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## **San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus Announces Season 39: Community**

SAN FRANCISCO (October 6, 2016) – Unity. Fellowship. Bonding. All of these sentiments create a sense of “Community.” And starting in December, the **San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus** (SFGMC) will once again bring artistic excellence and distinction with the premiere of its 39<sup>th</sup> Season, celebrating its Northern California community.

The Chorus, along with SFGMC's Artistic Director **Dr. Timothy Seelig** and Executive Director **Chris Verdugo** announced today the theme of its newest season – **Community** – and its concert offerings for its Season 39 (2016-2017) schedule.

“This Chorus has delivered music of all kinds for the last 38 years,” write **Dr. Timothy Seelig**. “This season, we once again present a huge variety of repertoire geared to delight every audience member. What you will experience cannot be put into simple words. When all is said and done, we know that the axiom will be true, ‘You may not remember what we sang, but you will never forget how you felt.’ The 300+ men of the Chorus will serenade you and sing right into your heart.”

In December, the Chorus will present three dazzling performances of **Babes in Joyland**, from **December 9-10, 2016** at the **Nourse Theater** (275 Hayes Street, San Francisco), with performances Friday, Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 10 at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$25-70 and will be available for purchase starting Oct. 18, 2016. The Chorus is joined by soprano **Marnie Breckenridge** for **Babes in Joyland**.

Nearly 30 years ago, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus gathered for the first time on Christmas Eve in 1990 at the Castro Theatre to bring the holidays home to those who had none. Thus began the annual tradition of joining together every Christmas Eve at the Castro Theatre for this night of joyous music and heartwarming festivities.

This holiday season will mark SFGMC's 27<sup>th</sup> annual “Home for the Holidays” at the Castro Theatre (429 Castro Street, San Francisco) on Christmas Eve. Performances are

**Saturday, Dec. 24, 2016 at 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.** Opera soprano **Melody Moore** will be the Chorus' special guest artist for **Home for the Holidays**.

**Dr. Tim Seelig** continues, "As the Artistic Director, this season has me excited with anticipation of what the audience will experience. There will be TLC all around - Tears, Laughs and Chill Bumps. The music will be glorious, from familiar favorites to brand-new world premieres. The singing will be spectacular - with 300 talented men on stage giving their all. These concerts will each be momentous and take you on magical journeys."

For **Season 39: Community**, the Chorus has re-crafted and will be re-launching its signature **Crescendo** annual fundraising event as a dazzling evening gala. The 11<sup>th</sup> annual **Crescendo** gala will be held at the **Ritz-Carlton San Francisco** (600 Stockton Street, San Francisco) on **Sunday, March 12, 2017** from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. More details will follow, including special guest artists and celebrity hosts.

This spring, the Chorus returns to the magnificent (and recently renovated) **Herbst Theatre** (401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco) for three performances of **Paradise Found** on Friday, March 31, 2017 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 1, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets will range from \$25-75 and will be available for purchase starting early next year. **Paradise Found** will feature many world-premiere commissions and breathtaking new choral works, including the massive "Paradiso" by SFGMC Composer-in-Residence **Dr. James Granville Eakin III**. The **Na Lei Hulu Dance Company** joins the Chorus as special guest artists for **Paradise Found**.

Season 39 will finish with an over-the-top, joyous Pride Month celebration. The Chorus will proudly present three performances of **The Gay Kitchen Sink** at the **Nourse Theater** (275 Hayes Street) on Friday, June 16, 2017 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, June 17, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets will range from \$25-65 and will be available in April 2017. Very special guests **Kinsey Sicks**, known as "America's favorite dragapella beautyshop quartet," will join the Chorus for these lively Pride concerts.

"In my short time here as SFGMC's executive director," writes **Chris Verdugo**, "I have found a deep sense of community and pride both *in* and *for* this spectacular chorus. It's only fitting that Season 39 will celebrate an ideal that we hold true to - our community."

To access special discounts and exclusive benefits, season subscription packages are available for sale now before individual tickets go on sale to the general public. To learn more about subscribing, and for more information on the Chorus, please visit [www.sfgmc.org](http://www.sfgmc.org).

### **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](http://www.sfgmc.org) and @sfgmc (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram).

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