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SAN FRANCISCO
GAY MEN'S CHORUS
DR. TIMOTHY SEELIG, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

OIGC
OAKLAND
INTERFAITH
GOSPEL CHOIR

LAVENDER PEN TOUR
SEND-OFF CONCERT

PRESENTED BY at&t

SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S CHORUS

OAKLAND INTERFAITH GOSPEL CHOIR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 • 7:30PM

GRACE CATHEDRAL

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proudly supports

San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

WELCOME!

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our 40th season. It all starts this evening here in the serenely stunning Grace Cathedral and concludes one year later at the National AIDS Memorial Grove, another landmark San Francisco sanctuary. We have planned an extraordinary season for you, which truly kicks into high gear when 300 chorus members and friends depart for Jackson, Mississippi to launch the Lavender Pen Tour, our roof-raising, soul-affirming tour of the southern United States. Tonight, we share the stage with our amazing brothers and sisters from the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir. You are in for quite a treat as we present just a portion of the concert we will be taking on tour.

As the first openly gay chorus in history, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus has been a worldwide leader in the LGBT choral movement for nearly four decades. Over the years, the Chorus has both weathered dark times and celebrated mountaintop moments. These scars and stars have forged our strength and made us who we are today. In embarking on this historic season, we chose a theme that exemplifies who we are and will continue to strive to be in the coming forty years: "Unstoppable."

What can you do to help? Keep us in your thoughts and prayers. Let your friends in the South know that SFGMC is coming and that we would love to see them at one of our concerts. Finally, as you are able, consider making a financial contribution towards the tour. We are committed to leaving every single dollar raised from ticket sales and donations along the way in each of our host cities. Your contributions – large or small – will ensure that our work goes on long after the last note is sung.

Thank you for attending this momentous send-off concert and we hope you'll join us for our entire, Unstoppable Season 40!

Yours,

Dr. Timothy Seelig
artistic director

Christopher Verdugo
executive director

SFGMC

526 Castro Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
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415.865.3655 • fax
info@sfgmc.org

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May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

WE ARE PROUD TO SPONSOR THE LAVENDER PEN TOUR

A proud gay man, Bob Ross was a pioneer in gay journalism, founding the *Bay Area Reporter* in 1971 as a powerful politcal and cultural influence in the region.

Bob's philanthropy continues through his foundation, which proudly supports the Lavender Pen Tour 2017.

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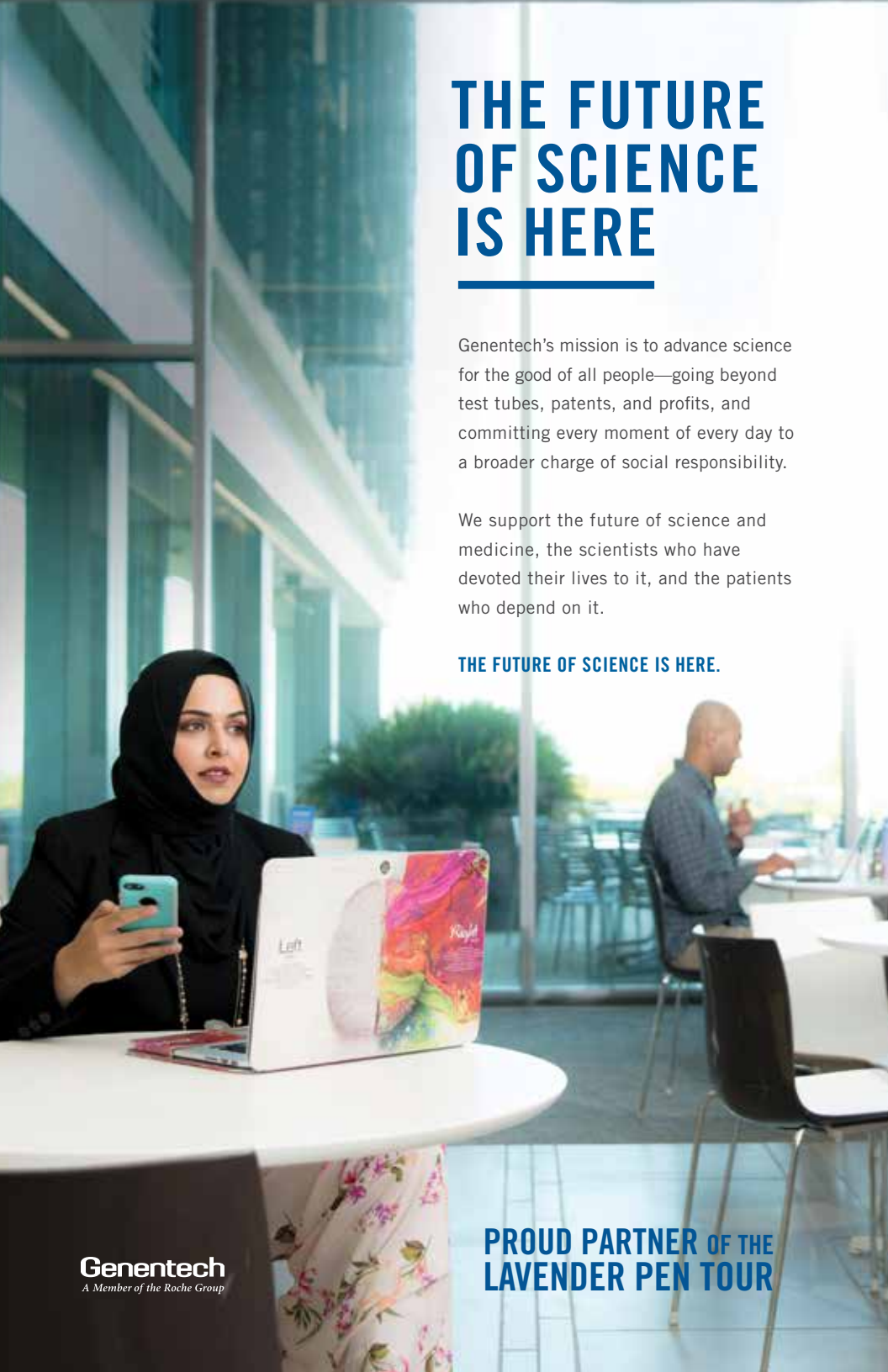

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SAN FRANCISCO
GAY MEN'S CHORUS

REFLECTIVE HEARTS, IN THE GROVE

For almost 40 years, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus has been chronicling the journey of the LGBTQ+ community through song. During those four decades, the Chorus has lost 300 singers to the ravages of HIV/AIDS.

In 1988, a small group of dedicated and determined San Francisco residents formulated a plan to create a beautiful and serene space to memorialize those lost to AIDS. Through their Herculean efforts, they broke ground in 1991. In 1996, Congress and President Bill Clinton designated the Grove as the National AIDS Memorial Grove — the first AIDS memorial in the nation. Over the last 25 years, the Grove has served as an international gathering place for those looking to remember and honor those lost to AIDS.

In 2018, these two venerable institutions join in honoring the singers of the Chorus who no longer stand on the risers, but whose voices still reverberate in our hearts and in our lives. The Chorus will endeavor to build a permanent tribute to these beloved brothers lost.

For more information and to help us achieve this dream, please contact Demetri Rizos, Director of Development, at **demetri.rizos@sfgmc.org.**

CONCERT SELECTIONS

SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S CHORUS

"Celebrate"

"Celebrate" - Gary Bonner + Alan Gordon
"Aquarius" | "Let the Sunshine In" - Galt McDermot + James Rado + Gerome Ragni
Arranged by David Maddux

"Truly Brave"

"True Colors" - Billy Steinberg + Tom Kelly
"Brave" - Sara Bareilles + Jack Antonoff
Arranged by Mac Huff + Tim Sarsany
Soloists: **Vinney Le + Ray Fletcher**

"You Have More Friends Than You Know"

Mervyn Warren + Jeff Marx, Arranged by Dave Volpe
Soloist: **Zach Herries**

"Singing For Our Lives"

Holly Near, Arranged by Steve Huffines
Soloist: **Kellan Christopher**

"Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor" | "God Help the Outcasts"

Text by Emma Lazarus **|** Alan Menken + Stephen Schwartz, Arranged by Steve Huffines
Soloists: **Andrew Caldwell**

"I Ain't Afraid"

Holly Near, Arranged by Steven Milloy
Soloists: **Davey Caldwell** + **Andrew Gagnon** + **Jonathan Jones**

"Grace"

Arranged by Mark Hayes

"Way Up There"

Tena Clark, Arranged by Tim Sarsany
Soloist: **Davey Caldwell**

“Nearer, My God, to Thee”
Music by Lowell Mason + James L. Stevens
Arranged by James L. Stevens
Soloists: **Clint Johnson** + **Nick Radford** + **Andrew Gagnon** + **Roy Eikleberry** + **M.J. Perez** + **Phillip P. Whitely**

“Love Can Build a Bridge”
Paul Overstreet + John Jarvis + Naomi Judd, Arranged by Kirby Shaw
Soloists: **Ashlé Blow** + **Sam Lundquist**

“Dance With the Storm”
Andrew Lippa

OAKLAND INTERFAITH GOSPEL CHOIR

“Lawd, How Come Me Heah?”
Traditional Negro Spiritual, Arranged by Terrance Kelly
Soloist: **Valeria Scott**

“Better”
Hezekiah Walker
Soloist: **Dan Strauss**

SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN’S CHORUS + OAKLAND INTERFAITH GOSPEL CHOIR

“Orphans of God”
Joel Lindsey + Twila LeBar, Arranged by Lonnie Delisle, Adapted Lyrics by Lonnie Delisle
Soloist: **Isa S. Chu**
Small Ensembles: **SWAG** + **OIGC Ensemble**

“Everybody Dancing”
Dr. Judith Christie McAllister + Jason White
Soloist: **Terrance Kelly**

MUSICIANS

Carl Pantle | Piano
David Belove | Bass
Louis Burrell | Keyboard
Ben Heveroh | Keyboard
Miles Lathan | Drums

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*"Regardless of our differences,
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- Jennifer Tejada, CEO, PagerDuty

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image: gareth gooch

SFGMC

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

It continues to inspire other arts-based community organizations through its performances and involvement in human rights, community activism, empowerment, and inclusiveness, establishing it as an icon among LGBT organizations.

The Chorus was founded in October 1978. Its first public appearance was only a month later, on the steps of City Hall at the candlelight vigil following the assassinations of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk. Supervisor Milk was the first openly gay person to be elected to public office in California and one of the most high-profile in the world at that time. In 1981, SFGMC embarked on a national tour, performing in nine cities: Dallas, Minneapolis, Lincoln, Detroit, New York City, Boston, Washington DC and Seattle helping many of these cities launch their own LGBT choruses.

The Chorus now has over 275 singers in the large chorus and four outreach vocal ensembles. The award-winning Chorus has been heard by millions worldwide and is one of the crown jewels of San Francisco arts organizations.

Under the current leadership of Artistic Director Dr. Timothy Seelig, SFGMC has established a heightened level of performance standards receiving wide international 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. The chorus has a phenomenal record of commissioning works from major composers spanning the entire gamut of styles and genres, from Stephen Schwartz to John Corigliano.

.

SFGMC STAFF

Dr. Timothy Seelig
artistic director

Christopher Verdugo
executive director

Demetri Rizos
director of development

Peter Zimmerman
associate director of marketing

Wil Wright
production manager

Mitch Galli
educational outreach + music services manager + assistant conductor

Carl Pantle
principal accompanist

Lynden Bair
music assistant + associate accompanist

PRODUCTION TEAM

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lead stage manager + event lead

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Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir

32nd Annual

Holiday Concert

We Send Love, We Send Joy, We Send Peace

Saturday, December 2, 2017, 7:00 PM

Paramount Theatre, Oakland

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Kev Choice

Tamara Edwards

Logan McWilliams

Ms. Jackie Tolbert

Photos: Matt Beardsley

Terrance Kelly
Artistic Director

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OIGC
OAKLAND INTERFAITH GOSPEL CHOIR

Snowflakes: Catherine Rose Crowther

image: matt beardsley

OAKLAND INTERFAITH GOSPEL CHOIR

Under the direction of Emmy winner Terrance Kelly, the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir brings together singers and instrumentalists who embody a community of diverse races, cultures, and faiths. They also share an uncontainable passion for music. Their mission is to inspire joy and unity among all people through black gospel and spiritual music. Judging by their audiences' reactions — clapping, cheering, and singing along — it is apparent that they succeed in that mission.

Now celebrating its 32nd season, the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir was born out of a gospel music workshop led by the exuberant Terrance Kelly at Living Jazz's Jazz Camp West. It became an independent non-profit organization in 1991, and since then, the award-winning choir's exquisite harmonies and stirring gospel repertoire have led to performances with a wide variety of esteemed groups, such as Joshua Nelson, the Prince of Kosher Gospel, the Blind Boys of Alabama, and the Duke Ellington Orchestra. OIGC also appears on Grammy-winning albums by Linda Ronstadt, MC Hammer, Tramaine Hawkins, and others.

OIGC, referred to by SFJAZZ as a "treasured Bay Area institution," was named Best Gospel Choir in 2006 and the winner in the Best Church Music category in 2009 in the *East Bay Express* Readers' Polls and was voted Best Arts Organization by *Oakland Magazine* readers in 2015. Terrance Kelly was recognized as Best Choir Director in the *East Bay Express* in 2015 and granted the Dr. Edwin Hawkins Excellence Award in 2013.

The current OICG performance calendar can be seen at **oigc.org**.

> "You can hear it, too, when they sing. There are times when the voices pull together in just the right way to make one, booming voice. Suddenly the members can't help but jump to their feet and wave their hands and bounce and smile. "Haa-lee luu-yah." It sounds as though they're shouting in key, and you feel the vibrations of it all."
>
> *- Ryan Kost, San Francisco Chronicle*

OIGC STAFF

Mark DeSaulnier
executive director

Terrance Kelly
artistic director

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Nick Harper
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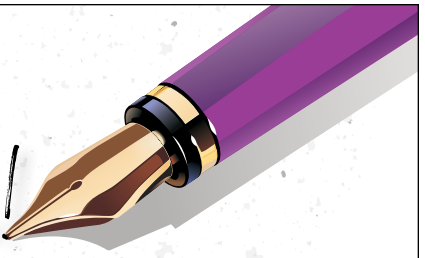
PEARL [$1,200]
Dr. Timothy Seelig + Dan England
Christopher Verdugo

We are grateful to the SFGMC Divas, a group of Chorus members and supporters who produce an annual Dragathon crowdfunding event, which raises funds for our Ryan's Fund / Financial Aid Network (FAN). Ryan's Fund / FAN assistance helps to subsidize dues and other member expenses for Chorus members who would not otherwise be able to participate. Dragathon 2016 and 2017 collectively raised over $93,000 from 600+ donors. Space limitations preclude our listing them by name, but deeply appreciate all of these contributors. .

*The preceding lists donors from **January 1, 2016** to **September 11, 2017**.*
The Chorus is grateful for all gifts received, including the ones under $100 that are too numerous to list.



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