

Sunday, December 17, 2023, 5pm  
Zellerbach Hall

# San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

## *Holiday Spectacular 2023*

Jacob Stensberg, *Artistic Director & Conductor*

### FEATURED SOLOISTS & MUSICIANS

#### Soloists

*(in order of appearance)*

"Jackson 5 Christmas Medley"

Justin Kim, Andrew Caldwell, Corby York

"We Toast the Days"

J. Max Rosen, Roy Eikleberry

"The Holiday Tango"

Ron Jenkins, Photis Pishiaras, *Guest Featured Dancers*

"Hang Your Lights"

Sam Brondfield

"Pacem"

Bryan Catanzaro, *Oboe*

"Into the Unknown"

Mark Mezak, Kyle Fowler

"White Christmas"

Mattee G. Hastings

"Britney Medley"

Gilberto J. Esqueda, Matvey Zelyev, Jesse Cortez

#### Musicians

Danny Sullivan, *Principal Accompanist/Music Supervisor*

Aaron Shaul, *Bass*

Matt Wrobel, *Guitar*

Juan Carreon, *Drums*

Ken Brill, *Keyboard*

Cory Tiffin, *Clarinet*

Marvin McFadden, *Trumpet*

John Trombetta, *Trumpet*

Jamie Dubberly, *Trombone*

*Leadership support for LGBTQ+ programming at Cal Performances  
is provided by Michael P. N. A. Hormel.*

## VOCAL & SPECIALTY ENSEMBLES

### HomoPhonics

Mitch Galli, *Music Director*

Drew Haven, *Assistant Music Director*

Jeff Becker  
Mike Devlin  
Kyle Fowler  
Ryan Fox-Lee  
Christopher Grant  
Mattee G. Hastings

Brandon Jenkins  
Jonathan Jones  
Steven Kasparek  
Vinney Lê  
Bob Letters

Mark Mezak  
Justin Nool  
Lucas Poliak  
Thomas Reeder  
Juan Pablo Rico  
Ernesto Tovar

### The Lollipop Guild

Paul Saccone, *Music Director*

Nick Harper, *Administrator*

W. Fran Astorga  
Rylan Ayers  
Ron Carranza  
Eric Chau  
Doug Curran  
David A. Díaz  
Gilberto J. Esqueda  
Ray Fletcher  
Josh Frazier

Michael Friedman  
Polo Gaputan  
Zach Gardner  
Kameron Graham  
Don Howerton  
Rik Douglas Jeffery  
Michael Lepage  
Eric Mata  
Butch Merideth

John O'Neill  
Israel Salgado  
George Shotz  
Ayden Shupe  
Luke Siegle  
Jeff Sinclair  
Jack Stehn  
Sup Suh  
Matvey Zelyev

### ASL Interpreter

Dane K. Lentz

### Specialty Dancers

Alex Bien  
Andrew Caldwell  
Sherwin Camacho  
Nathaniel Cleveland  
Jesse Cortez  
Roy Eikleberry  
Michael Friedman

Raymond Mark Gonzales  
James Hang  
Nick Heinzen  
Rik Douglas Jeffery  
Brandon Jenkins  
Vinney Lê  
Bob Letters

Eric Mata  
Emerito A. Pacleb Jr.  
Lucas Poliak  
Louis Rogers  
Tye Roman  
Ernesto Tovar  
Matvey Zelyev



Shelan Cohen

## PROGRAM

“Deck the Hall”

Traditional Carol

Arranged by Chad Weirick

“Jackson 5 Christmas Medley”

Arranged by Jackson 5

Adapted by Saunder Choi

“I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus”

Words and Music by Tommie Connor

“Frosty the Snowman”

Words and Music by Jack Rollins and Steve Nelson

“Santa Claus is Coming to Town”

Music by J. Fred Coots

Words by Haven Gillespe

“The Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth”

Originally performed by Bing Crosby and David Bowie

Arranged by Saunder Choi

“Peace on Earth”

Music and Lyrics by Alan Kohan, Larry Grossman, and Ian Fraser

“The Little Drummer Boy”

Music and Lyrics by Harry Simeone, Henry Onorati, and Katherine Davis

“We Toast the Days”  
Music and Lyrics by Linda Kachelmeier

“Ripple” from *Spirited*  
Music and Lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul  
Arranged by David Maddux for the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus

“The Holiday Tango”  
Words and Music by Greg Gilpin

“Sleigh Ride”  
Words by Mitchell Parish  
Music by Leroy Anderson  
Arranged by Mark Hayes  
PERFORMED BY THE LOLLIPOP GUILD

“Parum Parum”  
Music by Peter Rycroft and Ina Wroldsen  
Parody Lyrics by Ash  
Arranged by Ash  
PERFORMED BY THE LOLLIPOP GUILD

“Where Winter Rests in Sleep”  
Words by Sir Charles George Douglas Roberts  
Music by Alessio Tranchell

“The Chanukah Song (We Are Lights)”  
Lyrics by Steve Young  
Music by Stephen Schwartz  
Arranged by Ryan Nowlin  
Edited by Judith Clurman  
TTBB voicing by Bill Cutter

“Hang Your Lights”  
Music and Lyrics by Jamie Cullum  
Arranged by Dave Volpe for the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus

“This Christmas”  
Words and Music by Donny Hathaway and Nadine McKinnor  
Arranged by Paul Langford

“Pacem”  
Traditional Latin  
Music by Lee Dengler

“Into the Unknown”

Originally performed by D Cappella  
Music and Lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez  
Arranged by Deke Sharon  
TTBB voicing by Mitch Galli and Drew Haven  
PERFORMED BY HOMOPHONICS

“White Christmas”

Originally performed by Pentatonix and The Manhattan Transfer  
Music and Lyrics by Irving Berlin  
TTBB voicing by Drew Haven  
PERFORMED BY HOMOPHONICS

“Love Is Christmas”

Words and Music by Sara Bareilles  
Arranged by Dave Volpe

“Silent Night”

Lyrics by Joseph Mohr  
Music by Franz Xaver Gruber

“Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”

Music and Lyrics by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane  
Arranged by Saunder Choi for the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

“Britney Medley”

Parody Lyrics by Mitch Galli and Rev. Sam Lundquist  
Arranged by Paul Saccone

“Oops!...I Did It Again”

Words and Music by Max Martin and Rami Yacoub

“Gimme More”

Words and Music by Floyd Hills, Keri Hilson, James Washington, and Marcella Araica

“Lucky”

Words and Music by Max Martin, Rami Yacoub, and Alexander Kronlund

“Stronger”

Words and Music by Martin Sandberg and Rami Yacoub

“Toxic”

Words and Music by Cathy Dennis, Christian Karlsson, Pontus Winnberg, and Kenrick Jonback

“...Baby One More Time”

Words and Music by Max Martin

*This program will be performed without intermission  
and last approximately 90 minutes.*

**H**ello, and Happy Holidays! Thank you so much for making the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus part of your holidays this year! As the days become shorter and shorter, we cherish this opportunity to bring light and life to our Bay Area community.

In planning this year's show, I sought to fill a void—to observe what's missing, and see if we can create the show we need. The stories I was seeing in the news, the stories being written about our City by the Bay—and even the stories I told myself—were missing something critically important: Love.

From that, an entire concert season was born. In this production of *Holiday Spectacular*, you'll hear the holiday classics

and campy wonder you have come to expect, but you'll also hear what love sounds like in our voices: for our friends and family, for the trailblazers and torchbearers who came before us, and for the days still to come. I hope you'll come back and hear us in March and June as we continue to fill San Francisco with our voices and our love.

Please enjoy the incredibly hard work our singers have put in for this production. I hope it fills you with love: for your San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, for your friends and family, and maybe most importantly, for yourself.

I end every rehearsal the same way, and it's how I'll close this letter: with a rallying call for radical action:

Tell someone you love them! XOXO

—*Jake Stensberg*

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### Mission Statement—

#### San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

To lead by creating extraordinary music and experiences that build community, inspire activism, and foster compassion at home and around the world.

For 45 years, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus has served as an international standard bearer for a powerful mix of musical excellence and mission-driven activism. Founded in 1978, SFGMC was the first choral organization to courageously proclaim its orientation in its name and is credited with helping start the LGBTQIA+ choral movement that now spans the entire globe, galvanizing and changing the course of LGBTQIA+ history.



#### Jacob Stensberg Artistic Director & Conductor

Jacob Stensberg (he/him) is thrilled to be ushering in his second season as Artistic Director and Conductor of the

San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and the Chan National Queer Arts Center. Prior to his appointment with SFGMC, he was Assistant Director for Purdue Musical Organizations at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

In addition to his work at Purdue, Stensberg enjoyed working with Butler University (Indianapolis) choirs and orchestras, the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir, the Circle City Chamber Choir, the Booth Tarkington Civic Theater, Zach&Zack Productions, BOBDIREX, the Eclectic Pond Theatre Company, and the Civic Theater of Lafayette.

Stensberg's inaugural season with the San Francisco Gay Men's chorus included record-setting *Holiday Spectacular* and *Disney PRIDE in Concert* concerts, and his debut conducting the San Francisco Symphony in partnership with the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus this past July on *Hello Yellow Brick Road*.

Stensberg received his formal and formative training from Dr. Kristina Boerger at Carroll University in Waukesha, Wisconsin, where he earned a bachelor's degree in music education. He earned his master's degree in conducting from Butler University, where he studied with Dr. Eric Stark.



**Chris Verdugo**  
Chief Executive  
Officer

Chris Verdugo (he/him) is honored to be the first CEO of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus.

His introduction to the gay choral movement came at the early age of 18, when he joined the Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida. Three years later, he became Artistic Director of Paragon Productions, choreographing, directing, and producing theatrical productions for cruise lines and hotels throughout the world. In 1999, he combined his event production background with his fundraising skills, working with the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis and Miami Beach's Winter Party Music Festival, and on the board of directors for the South Beach Gay Men's Chorus.

Upon moving to Los Angeles in 2003, Verdugo began to focus on LGBT and social justice issues, working with various non-profits including the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Equality California, Human Rights Campaign, and GLAAD, and producing Queer Lounge at Sundance for four years.

He joined the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles in 2006 as a singer and five years later was named Executive Director. Under Verdugo, the chorus built an international reputation for musical excellence, doubled its budget, experienced a massive expansion incorporating education programs in Los Angeles' high schools, and launched a national music tour entitled, "It Gets Better!"

He joined the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus in 2016 as Executive Director and in 2022 was appointed Chief Executive Officer. In addition to his duties with the chorus, he oversees the Chan National Queer Arts Center, the nation's first Queer Arts Center.

Verdugo is a proud member of the Recording Academy and serves as a Senior Advisor to Source Journeys, the leading LGBTQ luxury travel company.



**Wil Wright**  
Director of  
Operations  
& Production

Wil Wright (he/him) is the Director of Operations & Production for the San Francisco Gay Men's

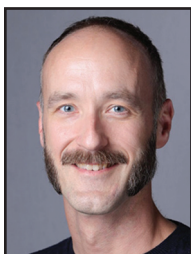
Chorus and Chan National Queer Arts Center. His career with SFGMC began in 2012 as a volunteer stage manager and he has continued to grow with the organization over the past 11 years. Prior to SFGMC, he worked for Feinstein's at the Nikko and BroadwaySE. Wright originally fell in love with technical theater and theater arts administration in Atlanta (GA), working both as a stage manager for Dad's Garage Theatre and as the box office manager for the Center for Puppetry Arts. He lives in San Francisco with his partner and their two French bulldogs, and they spend much of their time attending live performances locally, on Broadway, and abroad.



**Mitch Galli**  
**Associate Director**  
**of Music Education**  
**& Outreach**

Mitch Galli (he/him) is a conductor, arranger, lyricist, educator, singer, and pianist. Originally from Wil-

liamstown, MA, he holds a bachelor's degree in music from St. Lawrence University and a master's in urban education, administration, and policy from Loyola Marymount University. Galli moved to the San Francisco Bay Area in 2012 as a corps member with Teach for America. He taught high school mathematics and music for four years in Oakland and middle school music in San Francisco for one year. Galli joined SFGMC in January 2015. He founded Homophonic, the chorus' *a cappella* ensemble in August 2015, and continues to direct the group. Galli is also director of the chorus' educational outreach program, RHYTHM: Reaching Youth Through Music, which was established in February 2018. He has conducted SFGMC in performances across the country including at Park City, UT, Outfest Film Festival in Los Angeles, and Charleston and Greenville, South Carolina.



**Danny Sullivan**  
**Principal**  
**Accompanist &**  
**Music Supervisor**

Originally from Bellingham, WA, Danny Sullivan (he/him) earned a bachelor's degree in music (con-

centrated on piano performance and pedagogy) from the Berklee College of Music. He has held pianist positions at the Boston Conservatory, Boston Ballet, and Pacific Northwest Ballet and performed on stage

with SFDanceWorks, Smuin Ballet, and San Francisco Ballet School, where he developed the music appreciation class and continues to accompany. Sullivan has directed or performed for dozens of musical theater, cabaret, and opera productions, ranging from national tours to local productions in Boston, Seattle, and San Francisco. You will find him annually at the SF Botanical Garden's Flower Piano. Sullivan's new role at SFGMC gives him an immense sense of pride as he continues to fulfill the mission of creating change and inspiring activism through music.

### STAFF & LEADERSHIP

#### SFGMC Staff + Contractors

Jacob Stensberg, *Artistic Director*

Christopher Verdugo, *Chief Executive Officer*

Wil Wright, *Director of Operations & Production*

Sarah Cohan, *Director of Development*

Mitch Galli, *Associate Director of Music Education & Outreach*

Alison Marie Ukpabi, *Corporate and Institutional Giving Manager*

Tony Taylor, *Rental & Sales Administrator*

Crystal Watts, *Production Associate*

Danny Sullivan, *Principal Accompanist & Music Supervisor*

Andrew Barrett, *Marketing Consultant*

Kevin Kopjak, *Prismatic Communications LLC, Publicist*

BPM Creative Labs, *Promotional Artwork*

Marco Ponce de Leon, *Season Graphic Design*

Lisa Marie "Phoenix" Jackson, *Marketing Project Manager*

Joe Bissell, *Social Media Manager*

Stefan Cohen and Kristen Loken, *Season Photographers*



### Production

Wil Wright, *Production & Stage Manager*

Keith Pepper, Gary Richards, Sunny  
Shergill, Crystal Watts, *Assistant Stage  
Managers*

Steve Valdez, *Choreographer*

Michael Tate, *Dance Captain*

Nathan Cates, *Chorus Wardrobe Assistant*

Sal Baglieri, Sherwin Camaco, Don  
Ruthroff, *Chorus Logistics Coordinators*

### Leadership

Raymond Mark Gonzales, *President*

Andrew Kwan, *Vice President*

Ayden Shupe, *Secretary*

Clint Johnson, *DEI Chair*

Kenan Arun, *Historian*

Rylan Ayers, David A. Díaz, Justin Kim,

Juan Pablo Rico, Jeff Sinclair,

Corby York, *Members-at-Large*

### Board of Directors

Glenn DeSandre, *Chair*

Tom Paulino, *Vice Chair*

Udit Sood, *Secretary*

Denise Geschke, *Treasurer*

Raymond Mark Gonzales, *Chorus President*

Allen Applegate

Gatanya Arnic

Brandon Baranco

Miguel Bustos

Meghan Cast

Mitzy De La Peña Medina

Adrienne Foley

Steve Gallagher

Christopher Grant

Spencer Hemphill

Don Howerton

Clint Johnson

Sally Kay

Carol Kuester

Vinney Lê

Sean Livingston

Monica MacMillan

Tim Pavsek

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[sfgmc.org](http://sfgmc.org)

### Follow Us

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[archive@sfgmc.org](mailto:archive@sfgmc.org)

## CHORUS ROSTER

### SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S CHORUS

#### Tenor 1

Dave Andrade  
Tyler Armer  
Kenan Arun  
W. Fran Astorga  
Ryan Juno Bautista  
Alex Bien  
Derek Blechinger  
Andrew Caldwell  
\*Sherwin Camacho  
Esteban Manuel Carabajal  
Ron Carranza  
Jimmy Chan  
Nathaniel Cleveland  
Julian Francis Clift  
Sean Conner  
Jesse Cortez  
Mike Devlin  
Jason Diopelo  
Bernie Dizon  
\*Gilberto J. Esqueda  
Jeff Ford  
Ryan Fox-Lee  
Polo Gaputan  
Raymond Mark Gonzales  
Kameron Graham  
Josh Green  
Curtis Griffin  
James Hang  
^Nick Harper  
^Chip Heath  
Spencer Hemphill  
Eric W. Hoover  
Tad Hopp  
Rik Douglas Jeffery  
\*Brandon Jenkins  
Zixuan Kang  
Tyler David Lake  
Victory Lê-Szarapka  
Vinney Lê  
James Machado  
Andrew Marsh  
Aaron McRae  
Jason Melehani  
Mark Mezak  
Yulee Newsome  
Michael Nguyen  
Mark Nivet  
Justin Nool  
Newell Pangulayan  
Tim Pavek  
Matthew Peifer  
Juan Pablo Rico  
Sean Shelton  
\*Ayden Shupe  
Luke Siegle  
Jeff Sinclair  
Sup Suh  
Oky Sulistio  
Kevin Sun  
Walker Weatherly  
Phillip Wilkinson  
Fei Zhao

#### Tenor 2

\*Brian Abascal  
Richard Adamson  
Randy Ady  
Ilmar Aldana  
Manuel Raguro Apolonio  
Sergio Aquino  
Sal Baglieri  
Dale Becherer  
Jeff Becker  
Sam Brondfield  
\*Steve Burton  
Chuck Calixto  
Bruce Carpenter  
Nathan Cates  
Timothy Cavanaugh  
Scott Davis  
Justin Donahue  
Justin Duhe  
Adam Echelman  
Mark Forrer  
^Michael J. Fouquette  
Kyle Fowler  
Peter Franzl  
Earl Friedberg  
Steve Garber  
\*Brad Gibson  
Michael Giles  
Derek Ha  
Jared M. Hansen  
Tim Heidal  
Don Howerton  
Stephen Hylas  
Arnold Icasiano  
Michael Imprescia  
Peter Jacobs  
Martin Javier  
Clint Johnson  
Justin Kim  
James Kinney  
Sam Kohler  
^Randy Laroche  
Xin Li  
Steve Luppino  
Daniel Macri  
Angelo Martinez  
Eric Mata  
Duran Mishler  
J.R. Parish  
Christian Petrangelo  
Lucas Poliak  
Curtis Ponzi  
Joseph Pritchard  
Jonathan Rosa  
Will Rubin  
Don Ruthroff  
Joseph A. Shapiro  
Chris Stevenson  
Ken Sutha  
^Billy Tang  
\*Michael Tate  
Evan Vaughan  
Gilbert Villareal Mendonça  
Randy White  
Jess Williams-Gamboa  
Matt Wilson  
Tauheed Zaman

#### Baritone

Mark Alfaro  
Allen Applegate  
Rylan Ayers  
Mike Bankert  
Doug Brewster  
Michael Bruin  
Michael Castro  
Eric Chau  
Devlon Clouser  
Chester Crisologo  
Brent Dawson  
Glenn DeSandre  
Erick Ducut  
Roy Eikleberry  
Darren Foote  
Josh Frazier  
Robbie Frederick  
Kyle French  
David Frick  
Jim Graham  
Timothy Green  
Adrien Guillaussier  
\*Drew Haven  
^Dave Hayes Mocchi  
Scout Heath  
Joe Hege  
Nick Heinzen  
Jeremy Holland  
Shen Hu  
Rob Jaques  
\*Jonathan Jones  
Peter Jones  
Brian Jung  
Young Kang  
Steven Kasperek  
David Klatt  
Kevin C. Koczela  
Peter Kokoszka  
Michael Kyle  
Andre Gary-Mack  
Tyler Mann  
Josh Marquina  
Ray McCabe  
Forest McMillin  
Butch Merideth  
^Rob Mitchell  
\*Case Nafziger  
Kyle Nishkian  
Jason Nunan  
Chris Padula  
Tom Paulino  
Louis Rogers  
Tye Roman  
J. Max Rosen  
Robert Rufo  
Israel Salgado  
Jonathan Searle  
Matthew Shear  
Nicholas Slater  
Diego Smith  
John Stiehler  
Adam Tatarsky  
Jordan Tauber-Marshall  
Mauricio Teixeira  
Remy Todd  
Ernesto Tovar  
Jeremy Waldorff  
Nick Weichsler  
Ben White

Clint Frederic Wiater  
David John Wilson  
Mark Wise  
Todd Yetter  
\*Corby York  
Peter Young  
Guangshuo Zang

#### Bass

Jeff Alder  
Mike Barnes  
\*Jim Bohannon  
Matt Bolt  
Kyle Carriere  
Bryan Catanzaro  
David Clark  
Aaron J. Clarke  
Israel Cruz  
Doug Curran  
Nick Dahlberg  
David A. Diaz  
\*Ray Fletcher  
Michael Friedman  
Andrew Fukuba  
Matt Fust  
Zach Gardner  
^Jim Gatteau  
Christopher Grant  
Hao Guo  
Jeffrey Haass  
Alex Halbritter  
Bear Hamilton  
\*Steven Harvey  
Mattee G. Hastings  
Kevin M. Healy  
Will Heilbut  
Steven Hirschi  
Shayan Hosseinzadeh  
Tim Jackson  
Dennis James  
Thomas Kennard  
James Lange  
David Laudon  
Michael Lepage  
Bob Letters  
Anthony Levintow  
J. David Lowe  
Joe Madres  
David Malespin  
^Bernie Morrissey  
John O'Neill  
Emerito A. Pacle Jr.  
Thomas Reeder  
Pete Rodway  
\*Paul Saccone  
Christopher Sauvageau  
George Shotz  
Joseph Sigman  
Eddy Skees  
Kam Smith  
Jack Stehn  
Joseph Tomasini  
Brian E. Weart  
James Ye  
Matvey Zelyev

#### KEY

\*Section Leader  
^Section Coordinator