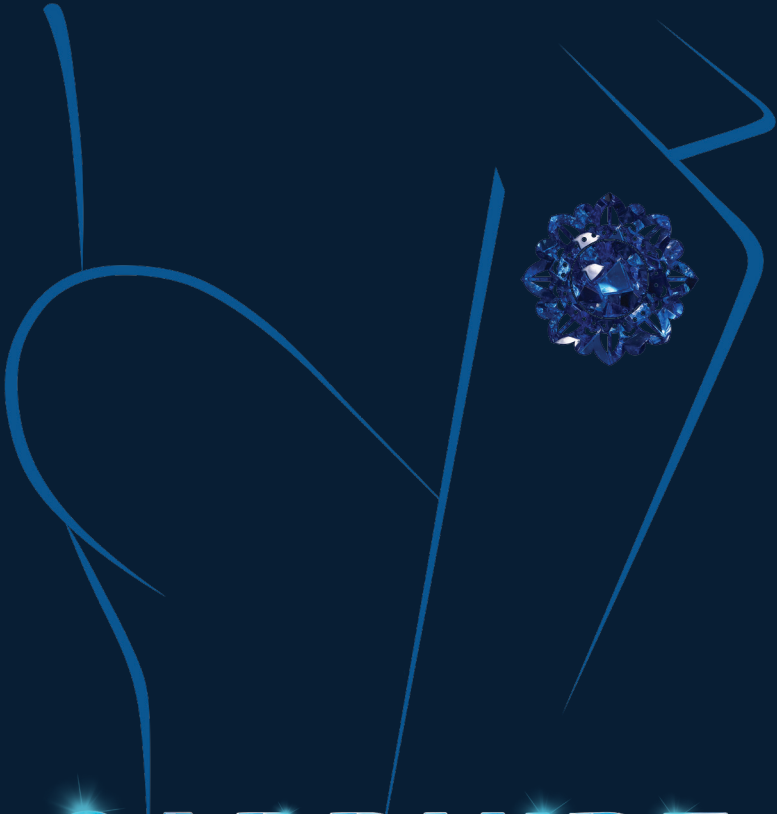
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