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COMPASS

WELCOME

Welcome to **SOUL DIVAS!**

In a world that often feels heavy with headlines and uncertainty, the simple act of coming together is a radical form of self-care. As we navigated the planning for this season, one theme kept surfacing: the urgent need to nurture our spirits. Music has always been our sanctuary, and tonight, we invite you to find balance and escape in the timeless rhythms of the divas who defined their eras. Their voices didn't just provide a soundtrack to our lives; they gave us the courage to be ourselves.

Your presence tonight is the heartbeat of this organization. For 45 years, you have been the reason we can keep our voices raised. Because of your ticket purchases, your volunteer hours, and your unwavering belief in our mission, the Chorus is going strong, the GenOUT Youth Chorus is thriving, and our small ensembles are bringing harmony to the community over 100 times a year. You don't just watch our shows — you build our resilience.

To ensure we can continue this vital work for the next 45 years, we invite you to make a gift tonight in honor of the “soul diva” in your life. Whether it's \$10 or \$1,000, your contribution directly funds our outreach programs and keeps our stage open to everyone. Please donate today at gmcw.org, by clicking on the link below, or visiting one of our cast members with buckets in the lobby following the show. With your help, we can make sure the music never stops.

Now, it's time to let the world fade away. Celebrate these phenomenal women, find your joy, and please — feel free to sing along!

With joy and gratitude,



Thea Kano
Artistic Director



Justin Fyala
Executive Director

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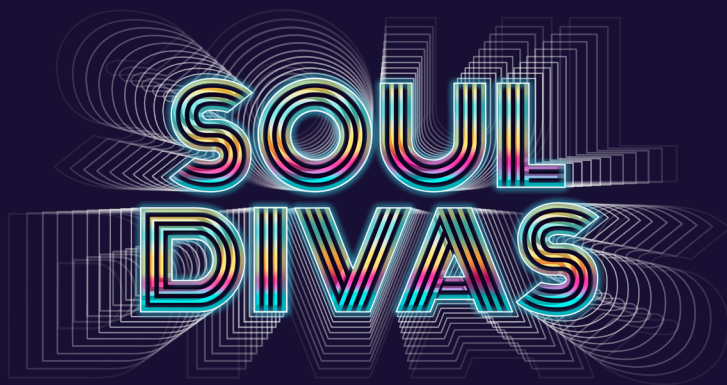


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TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
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PROGRAM

SOULDIVAS

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

I'm Coming Out.....Music and lyrics by Bernard Edwards
and Nile Rodgers
Arranged by David Maddux

A Deeper Love.....Music and lyrics by David Cole and Robert Clvilles
Soloist: Jaylan Monroe Arranged by A. Ronté Pierce

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Think/Respect.....Music and lyrics by Aretha Franklin, Ted White,
Soloists: Drew Thatcher and Otis Redding
Gregory Atkin Arranged by Steve Milloy

Speaker: Thomas Reiker

I Say a Little Prayer.....Music and lyrics by Burt Bacharach and Hal David
Arranged by Tim Sarsany

ROCK CREEK SINGERS

Speaker: Sean Robinson

Killing Me Softly With His Song.....Music and lyrics by Charles Fox
and Norman Gimbel
Arranged by Jetse Bremer

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Speaker: Benn May

What's Love Got to Do With It.....Music and lyrics by Tery Britten
Soloist: Michael Makardish and Graham Lyle
Arranged by David Maddux

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

Private Dancer.....Music and lyrics by Mark Knopfler
Soloist: Kevin Thomason
Dancers: Craig Cipollini and Matt Zagorski

Proud Mary.....Music and lyrics by J.C. Fogerty
Soloist: Paul Shannon Arranged by Tim Sarsany

GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS

Speaker: Malena Mulder

United in Purpose.....Music by Rollo Dilworth
Text by Maya Angelou

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

No More Tears (Enough is Enough).....Music and lyrics by Bruce Roberts
Soloist: Ben Goldsberry and Paul Jabara
Arranged by David Maddux

POTOMAC FEVER

Midnight Train to Georgia.....Music and lyrics by Jim Weatherly
Soloist: Cooper Westbrook Arranged by Deke Sharon

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

Lady Marmalade.....Music and lyrics by Robert Crew
Soloist: Michael Dumlaio and Kenny Nolan
Arranged by Chad Weirick

Speakers: Thea Kano and Justin Fyala

SEASONS OF LOVE

Sweet Love.....Gary Bias, Louis A. Johnson,
Soloist: Eyal Lurie Pardes and Anita Baker
Arranged by A. Ronté Pierce

New Attitude.....Music and lyrics by Bunny Hull, Jon Gilutin,
Soloist: Chris Murphy and Sharon T. Robinson
Arranged by A. Ronté Pierce

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

How Will I Know.....Music and lyrics by Geoge Merrill,
Soloist: James McMaster Narada Michael Walden,
and Shannon Rubicam
Arranged by David Maddux

GAY MEN’S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

The Best.....Music and lyrics by Holly Knight
Soloist: Jarrod Bennett and Mike Chappman
Arranged by Robert Strauss

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Piano.....Theodore Guerrant
Piano and Synthesizer.....Raymond Bradley Rinaldo
Bass.....Shawn Alger
Percussion.....Guido Vitullo

GMCW SMALL ENSEMBLES

17TH STREET DANCE

Danny Aldous
Carlos Barillo
Sean Cator
Craig Cipollini
Iván Dávila
Tyler Degen

James Ellzy
Kelly Griffin
Jeffrey Hollands
Cole Jaconski
Daniel Kingsley
Juliana Murcia

Kelly O'Clair-Pritchard
Darryl Pilate
Yuri Velasquez
Chris Weaver
Matt Williamson
Matt Zagorski

GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS

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 *

* Youth Leadership Team

POTOMAC FEVER

Mike Allen
Peter Cheney
Gia-Ninh Chuang
Jake Cundiff
Alex Dean
Jim Gruschus
Gibson Haynes

Matt Holland
Jonathan Malavè
John Marsh
Josh Millson-Martula
Shawn Morris
Brandon Moses

Paul Negrón
Steve Shi
Michael B. Smith
Kevin Thomason
Santos Torres
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
Ali Hecimovich
Kyler Hewitt
Addison Hughes
Michael Hughes
Henry Johnson
John Jowers
Conor Kelly
Calla LaBeau
Sean Link
Armando Loney

James Madigan
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
Derrick Brown
Marcus Brown
Ryan Campbell
Christopher Daniels
Alex Domini
Michael Dumlaou
Jeffrey Fleming
Valerie Flores
Timothy Foley
Clark Henderson

Faraz Khan
Philip Khemphomma
Gabriel Lopez
Eyal Lurie Pardes
Philip McAdoo
James McMaster
Donald Medor
Jaylan Monroe
Chris Murphy
A. Ronté Pierce
Freddie Quimbley
Mikal Rasheed

Simon Regenold
Udra Robinson
Jacques Rozier
Danielle Sarta
Colin Smith
Lamar Smith
Jahstay Teh
Matthew Teubert
Jahdiel Torres Cabá
Sam Viggiano
Dennis Vonasek
Micah Yarbrough



Rock Creek Singers



Potomac Fever



17th Street Dance



GenOUT Youth Chorus



Seasons of Love

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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 is also fluent in French.



Theodore Guerrant (Principal Accompanist) (he/him)

Now in his 43rd 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/GenOUT 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.



A. Ronté Pierce (Assistant Conductor/Seasons of Love Director) (he/him)

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

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

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

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

WHO'S WHO



Javon Byam (Assistant Conductor/GenOUT Manager) (he/they)

Javon Byam joined GMCW looking for a new choral family in September 2018 and has found his tribe through the Chorus, our Rock Creek Singers ensemble, and the youth of GenOUT. Born in New York City and raised just outside of Baltimore, Maryland, Javon has been surrounded by music since his infancy spent in front of his grandmother's stereo listening to *The Bodyguard* soundtrack.

From noodling on his sister's synthesizer as a toddler to their first pivotal choral experiences as a fourth grader, Javon has had a yearning to make music. This led to their first voice lessons in middle school and first conducting lessons as a junior in high school. They continued study at New York University and then Loyola University Maryland, receiving a Bachelor of Music in K – 12 Music Education (2014), a Master of Music in Vocal Performance (2015), and a Master of Music in Kodaly Music Education (2021).

During the day, Javon is the lower and middle School music and drama teacher, and K – 12 music director, at Jemicy School in Owings Mills, Maryland, a school that specializes in educating children with dyslexia and other language-based learning differences. His students help remind him that true creativity comes when you work to clear a path that others already saw as cleared.



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*, *Sonata*, and *Carrie: The Musical* (assistant director).



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

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

Since moving to DC in 2008, James has performed with Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh Dance Company and the DC Cowboys. He has served many roles in GMCW: singer, dancer, dance captain, choreographer, stage director, audition co-coordinator, and board of directors... and delights in them all! By day, James is a family physician with Oracle Health and a proud Navy veteran. He lives in NE DC with his husband Franc.



Carlos Barillo (Choreographer) (he/him)

Carlos Barillo is honored to choreograph for this show! In a previous life, he toured with the Broadway show of *Anything Goes*, performed on cruise ships, and stages from Vegas to Atlantic City. He also taught choral music at James Madison University and in Montgomery County schools while also choreographing across the US and Europe. While he has mostly hung up his professional character shoes, he is thrilled to step back into the studio to create some dance magic, and jazz hands, for GMCW.



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*.



Jeffrey Hollands (Choreographer/Costume Design) (he/him)

Jeffrey Hollands has been a dancer with 17th Street Dance for 10 years and is excited to be making his choreography debut with GMCW. In other hats, Jeffrey has also been designing the costumes for 17th Street Dance since 2019 and he regularly serves as the assistant dance captain.

Since taking that well-trodden path of following his sister into the world of movement and music ("I can do that!"), Jeffrey has appeared in numerous musical theater productions across local and regional theaters in Arizona, Virginia, and DC. His background includes extensive experience in cheerleading, gymnastics, and circus acrobatics. By day, Jeffrey can be found designing bridges as a structural engineer.



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 ethics and compliance attorney for a government services company. Matthew lives in northeast DC with his husband of six years.

PHOTOS



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Artistic Staff

Artistic Director.....	Thea Kano
Associate Conductor.....	C. Paul Heins
Assistant Conductor.....	A. Ronté Pierce
Assistant Conductor.....	Javon Byam
Production Manager.....	Conor Kelly
Stage Director.....	Solomon HaileSelassie
Technical Director.....	Jarrod Bennett
Principal Accompanist.....	Theodore Guerrant
Accompanist.....	Alex Tang
Accompanist.....	Raymond Bradley Rinaldo

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Vice President for Volunteerism.....	Ali Hecimovich
Vice President for Community Engagement.....	Carter Grimes

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Dance Captain.....	James Ellzy
Potomac Fever Rehearsal Pianist.....	Alex Tang
Rock Creek Singers Rehearsal Pianist.....	Alex Chan
Seasons of Love Rehearsal Pianist.....	Kevin Huang
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Properties Coordinator.....	Benn May
Production Team.....	Michael Cunningham, Mark Klein
House Manager.....	Erik Rodriguez
Video Design.....	Michael B. Smith
Archival Video.....	Stone Lyons
ASL Interpreter.....	Jaime Sycamore

Special thanks to the crew and staff at Lincoln Theatre.

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
Timothy Allmond, Jr.
Jim Arshem
Milton Artis
Tom Avenmarg
Chuck Bailey
Nelson Bain
Michael Baker
Ben Barker
Dean Barnes
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Jim Campillo
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William Kranick
Fred Krebs
Kevin LaBarge
Steven LeBlanc
Will Lee
Darrell Lewis
Betsy Libretta
Wayne Longest
Jim Lopresti
Steve Maddox
Mark Mannel
Christopher Marquis
Phil Marti
Leonard Matlovich
W. Myron Maye
James McCann
Charles McClelland
Tim McDonough
Donald McArthur
Michael McElvaine
Kathy McGee
Gordon McGraw III
Jim Meany
Phil Melemed
Jim Mench
Mark Mennel
Jim Moore
John Moran
Ron Moser
Phil Moss
Steve Nelson
David Nieto
J. Richard Norton

Norman Nusinov
Ron O'Leary
Len Padgett
Ron Paglia
Rex Paul
Shirley Paul
Todd Payich
Scott Pierce
Don Poe
Harlan Powell
Harry B. Powers
Terence Powers
H. Glenn Privette
Dennis Quinn
R.J. Quinn
Steve Rappaport
Steve Reed
Robb Rexroth
Ric T. Rice
Jim Richardson
(Founding Director)
Tom Roeder
Phil Rogerson
John Roncz
Larry Ross
Ron Sabacek
Faris Sanjakdar
Jayson Scirratt
Tom Sena
Charles L. Sens
David Shingler
Ray Siefer
Brian Smith
B.J. Sobus
Luis Soliz
Gerry Soucy
Jason Stelling
Chris Storer
Duward Sumner
Dennis Swick
James D. Vranekovic
Everett Waldo
(Founding President)
Phil Walsh
Benedikt Wassmuth
Dennis Watson
Kevin Webster
Marvin Weeks
Barry White
Bob Widder
Ed Wilber
Rob Wilkinson
Donald Wolfe
R. Terry Woll
Bob Wonneberger

GMCW MEMBERS

TENOR ONE

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Angel Amado
Dorian Amero
Brooklyn Arbona
Tabi Arrey
Michael Aylward
Joseph Baerenz
Rick Bennett
Thomas Boeke (SL)
Memory Bowman
Michael Boyce
Derrick Brown
Tyler Brunner
Josh Bruno
Ben Bugajski
Phillip Carson
Peter Cheney
Alex Christopherson
Jonathan Covill
Cornelius David
Alexander Dean
Josette Desmone
Alex Domini
Marc Donnelly
Greykell Dutton
Vinz Dy Cruz
Adam Edgerton
Jimmy Edwards
Shirra Edwards
Jeffrey Fleming
Valerie Flores
Timothy Foley
Paul George
Ali Hecimovich
Matt Holland
Matthew Horton
Henry Johnson
Todd Katschke
Debo Katz
Faraz Khan
Keegan Kienzle
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Joseph Levin-
Manning
Franky Lieder
Gabriel Lopez
Craig Lustig
Kieran Mailman
John Marsh
Joval Martin
Seth McMillan
Chris Murphy
Kerry Neal
Emory Neuman
Matthew Ong
Dennis Palaganas
Sharon Palmer
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Freddie Quimbley

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Simon Regenold
Ellery Rhodes
Jack Reiffer
Raymond Rinaldo
Undra Robinson
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Lamar Smith
Matthew Teubert
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Carlos Barillo
Eric Belkengren
Guy Bosworth
Alex Bowen
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Nick Chantiles
Adrien Chorn
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Andre Cotten
Maxime Cugnon
de Sévricourt
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Tony Cunningham
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Christopher Daniels
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Travis Dichoso
Jianyi Ding
Clare James Dryburgh
Soner Dumani
Darryl Eaton
Jack Erbs
Jhonny Escorcía
Morgan Ewing
Wisdom Eziukwu
Anthony Fatta
John Fichtel
Evan R. Fitts
Arthur Gabel
David Geiger

Alex Gerhard
Anthony Gipson
Brian Glover
Benjamin Goldsberry
Patrick Gorirossi
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Carter Grimes
Tom Guarino
Elias Hanna
Trevor Haren
Andrew Harmon
Drew Hastie
Clark Henderson
Kylar Hewitt
Kyle Holland
John Jowers
Carlo Juntilla
Philip Khempomma
Matt Komornik
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Micah Lacasse
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Jere Lorenzen
Will Low
Eyal Lurie Pardes
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Liam Maguire
Jonathan Malavé
Quincy Mata
James McAuley
Perry Medlin
Donald Medor
Ari Mendelson
Jay Michal
Josh Millson-
Martula
Jacob Mitchell
Freddie Montgomery
Stephen Naimoli
Neil Offner
Pavan Panjeti
Adrian Pardo
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Kenneth Riley
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Sean Robinson
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Christian Rodney
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Tiken Savang
Jon Schmidt
Robert Serpa, Jr.
Salman Shamsi
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Gregory Stowers
Chadrick Sweatt
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Alessandro Valera
JJ Vera
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Carlton Doctor
Morgan Dori
Michael Dumlao
James Ellyz
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Brandon Fisher
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Howland Hartley
Gregoriah Hartman
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Cory Hess
Kenneth Hewitt
Hoffman
Raymond Hewitt
Hoffman
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Bryan Howard
Addison Hughes
Hunter Jackson
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Jian Pang
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Jahtay Teh
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Quasa Ventura
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Kinte Walker
Topher Wanamaker
Aaron Ward
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Kevin Watts
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Mike Allen
Ben Aparicio Coto
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Tracy Barlow
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Colin Smith

Michael Spears
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David Cowley
Michael Cunningham
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Mark Di Phillipio
Robert Featherstone
Kelly Griffin
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Jessica Sutter
Gary Turner
Brook Urquhart
Yuri Velasquez
Matthew Zagorski

SL = Section Leader

SONG LYRICS

I'M COMING OUT

I'm coming out
I'm coming out

I'm coming out
I want the world to know
Got to let it show
I'm coming out
I want the world to know
I got to let it show

There's a new me coming out
And I just had to live
And I wanna give
I'm completely positive
I think this time around
I am gonna do it
Like you never knew it
Ooh, I'll make it through

The time has come for me
To break out of this shell
I have to shout
That I am coming out

I'm coming out
I want the world to know
I got to let it show
I'm coming
I'm (coming out) coming
I want the world to know
I got to let it show

I've got to show the world
All that I wanna be
And all my abilities
There's so much more to me
Somehow, I have to make them
Just understand
I got it well in hand
And, oh, how I've planned
I'm spreadin' love
There is no need to fear
And I just feel so good
Everytime I hear

I'm coming out
I want the world to know
I got to let it show
I'm coming out
I want the world to know
I got to let it show

I'm coming out
I want the world to know
Got to let it show
I'm coming out!

A DEEPER LOVE

Pride! A deeper love
Pride! A deeper love
Pride! A deeper love
Woah
Pride! A deeper love
Pride! A deeper love
Pride! A deeper love
Woah

People let me tell you
I work hard everyday
I get up out of bed
I put on my clothes
'Cause I've got bills to pay

Now, it ain't easy
But I don't need no help
I got a strong will to survive
I've got a deeper love
Deeper love
Deeper love inside
And I call it

Pride! A deeper love
Pride! A deeper love
Pride! A deeper love
Woah

It's the power that gives you the
strength to survive
Pride! A deeper love
Woah

Now I've got love in my heart
It gives me the strength
To make it through the day
Pride is respect for yourself
And that's why I'm not looking for
Hand outs, charity
Welfare, don't need
Stealing, dealing
Not my feeling
No back stabbing
Greedy grabbing
Lyin', cheatin'
'Cause I got
A deeper love inside

Pride! A deeper love
Pride! A deeper love
Pride! A deeper love
Woah

It's the power that gives you the
strength to survive
Pride! A deeper love
Woah

And I want to thank you
For helping me see
There's a power deep inside of me
Give me the strength to carry on
Woah

Pride! A deeper love
Pride! A deeper love
Pride! A deeper love
Woah

People let me tell you
I work hard everyday
I get up out of bed
I put on my clothes
'Cause I've got bills to pay
And I want to thank you
For helping me see
There's a power deep inside of me
Give me the strength to carry on
Woah
Pride!

THINK/RESPECT

Hoo! Ah, hoo!

Let's go back, let's go back
Let's go way on, way back when
I didn't even know you
You couldn't have been too much
more than ten
I ain't no psychiatrist,
I ain't no doctor with degrees
But, it don't take too much high IQs
To see what you're doing to me

You better think (think)
Think about what you're trying to
do to me
Yeah, think (think, think)
Let your mind go, let yourself be free
Oh, freedom (freedom),

Freedom (freedom)
Oh, freedom, yeah, freedom
Freedom (freedom),
Oh, oh freedom (freedom)
Freedom, oh freedom
Hey, think about it, think about it

You need me
And I need you (don' cha know)
Without each other there ain't
nothing people can do, oh
Oh, hey, think about it, baby
(What are you trying to do me)
Yeah, oh baby, think about it now,
Yeah
Think!

Hoo! What you want
Baby, I got
What you need
Do you know I got it?
All I'm askin'
Is for a little respect when you
come home (just a little bit)
Hey baby (just a little bit) when
you get home
(Just a little bit)

Ooo, your kiss is
Sweeter than honey
And guess what?
So is my money
All I want you to do for me
Is give it to me when you get home
(re, re, re, re)
Yeah baby (re, re, re, re)
Whip it to me (respect, just a little bit)
When you get home, now
(Just a little bit)

R-E-S-P-E-C-T
Find out what it means to me
R-E-S-P-E-C-T
Take care, TCB
(Sock it to me, sock it to me)
A little respect
(Sock it to me, sock it to me)
Whoa, babe (just a little bit)
A little respect (just a little bit)
I get tired (just a little bit)
Keep on tryin' (just a little bit)
You're runnin' out of foolin'
(Just a little bit)
And I ain't lyin' (just a little bit)
Respect

SONG LYRICS

When you come home (re, re, re, re)
Gimme some respect
R-E-S-P-E-C-T

I SAY A LITTLE PRAYER

The moment I wake up
Before I put on my makeup
I say a little prayer for you
While combing my hair, now
And wondering what dress to wear,
now
I say a little prayer for you

Forever, forever, you'll stay in my heart
And I will love you
Forever and ever, we never will part
Oh, how I'll love you
Together, together, that's how it
must be
To live without you
Would only mean heartbreak for me

I run for the bus, dear
While riding I think of us, dear
I say a little prayer for you
At work, I just take time
And all through my coffee break-time
I say a little prayer for you

Forever, forever, you'll stay in my heart
And I will love you
Forever and ever, we never will part
Oh, how I'll love you
Together, together, that's how it
must be
To live without you
Would only mean heartbreak for me

Bum-bum-bum-bum-bum-bum
I say a little prayer for you
Bum-bum-bum-bum-bum-bum
I say a little prayer for you

Forever, forever, you'll stay in my heart
And I will love you
Forever and ever, we never will part
Oh, how I'll love you
Together, together,
That's how it must be
To live without you
Would only mean heartbreak for me

My darling, believe me
For me there is no one but you
Please love me too
I'm in love with you
Answer my prayer
Say you love me too

KILLING ME SOFTLY WITH HIS SONG

Strumming my pain with his fingers
Singing my life with his words
Killing me softly with his song
Killing me softly with his song
Telling my whole life with his words
Killing me softly with his song

I heard he sang a good song
I heard he had a style
And so I came to see him
To listen for a while
And there he was this young boy
A stranger to my eyes

Strumming my pain with his fingers
Singing my life with his words
Killing me softly with his song
Killing me softly with his song
Telling my whole life with his words
Killing me softly with his song

I felt all flushed with fever
Embarrassed by the crowd
I felt he found my letters
And read each one out loud
I prayed that he would finish
But he just kept right on

Strumming my pain with his fingers
Singing my life with his words
Killing me softly with his song
Killing me softly with his song
Telling my whole life with his words
Killing me softly with his song

He sang as if he knew me
In all my dark despair
And then he looked right through me
As if I wasn't there
And he just kept on singing
Singing clear and strong

Strumming my pain with his fingers
Singing my life with his words

Killing me softly with his song
Killing me softly with his song
Telling my whole life with his words
Killing me softly with his song

Strumming my pain with his fingers
Singing my life with his words
Killing me softly with his song
Killing me softly with his song
Telling my whole life with his words
Killing me (softly)

He was strumming my pain
Yeah, he was singing my life
Killing me softly with his song
Killing me softly with his song
Telling my whole life with his words
Killing me softly
With his song

WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT

You must understand,
Though the touch of your hand
Makes my pulse react
That it's only the thrill
Of boy meeting girl
Opposites attract
It's physical, only logical
You must try to ignore that it means
more than that

Oh-oh, what's love got to do, got to do
with it?
What's love but a second-hand
emotion?
What's love got to do, got to do
with it?
Who needs a heart when a heart can
be broken?
Oh-oh, what's love got to do, got to do
with it?
What's love but a second-hand
emotion
Oh-oh, what's love got to do, got to do
with it?
Who needs a heart when a heart can
be broken?
Oh-oh, what's love got to do, got to do
with it?
What's love but a second-hand emo-
Oh-oh, what's love got to do, got to do
with it?
Who needs a heart when a heart
can be broken?

It may seem to you that I'm acting
confused
When you're close to me
If I tend to look dazed, I've read it
someplace
I've got cause to be
There's a name for it
There's a phrase that fits
But whatever the reason, you do it
for me

Oh-oh, what's love got to do, got to do
with it?
What's love but a second-hand
emotion?
What's love got to do, got to do
with it?
Who needs a heart, when a heart
can be broken?
Oh-oh, what's love got to do, got to do
with it?
What's love but a second-hand
emotion?
What's love got to do,
got to do with it?
Who needs a heart when a heart
can be broken?

What's love got to do,
got to do with it?
What's love but a second-hand
emotion?
Oh-oh, what's love got to do,
got to do with it?
Who needs a heart when a heart
can be broken?
Oh-oh

PRIVATE DANCER

Well, the men come in these places
And the men are all the same
You don't look at their faces
And you don't ask their names
You don't think of them as human
You don't think of them at all
You keep your mind on the money
Keeping your eyes on the wall

I'm your private dancer
A dancer for money
I'll do what you want me to do
I'm your private dancer
A dancer for money
And any old music will do

SONG LYRICS

I wanna make a million dollars
I wanna live out by the sea
Have a husband and some children
Yeah, I guess I want a family
All the men come in these places
And the men are all the same
You don't look at their faces
And you don't ask their names

I'm your private dancer,
A dancer for money
I'll do what you want me to do
I'm your private dancer,
A dancer for money
And any old music will do

I'm your private dancer,
A dancer for money
I'll do what you want me to do
Just a private dancer,
A dancer for money
And any old music will do

Deutsche Marks or dollars
American Express will do nicely,
thank you
Let me loosen up your collar
Tell me, do you wanna see me
do the shimmy again?

I'm your private dancer
A dancer for money
I'll do what you want me to do
I'm your private dancer
A dancer for money
And any old music will do

I'm your private dancer
A dancer for money
I'll do what you want me to do
I'm your private dancer
A dancer for money
And any old music will do

PROUD MARY

Every now and then I think you might
like to hear something from us
(Left a good job down in the city)
Nice and easy
But there's just one thing, you see
We never ever do nothin'
Nice and easy
We always do it nice and rough

And we're gonna take the beginning
of this song and do it easy
But then we're gonna do the
finish rough
This is the way we do "Proud Mary"
And we're rollin', rollin'
Rollin' on the river
Listen to the story now

Left a good job down in the city
Workin' for the man every night
and day
And I never lost one minute of sleepin'
I was worryin' 'bout the way that
things might've been
Big wheel keep on turnin'
Ooh, Proud Mary keep on burnin'
And we're rollin', rollin', yeah
Rollin' on the river

Doot, doot, doot...

If you come down to the river
Now, I bet you gonna find some
people who live
You don't have to worry if you got
no money
The people on the river are happy
to give
Big wheel keep on turnin' (turnin')
Proud Mary keep on burnin' (burnin')
Rollin' (yeah), say we rollin' (yeah)
Rollin' on the river
Rollin', rollin'
Rollin' on the river
Doot, doot, doot...

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 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.

NO MORE TEARS (ENOUGH IS ENOUGH)

It's raining, it's pouring
My love life is boring me to tears
After all these years
No sunshine, no moonlight
No stardust, no sign of romance
We don't stand a chance

I've always dreamed I'd find the
perfect lover
But he turned out to be like every
other man
I've loved, I've loved

Raining (raining), pouring (pouring)
There's nothing left for us here
And we won't waste another tear
Uh-huh, uh-huh, yeah

If you've had enough, don't put up
with his stuff
Don't you do it
If you've had your fill, get the check,
pay the bill
You can do it
Tell him to just get out
Nothing left to talk about
Pack his raincoat, show him out
Just look him in the eye and simply
shout

Enough is enough
I can't go on, I can't go on no more, no
Enough is enough
I want him out, I want him out that
door now

I've always dreamed I'd find the
perfect lover
But he turned out to be like every
other man
I've loved
(I had no choice from the start)
I've loved
(I've gotta listen to my heart)
I've loved (tearing us apart)

Enough is enough (is enough)
I can't go on, I can't go on no more, no
Enough is enough (is enough)
I want him out,
I want him out that door now

Enough is enough, is enough,
Is enough, is enough, is enough
Enough is enough, is enough,
Is enough, is enough, is enough
Enough is enough, is enough,
Is enough, is enough, is enough,

I've had it, you've had it
(Is enough, is enough)
He's had it (is enough, is enough)
We've had it, he's had it
I've had it, enough is enough
I've had it, you've had it
We've had it, enough is enough

Enough is enough, is enough,
Is enough, is enough, is enough,
Is enough, is enough, is enough,
Is enough, is enough, is enough,
It's enough

MIDNIGHT TRAIN TO GEORGIA

L.A. proved too much for the man
(Too much for the man)
(He couldn't make it)
So, he's leaving the life he's come
to know, oh
He said he's going back to find
(Going back to find)
What's left of his world
The world he left behind
Not so long ago

He's leaving
On that midnight train to Georgia
(Leaving on a midnight train)
Hmm, yeah
Said he's going back
(Going back to find)
To a simpler place and time
(And when he takes that ride)
Oh yes, he is
(Guess who's gonna sit right by
his side)
And I'll be with him (I know you will)
On that midnight train to Georgia
(Leaving on a midnight train to
Georgia)
I'd rather live in his world
(Live in his world)
Than live without him in mine
(World, world)
(It's his, his and hers alone)

He kept dreaming

SONG LYRICS

Oh, that someday he'd be a star
(A superstar, but he didn't get far)
But he sure found out the hard way
That dreams don't always come true
(Dreams don't always come true)
Oh no (uh-uh, no, uh-uh)
So he hung all his hopes
And he even sold his own car, hmm
Bought a one way ticket back
To the life that he once knew
Oh yes he did
He said he would

I know he's leaving
On that midnight train to Georgia
(Leaving on a midnight train)
Hmm, yeah
Said he's going back to find, oh
(Going back to find)
A simpler place and time
(And when he takes that ride)
(Guess who's gonna sit right by his side)
And, I'm gonna be with him
(I know you will)
On that midnight train to Georgia
(Leaving on the midnight train to
Georgia)
I'd rather live in his world
(Live in his world)
Than live without him in mine
(World, world)
(It's his, his and hers alone)

Oh, he's leaving
On a midnight train to Georgia
(Leaving on a midnight train)
Yeah, oh yo
Said he's going back to find
(Going back to find)
Oh, a simpler place and time
(Whenever he takes that ride)
(Guess who's gonna be right by
his side)
I've got to be with him
(I know you will)
On that midnight train to Georgia
(Leaving on a midnight train to
Georgia)
I'd rather live in his world
(Live in his world)
Than live without him in mine
(World, world)
(Is his, his and hers alone)

On board, gonna board
The midnight train to go for love

Gonna board
The midnight train to go for love
Gonna board
The midnight train to go for love
Gonna board
The midnight train to go for love
Gonna board
The midnight train to go for love

LADY MARMALADE

Hey sister, go sister,
Soul sister, go sister
Hey sister, go sister,
Soul sister, go sister

He met Marmalade down in old
New Orleans
Struttin' her stuff on the street
She said 'Hello, hey Joe
You wanna give it a go?'
Mmm, mmm

Gitchie Gitchie Ya Ya Da Da
Gitchie Gitchie Ya Ya here
Mocha-choca-lata Ya Ya
Creole Lady Marmalade

Voulez-vous coucher avec moi ce soir?
Voulez-vous coucher avec moi?

He sat in her boudoir
While she freshened up
The boy drank all her magnolia wine
On the black satin sheets
Where oh I swear he started to freak

Gitchie Gitchie Ya Ya Da Da
Gitchie Gitchie Ya Ya here
Mocha-choca-lata Ya Ya
Creole Lady Marmalade

Voulez-vous coucher avec moi ce soir?
Voulez-vous coucher avec moi?
Hey, hey, hey
Touching her skin feelin' silky smooth
The color of cafe au lait
Made the savage beast inside
Roar until it cried, more, more, more

Now he's back home doing 9 to 5
Living his grey flannel life
But when he turns off to sleep
Old memories creep

More, more, more

Gitchie Gitchie Ya Ya Da Da
Gitchie Gitchie Ya Ya here
Mocha-choca-lata Ya Ya
Creole Lady Marmalade

Voulez-vous coucher avec moi ce soir?
Voulez-vous coucher avec moi?
Voulez-vous coucher avec moi ce soir?
Creole Lady Marmalade

Voulez-vous coucher avec moi ce soir?
Voulez-vous coucher avec moi?
Voulez-vous coucher avec moi ce soir?
Voulez-vous coucher avec moi?

Hey Sister, Go Sister,
Soul Sister, Go Sister
Hey Sister, Go Sister,
Soul Sister, Go Sister
Creole Lady Marmalade

NEW ATTITUDE

I'm wearing a new dress, new hat
Brand new ideas, as a matter of fact
I've changed for good
Somehow the wires uncrossed,
The tables were turned

Never knew I had such a lesson
to learn
I'm feelin' good from my head to
my shoes
Know where I'm goin' and I know
what to do
I tidied up my point of view
I got a new attitude

I'm in control, my worries are few
'Cause I've got love like I never knew
Ooh-oo-hoo-oo-hoo-oo-hoo
I got a new attitude

Runnin' hot, runnin' cold
I was runnin' into overload
It was extreme
I took it so high, so low
So low, there was nowhere to go
Like a bad dream

Somehow the wires uncrossed
The tables were turned

Never knew I had such a lesson
to learn
I'm feelin' good from my head to
my shoes
Know where I'm goin' and I know
what to do

I tidied up my point of view
I got a new attitude

I'm in control, my worries are few
'Cause I've got love like I never knew
Ooh-oo-hoo-oo-hoo-oo-hoo
I got a new attitude

I'm wearing a new dress, new hat
Brand new ideas, as a matter of fact,
I've changed for good
Must have been the cool night,
New moon, slight change
Or that look in your eyes,
But I feel like I should, yes
Somehow the wires uncrossed,
The tables were turned
Never knew I had such a lesson to
learn

I'm feelin' good from my head to
my shoes
Know where I'm goin' and I know
what to do
I tidied up my point of view
I got a new attitude

I'm in control, my worries are few
'Cause I've got love like I never knew
Ooh-oo-hoo-oo-hoo-oo-hoo
I got a new attitude

Ooh-oo-hoo-oo-hoo-oo-hoo
Ooh-oo-hoo-oo-hoo-oo-hoo
I got a new attitude

SWEET LOVE

With all my heart, I love you, baby
Stay with me and you will see
My arms will hold you, baby
Never leave, 'cause I believe I'm in love
Sweet love
Hear me callin' out your name
I feel no shame
I'm in love, sweet love
Don't you ever go away

SONG LYRICS

It'll always be this way

There's no stronger love in this world
Oh, baby, no

You're my man, I'm your girl
I'll never go, wait and see, can't be
wrong

Don't you know this is where you
belong?

Oh, how sweet this dream
How lovely, baby
Stay right here, never fear
I will be all that you need
Never leave, 'cause baby, I believe
In this love

Sweet love

Hear me callin' out your name
I feel no shame
I'm in love, sweet love
Don't you ever go away
It'll always be this way

Oh, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no
(Sweet love) oh-oooh
So sweet
So sweet
So sweet oh, oh, love
(Sweet love) Yeah, oh love
With all my heart, I love you
I'm in love.

HOW WILL I KNOW

There's a boy I know,
He's the one I dream of
Looks into my eyes,
Takes me to the clouds above
Oh, I lose control,
Can't seem to get enough,
When I wake from dreaming,
Tell me, is it really love?

Ooh, how will I know?
(Don't trust your feelings)
How will I know?
How will I know?
(Love can be deceiving)
How will I know?

How will I know if he really loves me?
I say a prayer with every heartbeat
I fall in love whenever we meet
I'm asking you 'cause you know about
these things
How will I know if he's thinking of me?

I try to phone but I'm too shy
(Can't speak)
Falling in love is so bittersweet
This love is strong, why do I feel weak?

Oh, wake me, I'm shaking
Wish I had you near me now, uh-huh
Said there's no mistaking
What I feel is really love

Ooh, tell me how will I know?
(Don't trust your feelings)
How will I know?
How will I know?
(Love can be deceiving)
How will I know?

How will I know if he really loves me?
I say a prayer with every heartbeat
I fall in love whenever we meet
I'm asking you 'cause you know about
these things
How will I know if he's thinking of me?
I try to phone but I'm too shy
(Can't speak)
Falling in love is so bittersweet
This love is strong, why do I feel weak?

If he loves me
If he loves me not
If he loves me
Ooh, if he loves me not
Hey, if he loves me
If he loves me not

How will I know if he really loves me?
I say a prayer with every heartbeat
I fall in love whenever we meet
I'm asking you 'cause you know about
these things
How will I know if he's thinking of me?
I try to phone but I'm too shy
Falling in love is so bittersweet
This love is strong, why do I feel weak?
How will I know?

THE BEST

I call you when I need you,
My heart's on fire
You come to me, come to me wild
and wild
When you come to me
Give me everything I need
Give me a lifetime of promises and

a world of dreams
Speak a language of love like you
know what it means
Mmm, and it can't be wrong
Take my heart and make it strong
Baby

You're simply the best
Better than all the rest
Better than anyone
Anyone I've ever met

I'm stuck on your heart
I hang on every word you say
Tear us apart
Baby, I would rather be dead

In your heart, I see the star of every
night and every day
In your eyes, I get lost,

I get washed away
Just as long as I'm here in your arms
I could be in no better place

You're simply the best
Better than all the rest

Better than anyone
Anyone I've ever met

Ooh, I'm stuck on your heart
I hang on every word you say
Don't tear us apart, no, no, no
Baby, I would rather be dead

Each time you leave me, I start losing
control
You're walking away with my heart
and my soul
I can feel you even when I'm alone
Oh baby, don't let go

Ooh, you're the best, ooh
Better than all the rest
Better than anyone
Anyone I've ever met
Ooh, I'm stuck on your heart
I hang on every word you say
Don't tear us apart, no, no
Baby, I would rather be dead
You're the best





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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

Led by Artistic Director Thea Kano, the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC (GMCW) is now in its 45th season. GMCW has more than 250 singing members, three select ensembles, a dance company, a youth chorus, and an annual audience of more than 10,000 people. The Chorus and its ensembles keep a very busy schedule with more than 100 outreach performances each season. Past outreach performances have included the HRC National Dinner, performing live on NBC-TV's *The Today Show*, an historic LGBTQ music and outreach tour in Ukraine, a first-ever tour by an LGBTQ+ chorus to Cuba, and a special concert in Reykjavik, Iceland. GMCW has performed for President and First Lady Obama, eight consecutive years at President and Dr. Biden's residence, twice at the Kennedy Center Honors, and as part of the inaugural celebration for President Clinton. Since 2001, the Chorus has maintained a robust youth outreach program, GenOUT, and in 2015, launched the GenOUT Youth Chorus, the first LGBTQ+ and allied youth chorus in the DC metro area. Since its debut, more than 150 singers from 80 area schools have participated in GenOUT.

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
Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, 2025
Tara Hoot, 2026

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
Atlas Performing Arts Center, 2025
Rainbow Railroad, 2026

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
Keygan Miller, 2025
Chipper Dean, 2026

* posthumously awarded

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 Trinkle
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

2025

Zachary Barger
Javon Byam
Jeffrey Hollands
John Knapp
Steve Oatmeyer
Chuck Willett

* 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

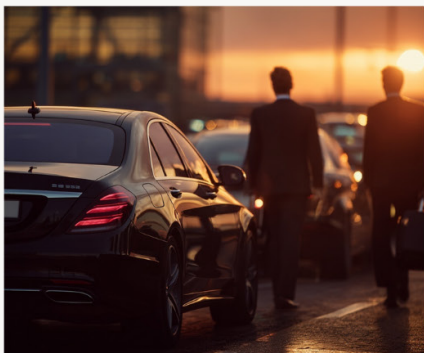
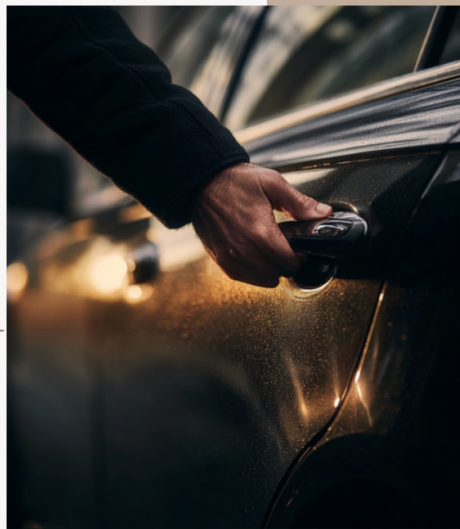
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William Moran	

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

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All Souls Episcopal Church
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Bet Mishpachah
Bethesda United Church of Christ
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Bull Run Unitarian Universalist Church
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Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church
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Christ Church Capitol Hill
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The Church of the Epiphany
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Hope United Church of Christ
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Unapologetically Joyful!

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2026 – 2027
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- 1. HEATED REVELRY**
OCTOBER 24, 2026
- 2. THE HOLIDAY SHOW**
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- 3. HEART & SOUL**
FEBRUARY 13, 2027
- 4. QUEER JOY: FROM ELTON TO EILISH**
MARCH 13, 2027
- 5. YOUTH INVASION**
APRIL 25, 2027
- 6. RETRO JOY: FROM CLOSETS TO CLUB LIGHTS**
JUNE 5 & 6, 2027

SUBSCRIPTIONS ON SALE FALL 2026