

Saturday, December 22, 2025, 2pm and 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

Holiday Spectacular 2025

Chris Verdugo, *Chief Executive Officer*
Jacob Stensberg, *Artistic Director and Conductor*

FEATURED SOLOISTS

ACT 1

“Todo es posible en Navidad”

2pm – Diego Smith

8pm – Xander Gonzalez

“What Christmas Means to Me”

2pm – Ron Carranza

8pm – Quinton Ramirez

“All That Holiday Stuff”

2pm – Theo Yaung

8pm – Stephen Aguirre

ACT 2

“Holding Out For A Hero”

2pm – Pete Rodway

8pm – Sean Fenton

“Glowin”

2pm – Jonathan Jones, Lucas Poliak, and Brandon Jenkins

Vocal Percussionist: Richman Neumann

8pm – Jonathan Jones, Lucas Poliak, and Brandon Jenkins

Vocal Percussionist: Richman Neumann

“Sleigh-hem: Lady Gaga Holiday Medley”

2pm – Alex Bien, Greg Kastelman, Jonathan Jones, Don Howerton, Case Nafziger

8pm – Michael Lepage, Drew Haven, J. Max Rosen, Butch Merideth, Jesse Cortez

FEATURED MUSICIANS

SFGMC BAND

Danny Sullivan, *piano*

Kenji Harada, *synthesizer*

Aaron Shaul, *bass*

Matt Wrobel, *guitar*

Juan Carreon, *drums*

James Garcia, *clarinet*

Joshua Jerge, Marvin McFadden, *trumpets*

Jamie Dubberly, *trombone*

VOCAL & SPECIALTY ENSEMBLES

HomoPhonics

Mitch Galli, *Founder and Music Director*

Drew Haven, *Assistant Music Director*

Jeff Becker	Mattee G. Hastings	Justin Nool
Sean Fenton	Brandon Jenkins	Lucas Poliak
Kyle Fowler	Jonathan Jones	Thomas Reeder
Christopher Grant	Vinney Lê	Juan Pablo Rico
Alex Halbritter	Mark Mezak	Ernesto Tovar

The Lollipop Guild

Paul Saccone, *Music Director*

Danny Sullivan, *Accompanist*

Nick Harper, *Administrative Assistant*

Benjamin C. Brown	Michael Friedman	Anthony Ruth
Mark Brown	Xander Gonzalez	Sean Shelton
Rick Betita	Drew Hardy	Luke Siegle
Doug Curran	Aki Ishikawa	Joseph Sigman
David A. Díaz	Rob Jaques	Jeff Sinclair
Gilberto J. Esqueda	Phoenix Knight	Nicholas Slater
Ray Fletcher	James Lange	Chris Stevenson
Josh Frazier	Michael Lepage	Sup Suh
	Eric Mata	

ASL INTERPRETER

Dane K. Lentz

SPECIALTY DANCERS

Tyler Armer	Drew Hardy	Emerito A. Pacleb Jr.
Jesse Cortez	Brandon Jenkins	Ethan Roberts
Justin Duhe	Eric Mata	Joshua Robinson
Roy Eikleberry	Anthony Mayor	Pete Rodway
Sean Fenton	Alon Mazor	Greg Sabo
Jason Foster	Mark Mezak	Thomas Scott
Raymond Mark Gonzales	Justin Nool	Diego Smith
Christopher Grant		Jack Stehn

*Cal Performances is committed to fostering a welcoming, inclusive, and safe environment for all—
one that honors our venues as places of respite, openness, and respect.
Please see the Community Agreements section on our Policies page for more information.*



PROGRAM

“Pink Christmas”

Music and Lyrics by IRVING BERLIN
Parody Lyrics by GERARD ALESSANDRINI
Arranged by CHAD WEIRICK

“Step Into Christmas”

Music and Lyrics by ELTON JOHN and BERNIE TAUPIN
Arranged by SHARON UDOH

“Lux Aurumque”

Poem by EDWARD ESCH
Latin Translation by CHARLES ANTHONY SILVERSTRI
Music by ERIC WHITACRE

“Todo es posible en Navidad”

Music and Lyrics by DAVID BISBAL
Arranged by NICOLAS PEREZ

“White Winter Hymnal”

Performed by HomoPhonics
Music and Lyrics by ROBIN PECKNOLD
Originally performed by Fleet Foxes
Arranged for TTBB by MITCH GALLI

“Wake Me Up Before You Ho-Ho”
Performed by The Lollipop Guild
Music by GEORGE MICHAEL
Concept & Parody Lyrics by WALKER WEATHERLY
Additional Lyrics by BEN BROWN
Arranged by CHAD WEIRICK

“One Light”
Music based on “Tua Bethlem Dref”
Traditional Welsh Carol
Words and Arrangement by EVAN RAMOS

“What Christmas Means to Me”
Music and Lyrics by ALLEN STORY, ANNA GORDY GAYE, and GEORGE GORDY
Arranged by NICOLAS PEREZ

“All That Holiday Stuff”
Words and Music by ANDY BECK

INTERMISSION

“Holding Out For A Hero”
Music and Lyrics by JIM STEINMAN and DEAN PITCHFORD
Concept, Adaptation, and Additional Lyrics by SHAWN CULLEN
Arranged by DAVID MADDUX

“When Darkness Falls”
Winner of SFGMC’s Annual Composition Competition
Music and Text by ASH

“Carol of the Bells”
Performed by The Lollipop Guild
Music by M. LEONTOVICH
Words by PETER J. WILHOUSKY
Arranged by DAVID LEVINSON

“Glowin”
Performed by HomoPhontr/x
Music and Lyrics by EJAE and MARK SONNENBLICK, 24, EDO, and TEDD
Parody Lyrics by SEAN FENTON, MITCH GALLI, DREW HAVEN, and LUCAS POLIAK
Arranged by DREW HAVEN and MITCH GALLI
Intro Arranged by DEKE SHARON

“(Twinkle, Twinkle) Lucky Star”
Arranged by ASH

“Lucky Star”
Lyrics and Music by MADONNA CICCONE

“Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”

French traditional melody and lyrics by JANE TAYLOR

“Silent Night”

Text by JOSEPH MOHR

Music by FRANZ XAVER GRUBER

Arranged by DANNY SULLIVAN

“DJ Play A Christmas Song”

Words and Music by SARAH HUDSON, JESSE ST. JOHN GELLER,
STEVEN MARK SCHICK, BRETT MCLAUGHLIN, and JAMES JOHN ABRAHART JR.

Arranged by CHAD WEIRICK

“Sleigh-hem: Lady Gaga Holiday Medley”

Music by STEFANI GERMANOTTA and Various Artists

Parody Lyrics by MITCH GALLI and REV. SAMUAL LUNDQUIST

Arranged by MITCH GALLI

“Bad Romance”

Words and Music by NADIR KHAYAT and STEFANI GERMANOTTA

“Applause”

Words and Music by PAUL BLAIR, MARTIN BRESSO,
STEFANI GERMANOTTA, NICK MONSON, and DINO ZISIS

“Just Dance”

Words and Music by STEFANI GERMANOTTA, REDONE, and ALIAUNE THIAM

“Rain On Me”

Words and Music by STEFANI GERMANOTTA, ARIANA GRANDE,
MARTIN BRESSON, MIKE TUCKER, MATTHEW BURNS, ALEXANDER RIDHA,
NIJA CHARLES, RAMI YACOB, BETTY WRIGHT, JEREMIAH BURDEN,
and VERNETTA LYNN WILLIAMS

“Abracadabra”

Words and Music by STEFANI GERMANOTTA, ANDREW WATT,
SUSAN JANET BALLION, HENRY WALTER, JOHN MCGEOCH,
PETER CLARKE, and STEVEN SEVERIN

“Shallow”

Words and Music by STEFANI GERMANOTTA, MARK RONSON,
ANTHONY ROSSOMANDO, and ANDREW WYATT

“Born This Way”

Words and Music by STEFANI GERMANOTTA and JEPPE LAURSEN

The performance will last approximately two hours, including a 20-minute intermission.

Hello, and Happy Holidays! Thank you for making the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus part of your holiday tradition. As the days grow shorter, we gather this December to make our own light. Whether it be through laughter, harmony, or a sense of community, we persist in discovering our own way to shine! And if this is your first time with us or your forty-seventh, welcome home.

The year's *Holiday Spectacular* is a celebration of love, joy, and togetherness. In a world that feels dim, we lift our voices in song to remind us that music can capture and heal our pain, that laughter and joy are

a form of resistance, and that belonging is a light that already shines within each of us.

I must commend the unstoppable efforts of our singers, staff, and volunteers. They have poured so much heart into the moments you'll experience here. We hope this music fills you with warmth: for your friends, your family, and most importantly, for yourself.

However you celebrate, may this season remind you of your own light—and may you share it widely.

With love and light,

—Jacob Stensberg,
Artistic Director

San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

Mission:

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

Vision:

We envision a world inspired and unified by the music we create.

Values:

We believe in the transformative power of music to heal, to enlighten, and to foster unity. We embrace the life affirming changes we create within and beyond our chorus community. We evolve society's views toward LGBTQ people through our commitment to excellence. We honor all who came before us and whose sacrifices made it possible for us to raise our voices.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



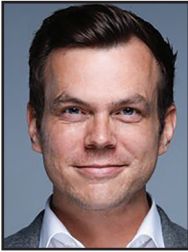
Chris Verdugo
Chief Executive
Officer

Christopher Verdugo is a nonprofit arts leader with over 25 years of experience advancing culture, equity, and social change. Since 2016, he has served as CEO of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, where he has overseen a fivefold budget increase, led a transformative capital cam-

paign, and opened the groundbreaking Chan National Queer Arts Center—the first facility of its kind dedicated to LGBTQ+ arts in the country. Under his leadership, SFGMC has expanded its national presence with activities such as the historic Lavender Pen Tour through the Deep South, using music to promote dialogue and inclusion.

Prior to SFGMC, Chris served as Executive Director of the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, where he doubled the organization's budget and launched education programs in LA public schools. He sits on the

Board of Directors for Chorus America and is frequently invited to speak on behalf of queer arts and cultural leadership. Chris' work has included collaborations with the Human Rights Campaign, Equality California, GLAAD, Bienestar, and the Queer Lounge at the Sundance Film Festival.



Jacob Stensberg
Artistic Director
and Conductor

Under Jake's leadership, SFGMC has launched new community initiatives and expanded programming, including national collaborations and innovative performances that center queer artistry, storytelling, and connection. Recent highlights include the chorus' *Love Tour* through the Midwest, headlining *Outside Lands* with Big Freedia, and local collaborations with SFBATCO, CheerSE, the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, Another Planet Entertainment, the Midway, and the San Francisco Symphony. This season's theme, "Shine," reflects Jake's commitment to using music to uplift, illuminate, and unite communities across the Bay Area and beyond.



Mitch Galli
Associate Director
of Music Education
and Outreach

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

Williamstown, MA, he holds a bachelor's degree in music from St. Lawrence University and a master's degree in urban education, administration, and policy from Loyola Marymount University. Mitch 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. Mitch joined SFGMC in 2015. He founded HomoPhonics, the chorus' *a cappella* ensemble in August 2015, which he still directs. He is also director of the chorus' educational outreach program, RHYTHM: Reaching Youth Through Music, which was established in February 2018. Mitch has conducted SFGMC in performances across the country, including at Park City, UT; at the Outfest Film Festival in Los Angeles; and at Charleston and Greenville, South Carolina. @mitchgalli.



Danny Sullivan
Principal
Accompanist and
Music Supervisor

Originally from Bellingham, WA, Danny graduated from Berkeley College of Music, concentrating in piano performance and pedagogy. Prior to joining SFGMC as Principal Accompanist and Music Supervisor in 2023, he was a staff pianist and music faculty member at San Francisco Ballet School, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Boston Ballet, and the Boston Conservatory. Danny has performed on stage with SFDanceWorks, Smuin Ballet, and the San Francisco Ballet School, where he taught music classes for 10 years and continues to accompany. He has directed music and/or performed in dozens of musical theater, opera, and cabaret productions, ranging from national tours to local productions in Boston, Seattle, and San Francisco. Favorites include *An American in Paris*, *Shrek*, *The Color Purple*, *Into the Woods*, *Chicago*, and *Hello, Dolly!* His solo concerts and San Francisco Ballet *Dance-Along Extravaganza* are featured annually during the San Francisco Botanical Garden's *Flower Piano* music fes-

tival each September. Hear his arrangements and orchestrations at a SFGMC concert near you!



Wil Wright
Director of
Operations
and Production

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

Chorus and Chan National Queer Arts Center. His career began with SFGMC in 2012 as a volunteer stage manager and he has continued to grow with the organization. Prior to SFGMC, Wil worked for Feinstein's at the Nikko and BroadwaySE. He originally fell in love with technical theater and theater arts administration in Atlanta, working as both 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 French bulldog. They spend much of their time attending live performances locally, on Broadway, and abroad.



Steve Valdez
Choreographer

Steve Valdez has been the resident choreographer for SFGMC for the past 30 years. In addition to working with the wonderful singers and artistic directors over the years, he has had the

pleasure of choreographing and staging works by Broadway icons Andrew Lippa and Stephen Schwartz. Steve received his dance training at San Jose State University and at the Marie Stinnett Dance Academy in Campbell, CA. He credits much of his musical education to working in the live

shows at the Great America Theme Park in productions staged by the late and exceptionally talented choreographer, Jim Bates, who taught Steve how to get the most out of people with various dance ability levels and how to build a production number to its greatest climax. Steve is now retired and living in Palm Springs, but happily still gets to choreograph and stage for SFGMC.

STAFF AND 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*

M.D., *Patron Operations Manager*

Molly Sender, *Partnership & Development Manager*

Richard Claar, *Database & Development Associate*

Danny Sullivan, *Principal Accompanist & Music Supervisor*

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Eric Mata, *Lead Bartender*

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Jenkins, Andrew Kwan, Justin Nool, Is-

rael Salgado, Tye Roman, *Bartenders*

WE INC Marketing, *Marketing Consultant*

Jon Finck, *Encore Communications 2.0, Public Relations*

Joe Bissell, *Social Media Manager*

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Clint Johnson
Sally Kay
Justin Kim
Vinney Lê
Sean Livingston
Alberto Rizo-Serrano
Gary Ryan
Selina Sun

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(415) 865-3650
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YouTube: youtube.com/sfgmcvideo

Main Stage Supporting Sponsors

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Butch Merideth and Ivan Capanzana
Chris Stevenson

Additional support made possible by Terrence D. Chan and Edward Sell in memory of Pansy L. Chan.

CHORUS ROSTER

SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S CHORUS

TENOR 1

Randy Acosta
Robert Argueta
*Tyler Armer
Jack Avery
Christian Robert Barajas
Alex Bien
Andrew Caldwell
Sherwin Camacho
Esteban Manuel Carabajal
Ron Carranza
Vincent Chiang
Nathaniel Cleveland
Julian Francis Clift
Sean Conner
Alex Cook
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Harrison (Anú) Crenshaw
Bernie Dizon
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Tim Pavek
Juan Pablo Rico
Nadim Saad
Sean Shelton
^Luke Siegle
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Sup Suh
Okny Sulistio
Daniel Violago
Walker Weatherly
Mark Wendel
Fei Zhao

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Duran Mishler
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