



**JON REED SIMS • 6 MAY 1947 — 16 July 1984**  
MEMORIAL SERVICE • GRACE CATHEDRAL • 3 AUGUST 1984

**JON REED SIMS** was born in Smith Center, Kansas, where as a child, he was introduced to music through his study of the piano and horn. In high school Jon became the drum major of its band. He attended Wichita State University, where he as head drum major and earned a Bachelor's degree in French Horn as well as a Bachelor's degree in Music Theory and Composition.

After earning a Master's degree in French Horn at Indiana University, Jon taught music for six years at elementary through college levels. He did post-graduate work at the Dalcroze School of Music in New York City where he studied Eurythmics, a system of teaching and experiencing musical skills and concepts through music and body movements. At Golden Gate University he studied arts administration, as well as Music Business and Law at the College for Recording Arts in San Francisco.

In addition Jon studied composition under Joshua Missal, Charles Jones, and the eminent composer, Darius Milhaud. He studied chamber music under Manahem Pressler and performed for two years with the civic orchestra of Chicago.

He also studied dance in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco. He studied French Horn with Phillip Farkas and Dalve Clevenger of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Michael Hoetzel of the Munich Philharmonic and Joseph Singer of the New York Philharmonic. He was a guest conductor of the California Bach Society.

In the Spring of 1978, Jon made his decision to stop teaching in public schools and to form a gay marching band and twirling corps. At this point in his life, Jon concluded that he was going "to work with people rather than the music; and the music comes of its own will" and those people were gay people. "We have been struggling for survival up until now. Now we can do more. We can participate freely in artistic expression, and we can share with each other philanthropically and through performances of the arts. We have more to live for now than just survival."

Jon founded the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, Golden Gate Performing Arts, Inc., and the San Francisco Band Foundation, Inc.

### Acknowledgements

All That Jazz  
Bus Stop Flowers  
Grace Cathedral  
Balloon Bouquets  
of San Francisco  
SF Sheriff Dept  
SF Police Dept  
Aides de Camp  
Terry Althoff

Castro Country Flowers  
Sutter Country Flowers  
Raggs Country Flowers  
The Plantation  
David Kelsey, Organist  
Richard W. Roesener,  
Front Cover Portrait  
John Renke, Organist  
Garet Stark, Signer

Allen Nomura,  
Photo Portrait  
Lenny Meyers,  
Back Cover Portrait  
Terry Peterson, Pianist  
Ruth Hastings  
SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom  
Day Committee

### Jon Sims Memorial Program

Somewhere Over The Rainbow, Arlen/Harbourg  
Ruth Hastings

Mass For Three Voices, William Byrd  
Pacific Lesbian/Gay Singers

Berceuse, Chopin  
Terry Peterson

Veni, Sancte, Spiritus, Janacek  
Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorale

First Suite in E Flat, Holst  
SFGFD Marching Band

Testament of Freedom, (last mov.) Jefferson/Thompson  
S.F. Gay Men's Chorus

Organ Solo

Soon-ah Will Be Done, Arr. William L. Dawson  
Elijan Rock, Arr. Jester Hairston  
S.F. Lesbian/Gay Chorus

Adoration, Felix Borowski  
Brad Brown/Violinist for Lambda Pro Musica

Since There Was You, (Music Man) M. Wilson  
Sean Martinfield

Fame Medley, Michael & Leslie Gore/Pitchford  
Vocal Minority

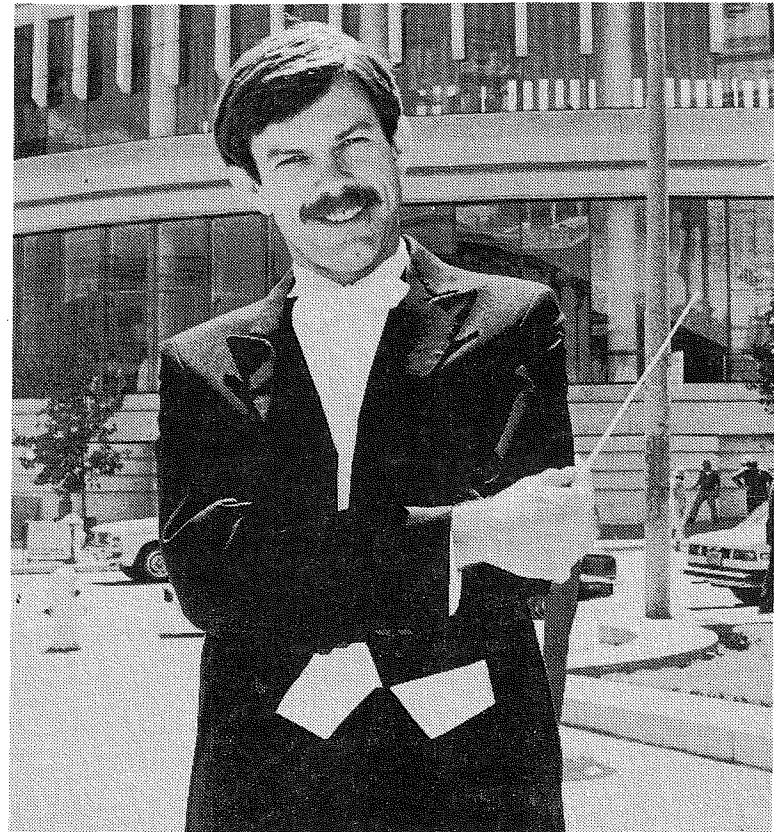
Strike Up The Band, George & Ira Gershwin  
SFGFD Marching Band, S.F. Flag Corps

San Francisco, Kahn/Kaper/Jurman  
SFGFD Marching Band & Twirling Corp  
Richard Roesener/Twirling soloist

If My Friends Could See Me Now, Coleman/Fields  
Everyone one verse sing a long  
Lyrics are on back of the program

### Additional Acknowledgements

S.F. Lesbian Chorus  
Larry Eng/signer  
Rick Owen/signer



### Contributing Musical Organizations

Founded	Organization	Director
Jun 1978	San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps	Lesesne Van Antwerp
Nov 1978	San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus	Ernest L. Veniegas
May 1979	San Francisco Flag Corps	Jeff Eaton
Jan 1980	San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Chorus	Matt O'Grady
Feb 1980	San Francisco Tap Troupe	Wayne Fleisher
Jul 1980	Golden Gate Brass	Skip Blaikie
Jul 1980	D.S. Woodwind Quintet	Rick Eckel
Sep 1980	Vocal Minority	Bill Ganz
Aug 1982	Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorale	Dick Kramer
Jan 1983	Pacific Lesbian/Gay Singers	Robin Kay



## **If My Friends Could See Me Now**

**If they could see me now**

*(Original Version)*

That little gang of mine  
I'm eating fancy chow & drinking fancy wine.  
I'd like those stumble bums to see for a fact  
The kind of top draw first rate chums I attract.  
All I can say is wow, just look at where I'm at  
Tonight I landed pow right in a pot of jam.  
What a set up holy cow, they'd never believe it  
If my friends could see me now.

**If they could see me now**

*(Revised Version)*

That little hometown clan  
We're singing & we're playing with this all gay band.  
I'd like for all the world to see for a fact,  
That we're a source of pow'r they'll never send back.  
The closet's empty now, just like it ought to be,  
The time is right for us just look around and see  
What a set up holy cow, they'd never believe it  
If my friends could see me now.

**Jon's family has asked that donations be made to the:  
San Francisco Band Foundation, 540 Castro, San Francisco, CA 94114,  
or Shanti Project, 890 Hayes Street, San Francisco, CA 94117.**