A DAY MUSICAL CELEBRATION AT ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHEDRAL JUNE 22 8:00PM
THE SAN FRANCISCO GAY FREEDOM DAY MARCHING BAND AND TWIRLING CORPS

People have trouble remembering the name of the band, many just call them, "the Gay band", but everybody who hears them sure knows who they are. The San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps was formed for the 1978 Gay Freedom Day Parade. Following a tremendous reception to 240,000 people in that parade, the group was invited to participate in the Columbus Day Parade, where they proceeded to take first prize. In San Francisco's St. Patrick's Day Parade they also won first prize. Winning second prize in the city's Chinese New Year parade, the group also gained national television exposure.

From a beginning of only sixty-five members, it has grown in membership to over a hundred and is comprised of men and women musicians from all walks of life. They include doctors, accountants, nurses, attorneys, clerks, teachers, secretaries and business executives. Musical background ranges from Masters Degrees from the Julliard School of Music to less than a year's experience in high school or private study. A large segment of the membership returned to their musical instruments after many years of pursuing business and professional careers, having not performed since high school or college.

The Twirling Corps is lead by Jon R. Sims who in 1974 was honored as National Twirling Champion. The newly formed Flag Corps will premiere in this Sunday's Gay Freedom Day Parade. Having already presented two symphonic concerts in San Francisco to sold-out audiences, the San Francisco Gay Marching Band has performed at The Family Kite Festival, the Easter Sunrise Service at San Francisco's Glide Memorial Methodist Church, Francis Ford Coppola's birthday party as well as many San Francisco area events.

The group has maintained a wide selection of music ranging from the jazz of Duke Ellington, the marches of John Philip Sousa, the symphonic music of George Gershwin to Glenn Miller's big band arrangements and contemporary film score adaptations.

JON R. SIMS

Whether directing the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band on a concert stage, leading them in a parade, or acting in an administrative capacity, Jon R. Sims is realizing a personal dream. Sims is a native of Smith Center, Kansas where he was his high school's drum major. At Wichita State University he was head drum major and earned a Bachelor's Degree in French horn as well as in theory and composition. After earning a Masters Degree in French horn at Indiana University, he taught music for six years at elementary through college levels, last teaching in Daly City, California. He has played with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, guest conducted the California Bach Society, studied arts administration and has had professional experience in public relations in the San Francisco area. Jon Sims has also done post-graduate work at the Dalcroze School of Music in New York City, where he studied eurhythmics, a system of teaching and experiencing musical skills and concepts through a combination of music and bodily movement. He has studied composition under composer Darius Milhaud. In the Spring of 1978, Sims made his decision to stop teaching in public schools and to form a gay marching band. The idea began to take shape and the group's first appearance was last year in the Gay Freedom Day Parade.

Mr. Sims is now involved exclusively with the various musical organizations which have become a reality since the inception of the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps.

THE BAND

Piccolo
Patrick Hurtado
Lon Rand

Flute
Patrick Hurtado
Jim Kanelos
Loren Le Jeune
Arthur Mammen
Howard Moffet
Ted Neft
Tracy Nordyke
Clegg Parsons
Suzanne Fyrch
Lon Rand
Don Scales
Robert Stark
Thom Weldon

Oboe
Stan Miles
Keith Sklower

Bassoon
John Hoover
David Nowicki

Clarinet
Dave Clerici
Frank Fiori
Vernon Follis
Lee Francke
Bill Havens
Jim Holly
Ray Moeller
Eric Narcisse
Jay Roole
Steven Scholl
Albert Spangler
Fern Tracy
Ken Ward
Lisa Weiner
Robert Zeilinger

Alto Saxophone
Terry Anderson
Ron Boles
Robert Firsks
John Hoover
Stan Miles
Neil Sims
Carol Turnbull
Dorothy Vinals

Tenor Saxophone
Lois Allen
Jeff Glines
Bruce Jewett
Larry Sharp

Baritone Saxophone
Glen Aitward

French Horn
Robert Barg
Bill Bromm
Steve Colby
Rick Eckel
Don Gray
Bob Gurney
Irv Kirschbaum
Bob Shapiro
Jim Weynandt

Tuba
David Bailey
Tandy Belew
Craig Kauffman
Tim Peske
Bruce Purdy
Tony Stalling
David Stohlberg

Baritones

David Weltz

Percussion

Bob Erickson
James French
Jim Henderson
Mike Mischung
Rex Vanard
Mike Woolridge

Bells

Van "B" Evert
Bob Danell
John Henderliner
David Kelsey
Jim Payar
Robin Smith
A GAY MUSICAL CELEBRATION AT GRACE CATHEDRAL, FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 1979, 8:00 P.M.

San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band
Jon R. Sims, Director

HIS HONOR ........................................ Henry Fillmore

San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus
Dick Kramer, Director

BEHOLD MAN .................................... Ron Nelson

FOUR LOVE SONGS ............................ Johannes Brahms

A tremor's in the branches
Nightingale, thy sweetest song
Bird in air will stray afar
From yon hills the torrent speeds

Piano: Mark Whiting & David Hoefer

ALLELUIA .................................... Randall Thompson

IVEZZOSI ........................................ Anonymous 18th Century

A free translation:
Long live all those charming men.
Those dear lovers that have no cruelty. May they live always.
Those dear lovers, those charming, the source of our happiness.

A baritone we called "Ziggy" adapted the original Italian text.
Ziggy was a passenger on fateful DC-10 Flight 191, on his way to
Los Angeles to visit a brother after attending his sister's wedding
back home in Indiana. Jim Zielinski's name remains listed on our
roster. His joyful spirit lives with us still.

San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band

AN AMERICAN IN PARIS ........................ George Gershwin
ELLINGTON PORTRAIT ........................ Setting by Floyd E. Werle
THEME FROM SUPERMAN ...................... John Williams
STRIKE UP THE BAND ....................... George & Ira Gershwin

The Varsity Drag
Jon R. Sims, Director

LI'L DARLIN' ...................................... Neal Hefti

IN THE MOOD ................................. Joe Garland, arr. Glenn Miller

Featuring Nicholas, Glover & Wray

John Renke
Assistant Organist & Choir Master of Grace Cathedral

CARILLON de WESTMINSTER ................. Louis Vierne

San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

FROM THE SILENCE ............................ Jean Sibelius

This choral composition has been transformed with new poetry by
Gerald Pearson, a second tenor, originally from Utah. Gerald is the
father of four children and an active member of the Board of
Directors of Golden Gate Performing Arts.

Surely, surely, from the silence,
Breaks the song that we never sang,
Come the words that we never spoke,
The love that we've always hidden.

I VEEZOSI ........................................ Anonymous 18th Century

A free translation:
Long live all those charming men.

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Surely, surely, from the silence,
Breaks the song that we never sang,
Come the words that we never spoke,
The love that we've always hidden.

Once all men feared so to say it,
The love that dare not speak its name.
At last, long last from the silence
Lovers come bringing gifts of song.
Voices sing of manly love.

No more will we hush the singing,
Never more will we hide our love.
No more will our joy be silenced.
Manly love has its melody.

Surely, surely, from the silence,
Breaks the song that we never sang,
Come the words that we never spoke,
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Manly love has its melody.

STOUTHEARTED MEN ....................... Sigmund Romberg

Piano: Mark Whiting

MY BUDDY ........................................ Walter Donaldson

AQUARIUS / LET THE SUNSHINE IN .......... Galt MacDermot

Piano: Joe Hooker Bass: Corky Ferris
Drums: John Orlando Guitar: Milan Holdorf

San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band

MAC ARTHUR PARK ............................. Jimmy Webb

Proceeds from tonight's concert will benefit the Band and Chorus, as
well as, the 1979 Gay Freedom Day Parade Committee, the Harvey
Milk United Fund, and the debts of the late Supervisor Harvey Milk.
THE SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN’S CHORUS

On the evening of December 20, 1978, over 100 men joined the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band in concert and for the first time, under the direction of Dick Kramer, the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus made a significant social and musical statement.

The members of the chorus have a wide spectrum of musical backgrounds. Several members of the chorus have sung in the San Francisco Opera chorus and with other respected musical organizations in the Bay Area. Many have received Masters Degrees in musical training. Others have found a place in the chorus singing for the first time since their high school days.

The group’s repertoire is varied. It ranges from the music of Brahms, Bach and Handel to Sigmund Romberg. The smaller swing chorus, the “Men About Town”, presents music from Broadway shows and the swing era. In addition to the Men’s Chorus and the “Men About Town”, a group called the “Chamber Singers” performs works of Scarlatti, Schubert and other chamber selections. The group, which now has over 150 members, first sang in November 1978 at a Memorial Service for the late Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk on the steps of San Francisco City Hall. In May 1979 the chorus performed their first concert at Everett Middle School in San Francisco. The tickets sold out so rapidly that a second concert was scheduled, also a sell-out.

The San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus has proved to be a source of pride not only within its membership but throughout San Francisco’s gay community.

DICK KRAMER

A native of California, Dick Kramer is the director of the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus. He grew up in West Los Angeles and graduated with honors from Occidental College where he specialized in choral music. As a professional singer, Dick has performed with the Santa Fe Opera, toured with the Roger Wagner Chorale, was soloist at the Carmel Bach Festival and has sung for many churches in New York and California.

He has taught at the highly respected Kamehameha Schools in Honolulu, Hawaii and in public schools in Pasadena, Oakland and in New Jersey. He has extensively studied Sensory Awareness and his strong background in this body consciousness activity facilitates his teaching of singing.

As director of the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus, he has been in a position to watch the group grow in size to over 150 members. Dick notes that “our purpose is to encounter our gay brothers and sisters and to show the larger community that we have this healthy musical as well as social activity”. In addition to his directorship of the chorus, Dick also keeps a heavy schedule of private musical instruction.

THE CHORUS

First Tenor
Audie Stoufflet
Bill Ganz
Bill Powell
Bill Tucker
David Kerlick
David Lamm
Don Levine
Gregg Lossing
Jack Torres
Jim Gilman
John P. Riccardi
Joseph Loza
Karl Brown
Kevin Conduff
Kurt Thomasen
Mark Luke
Michael Poniatowski
Raymond Dirodios
Richard Sheksier
Robert E. Morris
Thom Kumorek
Victor Seth Sargeant
Vincent Sofia

Second Tenor
Albert Jones
Arthur B. Murphy, Jr.
Bob Emery
Brian Vouglas
Dale Richard
Dale Sorenson
Dan Scott
David Goldman
David Scull
Eric Graybeal
Gary J. Strach
Gene Guenther

Baritone
Arthur Reed
Bill Randles
Bob Bercau
Bruce Reynolds
Dan Hampshire
Darren MacGavin
David Hofer
David Stohlsberg
Denny McDowell
Donald Leighton
Douglas Shader
Edward Brener
Evan Friedman
Glenn Beardsley
Gordon Grover
Guy Vaughn
Jay
Jerry Ellis
Jim Mabry
Jim Zelinski
(in memoriam)
Joe Hooker
John C. Hawkes
John Simo
Kimo

Gene Tangul
Gerald Pearson
John Beeman
John Haddad
Jon Jones
Kevin McKinney
Larry Garrigan
Lee Barber
Marion Besco
Mark Whiting
Paul Pukas
Perry A. George
Rick Slavsky
Terry Althoff
Tom Ammanino
Tom Mitchell

OUR NEXT CONCERT: HOLLYWOOD, JUNE 30

The Band and Chorus will journey to Southern California next weekend to present a concert at Hollywood High School on Saturday, June 30, 8:00 p.m. Both organizations will also march in the Los Angeles Gay Pride Parade on the next day.
PRODUCTION STAFF

Concert Coordinators
Jon R. Sims
Jim Lunsford
George DeWoody

House Manager
John Sherwin

Stage Manager
Stephen Zendt

Poster & Program Design
Our Town

Typography
Bruce Purdy, Terrific Graphics

Calligraphy
Tim Girvin

Publicity
Allen White
Ken Maley
Tim Peske
David Fridlund

Program Notes
Allen White
George DeWoody
Larry Geis

Music Librarians
Jim Kanelos
Tom Mitchell
Bob Beale

Costumes & Uniforms
Bill Goldstein
Fern Tracy
Howard Moffet
Bruce Reynolds
Jay

Special Thanks To
The Staff of Grace Cathedral
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Continental Savings & Loan Association

GOLDEN GATE PERFORMING ARTS, INC.

This concert is a presentation of Golden Gate Performing Arts, Inc. GGPA was incorporated in March of this year to serve as a support mechanism for the operations and growth of performing arts groups in the San Francisco gay community.

The musical groups performing tonight have affiliated with GGPA in achieving a shared goal of creating a culturally expressive community that promotes personal growth and well-being. As the organization's founder, Jon Sims, has said, "We have been struggling for survival up till now. Now we can do more than just survive. We can participate freely in artistic expression, we can share with each other philanthropically and through performance of the arts. We have more to live for now than survival."

The artistic direction of the various musical groups resides within the groups — while, through the corporate structure of GGPA, the affiliates receive administrative, legal, fiscal and production services. The public relations and fund raising activities of GGPA, as with all other components of GGPA's services, come from individuals who are committed totally in support of performers and patrons alike.

If you are interested in supporting the musical groups and the work of Golden Gate Performing Arts with volunteer energy or financial support — or if you are interested in participating musically with the groups — contact Golden Gate Performing Arts at 826-1538. Or write Post Office Box 14665, San Francisco 94114.

Board of Directors
Jon R. Sims
Dick Kramer
Gerald Pearson
Jerry Berg
George DeWoody