TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

EGMONT OVERTURE
Ludwig van Beethoven
arr. Th. Moses-Tobani

FIRST SUITE IN E-FLAT
Gustav Holst
Chaconne
Intermezzo
March

BALLET PARISIEN
Jacques Offenbach
arr. Merle J. Isaac

Joe Poltrone, solo twirler
Gary Moon
Bill Bishop
Will Cooper
Frank Medina
Ric Yusko

INTERMISSION

RHAPSODY IN BLUE
George Gershwin
arr. Ferde Grote

David Kelsey, piano

NEW WORLD SYMPHONY
Antonin Dvořák
Fourth Movement/Finale

When the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps was first formed the corps of musicians comprised a much smaller group than the numbers you will see onstage tonight. In the short time since the Band's first performance its ranks have grown with startling rapidity. The growth has not always been tailored to the orchestral makeup for the standard repertoire, as the Band is a volunteer organization. Its appeal to musicians as they joined the ranks has sometimes created an imbalance in the number of brass components or the representation of various segments of the orchestra.

With the exception of Holst's SUITE FOR BAND, the works you hear tonight will be transcriptions from the original scoring so that our musicians can perform these pieces. As part of our growth, we want our performers to be able to play these scores. These works afford a chance for our musicians to grow in their technical proficiency while affording our audiences an opportunity to hear music which is dear to our hearts. As our forces have grown we are adding strings. There is a rapidly expanding family of clarinets and woodwinds — we even have flugel horns!!! Eventually we hope to grow to the proportions of a full symphonic band. In the meantime we do not wish to deprive our musicians (or our audiences) of the chance to enjoy and grow through experiencing works from the classical repertoire.

There's always room for Beethoven on any concert program. (If you have any doubts just ask Schroeder and Lucy!) It is fitting that the program should end with the Fourth Movement of Dvořák's NEW WORLD SYMPHONY. In its many years as a standard of the symphonic repertoire, this piece has conjured a vision of immigrants entering New York's harbor with the hopes and dreams in their hearts of a new life in a new land. Our community is in pioneer territory, starting a new life on exciting frontiers. Our musicians are walking new ground as they perform in service to the gay community with the pride and joy that comes from being able to share their music with friends, lovers, and new audiences.

Celebrate our growth as musicians. Celebrate our growth as an audience and as a community. At the same time, revel in the glories of the music we perform tonight. It is as much a thrill for us as it is for you!

— George Heymont
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 340,000 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 established 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 Julliard School of Music to less than a year's experience in high school or private school. 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.

Having already presented two symphonic concerts in San Francisco to sold-out audiences, the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day 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.

This year, the Band marched in the San Francisco Gay Pride Parade and following their performance in the San Francisco parade, the Band, the Guard and the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus flew to Southern California to perform in concert at Hollywood High School and to march in the Los Angeles Gay Pride Parade. Another significant award was won as the Band took First Place in the division at the Redwood City 4th of July Parade, the largest and most competitive Independence Day event in the state. First Place was also awarded to the Guard and Solo Twirler. The San Francisco Twirling Corps is led in marching by Joe Patrone who in 1974 was honored with a National Twirling Champion Award.

The newly formed Guard premiered in this year's Gay Freedom Day Parade, significantly adding to the precision, color and showmanship of the Band. For this year's Gay Pride Week, the Band and the Gay Men's Chorus presented "A Gay Musical Celebration at Cal's High School" to an overflow crowd welcomed by the Mayor and the Dean of the Cathedral High School. Further adding to the Band's recognition as a leading force in our community, ABC Television's documentary on gay lifestyles (scheduled for October 13th) features a segment on the Band and an interview with Patrick Hurtado, flute. Also due for airing is a CBS TV segment on the Band and Chorus taped at the Hollywood High concert.

The Band maintains 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 bands, contemporary and popular film score adaptations.

The San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps is an affiliate of Golden Gate Performing Arts, Inc. GGPFA was formed in March of this year to provide a support mechanism for the operations and growth of performing arts groups in the San Francisco gay community.

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

If you are interested in contributing to the musical groups and the work of Golden Gate Performing Arts with volunteer energy or financial support - or if you are interested in participating in musical groups with the groups - contact Golden Gate Performing Arts at Post Office Box 14685, San Francisco 94114.

The Band

In addition to his work with the Band, Mr. Sims is presently working as musical director and conductor of the all-male performance of "Hello, Dolly," to be produced and directed by our fellow Band members and for the community.

David Kelsey, Piano

David Kelsey is well known to West Coast audiences, beginning with his television show in Europe at the age of fifteen, his hundred of concert appearances and his nightclub work. Kelsey's musical background began with the pump organ he inherited from his grandmother when he was eighteen years old. He studied piano technique for six years and the pipe organ for one year. While studying, and before and after serving in Europe in the U.S. Army, David taught both piano and organ to many students, some of whom are working professionally today. He was the pianist for the Seventy First U.S. Army Band in Germany, France and Holland. This group won top awards in many international competitions.

As a member of the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band, David Kelsey is regularly featured on the Bells. His musicianship and flair for performance have served well, both for his fellow Band members and for the community.

Jon R. Sims, Conductor

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 Orchestras 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 Donald Millard.

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 Band and Chorus tapped at the Hollywood High concert. The Band was 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 bands, contemporary and popular film score adaptations.

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