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Media Contact:

Peter Zimmerman | San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus
(415) 865-3650 ext. 352 | peter.zimmerman@sfgmc.org



Photo Credit: Ethan Hill

Patti LuPone Joins San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus for Spring Fundraising Event at Home of Ann & Gordon Getty

***Evening raises much-needed funds for outreach, youth
engagement and touring***

***SFGMC presenting composer Jake Heggie with
2016 Champion Award***

*The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus creates extraordinary musical
experiences that inspire community, activism and compassion.*

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San Francisco, CA 94103
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www.sfgmc.org



DR. TIMOTHY SEELIG, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SAN FRANCISCO (February 16, 2016) – Today, **San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus (SFGMC)** and **Dr. Timothy Seelig, Artistic Director**, announced its spring fundraising event at the home of Ann & Gordon Getty in San Francisco on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., featuring two-time Tony Award winner **Patti LuPone**, and honoring composer **Jake Heggie** with a Champion Award.

The evening is presented by the **Bob Ross Foundation, Terrence Chan and Edward Sell** and **Putnam Automotive Group**, and includes a cocktail reception, followed by an intimate salon performance by Broadway superstar **Patti LuPone** and a select ensemble of SFGMC singers.

“Entering the iconic Getty House is a thrill all by itself,” writes **Dr. Timothy Seelig**. “It is a veritable art museum perched high above the gorgeous bay. Entering the exquisite music salon for an intimate concert with Patti LuPone raises that experience to a level few will experience in their lives. And all of this to support the amazing outreach programs that are central to SFGMC’s mission – it’s truly amazing.”

One of the hallmarks of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus is its tireless outreach fulfilling its mission of community, activism, and compassion. The Chorus and its ensembles perform approximately 40 non-ticketed appearances annually. These are in a wide range of venues and audiences including public schools, elder facilities and benefit concerts for amazing nonprofit organizations.

The funds raised at the home of Ann & Gordon Getty will assist in continuing these performances in the Bay Area, deepen engagement with local youth programs and underserved communities, as well as help seed future tours.

Miles Walls, SFGMC Development Coordinator, elaborates, “The funds raised will assist in continuing our outreach efforts across the Bay Area, as well as help seed national and international tours. This summer, the Chorus will perform a benefit in Colorado Springs, raising much-needed awareness and funds for people living in a very conservative area of our country, and plans are also underway for SFGMC to be the first openly gay chorus to travel to China in 2018 as part of our 40th anniversary.”

Dr. Seelig continues, “Patti LuPone is spectacular in a concert with a packed house, full symphony orchestra, sets, costumes, lights – all of it. But imagine sitting in a stunning music salon, in an iconic San Francisco mansion with only 80 other people, Patti and a grand piano - up close and very personal. This experience is truly once in a lifetime, and a great moment for SFGMC.”

For more information, please visit www.sfgmc.org.

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About Patti LuPone

Patti LuPone is a two-time Tony Award winner for two now-legendary stage performances: as Argentina's controversial First Lady Eva Peron in the Broadway premiere of the musical *Evita*; and as Madame Rose, the mother of stripper Gypsy Rose Lee, in the most recent Broadway revival of the classic musical *Gypsy*.

This summer, she will take on her latest stage role, that of cosmetics pioneer Helena Rubenstein, in the world premiere of the new Scott Frankel-Michael Korie-Douglas Wright musical *War Paint* at Chicago's Goodman Theatre.

Select highlights of her stage career include performances as Lucia in *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* (Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations); Mrs. Lovett in John Doyle's production of *Sweeney Todd* (Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle Award nominations); Maria Callas in *Master Class*; Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes* (Drama Desk Award; Tony Award nomination); Moll in *The Cradle Will Rock*; Nancy in *Oliver!*; The Reporter in *Accidental Death of An Anarchist*; and Rosamund in *The Robber Bridegroom* (Tony and Drama Desk Award nominations). A long-time collaborator of writer-director David Mamet, she starred on Broadway in his plays *The Anarchist*, *The Old Neighborhood*, and *The Water Engine*; off-Broadway in *The Woods* and *Edmond*; and appeared in his films *State and Main* and *Heist*. She is a founding member of both the Drama Division of New York's Juilliard School and John Houseman's The Acting Company.

In London, she was the first American actor to appear with the Royal Shakespeare Company in their production of *Les Misérables*, in which she created the role of Fantine. For that performance, as well as for a reprise of her performance as Moll in a West End engagement of *The Cradle Will Rock*, she was the first American actor to win London's coveted Olivier Award.

Patti LuPone's film credits include *Parker*, *Union Square*, *City By The Sea*, *Just Looking*, *Summer of Sam*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Witness*. Her television credits include appearances on "Girls," "American Horror Story: Coven," "30 Rock," "Law & Order: SVU," "Glee," "Ugly Betty," "Will & Grace," the Emmy winning telecasts of "Passion" and "Sweeney Todd," "Oz," "Monday Night Mayhem," "Evening At the Pops" with John Williams and Yo Yo Ma, "Frasier" (Emmy nomination), "Law & Order," "The Water Engine," "L.B.J.," and "Life Goes On." She returns to "Penny Dreadful" this season as Dr. Seward, after receiving critical acclaim and a Critics' Choice Award nomination from her performance last season.



Photo Credit: Gareth Gooch

About San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

For nearly 40 years, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus has courageously served as the international standard bearer for a powerful and accomplished mix of high-caliber performance, human rights, community activism, empowerment and inclusiveness, establishing it as an icon among LGBT organizations. Founded in 1978, it was the first organization of its kind and is credited with starting the LGBT choral movement, galvanizing and changing the course of LGBT history. It continues to rally and inspire other arts-based community organizations around the world. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Dr. Timothy Seelig, SFGMC has in recent seasons established a heightened level of performance standards receiving audience and choral acclaim, increased its touring and recording profile and broadened its impact and reputation in the community while maintaining its signature blend of humor, personality and high-voltage performances. For more information, visit www.sfgmc.org and @sfgmc (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram).

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