Reflections

the 10th Anniversary Celebrations

1978

1988
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SAN FRANCISCO BAND FOUNDATION ON TEN GREAT YEARS AND FOR YOUR VITAL ROLE WITHIN THE GAY PERFORMING ARTS COMMUNITY!

WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE PROVIDED THE TYPESETTING FOR THIS PROGRAM AND WISH YOU MANY MORE DECADES OF MUSICAL EXCELLENCE!

WORD PROCESSING SERVICES OF SAN FRANCISCO
2354 Market Street, #1
San Francisco
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Robert Hawk, Proprietor

ROBERT E MULLEN / GEOFFREY CHANG in association with the SAN FRANCISCO BAND FOUNDATION present

REFLECTIONS the
10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

with
THE SAN FRANCISCO GAY FREEDOM DAY MARCHING BAND & TWIRLING CORPS
Jeff Foote: Conductor
Wayne Love: Assistant Conductor • Robin Song: Director/Twirling Corps

CITY SWING
with Vocalist GAIL WILSON

THE SAN FRANCISCO FLAG CORPS
Nick Giunta: Director

THE SAN FRANCISCO TAP TROUPE
Wayne Fleisher: Director

VOCAL MINORITY
Bill Ganz: Director

THE SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S CHORUS
Gregg Tallman: Director

SCOTT BEACH • MARGA GOMEZ • DAVID KELSEY

Members of the Los Angeles GREAT AMERICAN YANKEE FREEDOM BAND

JUNE 17 • JUNE 18, 1988
Proclamation

WHEREAS: San Francisco is proud to HONOR the memory of the musical accomplishments of JON SIMS, founder and leader of the SAN FRANCISCO GAY FREEDOM DAY MARCHING BAND & TWIRLING CORPS, the world's first gay marching band and a source of pride and inspiration for thousands of San Franciscans, and;

WHEREAS: JON SIMS life and musical career will be celebrated by the band during its tenth anniversary festivities during the month of June 1988, and;

WHEREAS: his leadership and commitment to a positive expression of gay identity through music and his courageous battle against AIDS that took his life earned him the respect and admiration of our community,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Art Agnos, Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, do hereby in commemoration of his contributions to San Francisco, do proclaim June 18, 1988 as ..

JON REED SIMS REMEMBERANCE DAY IN SAN FRANCISCO

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City and County of San Francisco to be affixed.

Art Agnos
Mayor
Friday, June 17, 1988

**THE MIRRORED BALL**

The Fabulous Forties

MARINES MEMORIAL

Champagne Dinner
COMMANDANT'S ROOM
with a Forties Fashion Show
courtesy of
Christopher Gortner
of
**LA ROSA**

Zanita, equilibrist on the mirrored ball

---

**THE FABULOUS FORTIES DANCE**

The Crystal Ballroom

with

**MARGA GOMEZ**

**THE SAN FRANCISCO TAP TROUPE**

Wayne Fleisher: Artistic Director
Greg Lynch: Dance Captain
Tom Carico, Terry Hanshaw, Lissa Mahon: Choreographers

**VOCAL MINORITY**

Bill Ganz: Director

and

**CITY SWING**

with vocalist **GAIL WILSON**
Saturday, June 18, 1988

ENCORE!
The Celebration
First Congregational Church

SAN FRANCISCO GAY FREEDOM DAY
MARCHING BAND & TWIRLING CORPS
Jeff Foote: Conductor
Wayne Love: Assistant Conductor
Robin Song: Director/Twirling Corps

THE SAN FRANCISCO FLAG CORPS
Nick Giunta: Director
Robert Dominguez: Choreographer
Larry Barbin, Kevin Kerswell: Assistant Choreographers

THE SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S CHORUS
Gregg Tallman: Musical Director
Terry Peterson, Bryan Baker: Accompanists
Stefan Lazar: Sign Language Artist

SCOTT BEACH

DAVID KELSEY

Members of Los Angeles' GAY FREEDOM BAND
CONGRATULATIONS to the SAN FRANCISCO BAND FOUNDATION on the occasion of your 10th Anniversary

WILLIE L. BROWN, JR.
Speaker, California State Assembly

HERTH REALTY AND INVESTMENTS
555 Castro Street
San Francisco
California 94114
415/861-5200

ENCORE!

P R O G R A M

California, Here I Come
Al Jolson, B.G. DeSylva, Joseph Meyer
arr. Gene Sande

Commando March
Samuel Barber

March Through A Decade
Scott Beach, Narrator
Various
arr. Wayne L. Love

Homophonies
conducted by the arranger

INTERMISSION

Viel tausend Sterne prangen
Franz Schubert

Loens Iste
Anton Bruckner

Gloire immortelle de nos aieux from “Faust”
Charles Gounod

SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN’S CHORUS
Gregg Tallman, Conductor

Overture to “Candide”
Leonard Bernstein
arr. Walter Beeler

Whenever You Need Somebody
Stock/Athen/Waterman

SAN FRANCISCO FLAG CORPS
Robert Dominguez, Choreographer

Finale, Symphony No. 3 (organ)
Camille Saint-Saens
arr. Earl Slocum

David Kelsey, Organist

I Sing The Body Electric
Dean Pitchford/Michael Gore
arr. Wayne L. Love

Finlandia
Jean Sibelius
arr. Lucien Caillet
PAUL OWEN
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SAN FRANCISCO (CASTRO)
ALWAYS TAN & TRIM
415/626-8505

IF THEY COULD SEE ME NOW

If they could see me now, that little home-town clan
We're singing and 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 power, 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.

If they could see me now, that little gang of mine
They thought I only came here for the summertime
I wrote the folks back home - I ain't comin' back
I found that San Fran-cis-co is right where it's at!
I've told my friends back there—and they can hardly wait
To hear my voice ring out from near the Golden Gate
What a great town, Holy Cow, they'd never believe it
If my friends could see me — Look at me now
If my friends could see me — Look at me now
If my friends could see me now

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New York's Lesbian and Gay Big Apple Corps congratulates the San Francisco Band Foundation and joins with them in sharing the dream.

123 W. 44th St. Suite SE, NY, NY 10036 (212) 869-2922

The SAN FRANCISCO GAY FREEDOM DAY MARCHING BAND & TWIRLING CORPS was formed in the late spring of 1978 to march in the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade. Posters went up on utility poles announcing the Band’s formation. The first rehearsal, under the baton of founder Jon Sims, was held at the Trocadero Transfer. From the moment the Band turned onto Market Street playing “California Here I Come,” San Francisco musical history was being made. The Band was an immediate success and the City took note. It was invited to play in the Columbus Day, Chinese New Years and St. Patrick's Day parades. These were followed by appearances in Oakland’s Utility Parade and Redwood City’s Independence Day Parade.

Following the success of San Francisco, gay bands quickly sprang up in Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston and the Big Apple culminating in fourteen bands across the nation. The Lesbian and Gay Bands of America (LG-BA) have performed together at the Hollywood Bowl, Davies Symphony Hall and DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

A long tradition of community service has seen the Band perform at seven consecutive YMCA/Examiner Christmas Balls for Seniors, Gay Games I & II, Christmas caroling at the County Jail, the AIDS Bike-a-Thon and hundreds of other cultural and civic events. Grace Cathedral, Victoria Theatre, the Palace of Fine Arts, the Venetian Room and Herbst Theatre - all have had their walls resounding with the music of the Band.

The San Francisco-Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps celebrates ten years of musical tradition. It has survived in a decade of turmoil, of bewilderment, of change, of newly charged dignity and reaffirmation. Perhaps it has to do with the spirit that Jon Sims expressed in 1979. “The whole project was created with three basic principles to make the machinery work within the group and from the inside out — love, sharing and communication. Starting at the level of musician to musician, all three principles progress from musician to Gay community, Gay community to the City, from our part of society to society as a whole.”

CITY SWING dance band. Capitalizing on the resurgence of social dancing, City Swing recreates the sounds of the big band era with a contemporary flair and feeling. Winners of the 1988 Cable Car “Entertainer of the Year Award,” City Swing is a 17 piece dance/show band in the Glen Miller tradition.

The swing band appears at some of San Francisco’s most prestigious hotels and night clubs for private parties, gala openings, benefits and political gatherings. Together with the San Francisco Tap Troupe, City Swing was this city’s official goodwill ambassadors to Expo ’86 in Vancouver.

1987 marked the debut of a series of tea dances at the Trocadero titled “Dancing Cheek to Cheek,” and the band completed a successful run of “Men Behind Bars IV” earlier this year. Originally formed as an outgrowth of the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps, City Swing and multi-talented vocalist Gail Wilson, are excited and proud to help celebrate the 10th Anniversary Celebrations.

THE SAN FRANCISCO FLAG CORPS. Shortly after the Gay Freedom Day Marching Band was formed in 1978, Richard Thompson approached Jon Sims with a new concept: a color guard movement group within the band. Richard’s dream soon became a reality. The “Guard” as it was then called, made its marching debut in the 1979 Gay Pride Parade, twirling tall, colorful flags down Market Street - a crowd pleaser of precision, energy and color.

The Guard became an active participant of the band’s concerts, parades and special performances. They eventually added Chinese ribbons, glittering rifles and fans to their visual ensembles of cowboys, Carmens and Cossacks. In 1982 the group became a separate unit within the Band Foundation and changed its...
name to the San Francisco Flag Corps. Performance highlights include Gay Games I & II, LGBA concerts at the Hollywood Bowl, Davies Hall and Constitution Hall in our nation's capitol. They were part of Art Agnos' inauguration ceremonies, and have performed at Expo '86 in Vancouver, the Oasis and the Trocadero Transfer and S.F. Eagle.

Tonight the Flag Corps welcomes back 11 alumni, 5 of which are original members. In the spirit of the celebrations the Flag Corps congratulates the Band on their 10th Anniversary and looks forward to a second decade of community entertainment.

THE SAN FRANCISCO TAP TROUPE was the brain child of Jon Reed Sims. Established in February of 1980 under the direction of founding director Rosie Radiator, the Tap Troupe made their debut in "A Night at the Movies", dancing to "Lullabye of Broadway" accompanied by Varsity Drag (the popular jazz band offshoot of the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band). Organized originally for that one event, the Troupe's members decided to continue as an ensemble unit of what became the San Francisco Band Foundation. In July of 1981 Tommy Janes, then assistant director, took over direction of the Troupe. During the next two years the group became very popular entertainers at events all over the Bay Area. At one point twenty seven dancers performed on stage at Davies Hall as part of "Jubilee" the second Marching Band concert in the hall. In August of 1983 Wayne Fleisher (then business manager) took over direction of the Troupe and continues in that position today.

In 1988 the San Francisco Tap Troupe celebrated its eighth birthday with their appearance in Men Behind Bars IV. This year the Troupe was responsible for all the choreography, and musical staging. In its eight years the Troupe has enjoyed the talents of over 70 Bay Area dancers. The Troupe has had the opportunity to perform at the '84 Democratic Convention, The Napa Valley Symphony Pops Season, at the Hollywood Bowl with Rita Moreno and The Beaux Arts Ball and The Northern California Emmy Awards. The official representatives to Expo '86 in Vancouver, B.C. along with City Swing and the San Francisco Flag Corps (all members of the San Francisco Band Foundation).

Over these eight years the Troupe has had the opportunity to dance to the music of the San Francisco Symphony, the Napa Valley Symphony, Dick Bright and his Orchestra, Bob Dini and his Orchestra, The Royal Society Jazz Orchestra; noted soloists Bob Bendorff, Bob Bauer, Michael Ashton and Peter Mintun, vocalists Welisa Whitfield, Nancy McLean, Sharon McNight and our favorites, City Swing dance band with Gail Wilson.

Over its eight year history, VOCAL MINORITY has emerged as an important part of the lesbian and gay community. Originally formed as a sixteen member offshoot of the Lesbian and Gay Mixed Chorus, VM's focus expanded to include cabaret-like entertainment and established itself as a separate entity. Drawing upon a vast variety of music, VM became known as a vocally “tight” singing group featuring jazz, pop, and blues.

Growing in talent, performance capabilities and musical breadth, Vocal Minority has presented many stage productions, each with a specific theme and style. Of particular note are Marching On, Sneak Previews, VM Goes RPM, Big on Broadway, and the latest, Kidstuff. In addition, appearances at numerous benefits including the Annual AIDS Thanksgiving Dinner, the Bike-a-Thon and Gay Games; private parties; and special events, such as a computer convention and the National Gay Bowling Banquet, highlight an active performing schedule.

Vocal Minority formed a mutually beneficial alliance with the San Francisco Band Foundation in 1986, adding a vocal group to the other performing units. That membership has provided additional performing opportunities...
THE AIDES-DE-CAMP was formed as a group only minutes after the Band became official. There was an immediate need recognized to support those marching instrumentalists who were rightfully too busy playing music to be able to perform crowd control and other tasks such as carrying flags and banners.

So, over the last ten years, 56 people have at one time or another been what the Band affectionately calls the Band Aids. It does describe the function of the Aides-de-Camp in a way. They now proudly carry the banner announcing the imminent arrival of the Band in parades, carry flags as the color guard, and perform the vital duties of carrying water for the parched instrumentalists on hot marching days. They are trained as monitors for crowd control, clearing the way for the band to march.

Judged as a separate marching unit in several parades, the Aides-de-Camp have won awards for their excellence as an honor guard.

The Aides-de-Camp have at times been informally organized, operating more as Band groupies, but now are separately formed as a unit of the Foundation, handling their own fundraising to support the Foundation in many ways, and assisting other units as ushers, stage hands, Board members, committee members, and party throwers. Belonging to the Aides-de-Camp gives their members a tremendous sense of pride and accomplishment in promoting a positive image of the gay community.

THE SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN’S CHOIR was founded by Jon Sims in 1978 and first performed in December of that year. The Chorus’ first permanent music director was Dick Kramer under whose baton it performed until 1982. 1981 witnessed the kickoff of the SFGMC’s national tour, a landmark event in the history of the national gay and lesbian choral movement. Following Dick Kramer’s departure, Ernest L. Ventegross, Jr. led the Chorus between 1982 and 1989. Current director, Gregg Tallman, was hired in 1985 and has conducted the Chorus in performances in the City as well as Portland, Los Angeles and Minneapolis; in fundraisers at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel, Davies Hall and the Neiman-Marcus Rotunda; and at the 1987 summer concert for which the San Francisco Gay Men’s Choir won the Cable Car Award for Outstanding Concert of that year. 1988 makes the Chorus’ tenth anniversary and a celebratory concert is planned in August at Davies Symphony Hall. The Chorus is pleased to join the San Francisco Band Foundation in saluting Jon Sims and the Band’s 10th Anniversary Celebrations.

Scott Beach is a familiar face on your movie screen. He is currently appearing in Francis Ford Coppola’s Tucker for Lucasfilms and has another two dozen major films to his credit. He has been an announcer and commentator for numerous T.V. documentaries, commercials and game shows and has appeared on stage with The Committee, San Francisco Opera, Renaissance Pleasure Faire and as emcee for the concert at Davies Hall attended by Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Wayne Fleisher has been the director of the San Francisco Tap Troupe for the past 5 years; a member of the group for eight. Former executive director of the Foundation, Wayne was responsible for conceiving and producing the popular Canteen & Hollywood Canteen, the annual Dance Along Nutcracker, 5..6..7..8.., and Sneak Preview. Wayne is currently a member of the board of directors, focusing his energies on creating a home for the foundation - the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts.
Jeff Foote, Conductor, a native of Odessa, Texas, graduated in 1980 from West Texas State University with degrees in Music Education. From 1980-87 Mr. Foote built an award winning band program in the Klein School District of Houston. His bands, at different grade levels, gained excellent reputations for winning top competitive ratings. During a successful saxophone studio teaching career, Jeff produced several Texas All-State musicians, the highest individual school band award in the state.

Jeff’s goal of living in the Bay Area was realized in the summer of 1987. He joined the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band as a musician. It soon became apparent that his ability to develop individual skills while building an exciting and powerful ensemble was just what the organization required to lead it into the second decade.

Marga Gomez was recently voted “Entertainer of the Year” at the San Francisco/Bay Area Gold Awards. She was also the delirious recipient of the Cable Car Award for Comedy in 1987. This year marks Marga’s media splash with appearances on KQED TV’s Comedy Tonight and KGO TV’s Good Time Cafe. San Francisco’s resident wild woman has been the opening act for Etta James, Thelma Houston and City Swing. She still dreams of getting that review in the San Francisco Progress and her secret desire is to play tambourine with the Village People.

David Kelsey, a long time San Francisco favorite, has been entertaining audiences nationwide through his music and comedy, starting with his own local T.V. show at the impressionable age of 15. His fondest recollection as a former member of the Band is his performance of Rhapsody in Blue. Mr. Kelsey wishes to dedicate his performance in memory of Jon Sims.

Wayne Love (Assistant Conductor) has served as conductor with the Southern California Symphony Comile, the Great American Yankee Freedom Band of Los Angeles, Men Behind Bars and for several years as a conductor of the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day marching Band & Twirling Corps. His arrangements and compositions have been performed throughout the U.S., most recently By George at Davies Hall and the finale to In Memory of Friends. This year the premiere of his new work, Homophonics, occurred in San Diego with the Lesbian and Gay Bands of America.
Greetings

On behalf of the people of the City and County of San Francisco, I am pleased to recognize and honor the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps on the occasion of their 10th Anniversary celebrations, under the theme Reflections, during third week of June 1988.

San Francisco is proud to join in the festivities and to remember the contributions of Jon Sims, founder of a sparkling and delightful San Francisco musical tradition, the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps. Thousands of people throughout America have enjoyed the musical entertainment provided by this lively band's outstanding performers. Please accept our best wishes for an enjoyable and successful celebration.

Art Agnos
Mayor

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Producers
Robert F. Mullen
Geoffrey Chang

Development Coordinator
Doug Litwin
Associate/Program Sales
Dennis Hale
Band Manager
Mark Nathan
Exhibition Coordinator
Michael A. Hoggard
Graphics
Sophia Woo
Technical Liaison
Bruce M. Jewett
Ticket Sales
Alan Da Cunzo
Production Assistant
Stanley B. Smith
Program Layout
Sandy Jack
Lighting
Photography
Steve Savage

ARTISTIC COMMITTEE

Wayne Fleisher: Chairperson
Larry Barbin • Geoffrey Chang • Bradley W. Connlain
Robert Dominguez • Jeff Foote • Nick Giunta
Wayne Love • Loren McGlade • Robert F. Mullen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Producers would like to thank:
Angles • Tandy Belew • California Motor Club
Christopher Guinan • Gary Haubold • Mike Housh
Hank Howard • Headlines • Monica Levin • Peggy Lynn
Paul Owen • and
Robert Michael Golovich • D. Robert Foster
Eric Hellman • Robert Carl Stern
of the San Francisco Sentinel

SAN FRANCISCO BAND FOUNDATION
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Charles Iddings, Jr. • Douglas A. Litwin • Paul Pukas • Phil Tuggle

These productions are funded in part by a grant from the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund Grants for the Arts.
We grieve the passing of our friend and associate.

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SAN FRANCISCO GAY FREEDOM DAY
MARCHING BAND & TWIRLING CORPS
Jeff Foote: Conductor
Wayne Love: Assistant Conductor
Robin Song: Director/Twirling Corps

FLUTE
Tom Babcock
Patterson Davis
Gordon Goodfellow
Jeff Hayward
Mickey Miller
Kim Rimmer

OBOE
Keith Sklouver
Darren White

CLARINET
John Butler
Ed Funk
Allen Habel
James S. Kaner
Doug Litwin
Armando Luna
Leon Luna, Jr.
Jim Mayer
Mark Nathan
Rick Rowland

BASS CLARINET
Steve Rocha

CONTRA BASS CLARINET
Allen Goodrich

BASSOON
Martyn Jones

ALTO SAXOPHONE
David Slattengren

TENOR SAXOPHONE
Bruce Jewett

TRUMPET
Tim Caldwell
Bradley Conlaine
Lorna R. Dennis
Will Drennan
Michael Haggard
Loren D. McGlade
Sid Smith
Connie Steinman
Sheryl L. Thaler

HORN
J. Timothy Bradley
Gary J. Bryan
Rick Eckel
Harry Fowler

TROMBONE
David Malespin
Daniel Weinstein

EUPHONIUM
Tandy Blevins
Tim Peake
Charles D. Yeo

TUBA
Scott Korb
Michael L. Mehr
Quantin

PERCUSSION
Tom Andrews
Loren R. Henderson
Clark McIver
W. Ralph Odum
Jeanne Redheffer
Nelia Waters
Linda Werner

TWIRLING CORPS
Michael Byrd
Robert Dominguez
Kim Gibson
Robin Song

CITY SWING
Bradley W. Conlaine: Manager

Skip Blaikie • Tom Brickley • Bradley W. Conlaine • Bob Danielson • Steve Grahm
Allen Goodrich • James A. Jensen • David Malespin • Linda Roberts • Robert Seeley
David L. Slattengren • Aaron Small • Steve Kirk • Ken Ward • John West • Gail Wilson, Vocalist

SAN FRANCISCO FLAG CORPS
Nick Giunta: Director
Robert Dominguez: Choreography
Larry Barbin, Kevin Kernewell: Assistant Choreography

Vincent Alvarez • Nick Giunta • Larry Barbin • Robin Dominguez • Kevin Kernewell
Deborah Don • Frank Duke • Jeff Eaton • Sam Flaks • Henry Goodwin • Gary Haering
Earl Kirk • Ted Kline • Joe Ray Madrid • Troy Morgan • Rick Prony • Albert Reese
Gary Reish • Jason Sanders • Greg Stone • John Velardi • Jack White • Mark Williams

SAN FRANCISCO TAP TROUPE
Wayne Fleisher: Artistic Director
Greg Lynch: Dance Captain

Tom Carico, Terry Hanshaw, Lissa Mahon: Choreography

Chuck Dupay • Wayne Fleisher • Terry Hanshaw • Greg Lynch • Terry Mahaffey
Lissa Mahon • Ellen McKenna • Chuck Yeo • Jack White
**VOCAL MINORITY**

Bill Ganz: Director

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**AIDES-DE-CAMP**

Jerry Abrams • Gilbert Black • Lester Bruno • Don Padgett

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**THE SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S CHORUS**

Gregg Tallman, Musical Director

Terry Peterson and Bryan Baker, Accompanists

Stefan Lazar, Sign Language Artist

**FIRST TENORS**

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**BARITONES**

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**SECOND TENORS**

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**STAFF**

Bill Lewandowski • Walt Dennis • Chuck Brewster • Stan Walker • Diane Kohne • Gary Richards • Karl Walker
Although the piano is not a marching instrument, we're proud to stand side by side with you in the last ten years.

Robert F. Mullen's professional background includes media production, publicity, public relations and business management of profit and nonprofit organizations. Related achievements include theatre production and direction, the design and production of health and promotional brochures, the concept and production of fundraising events; grantwriting, teaching and playwriting.

Mr. Mullen is a former board member of the Sacramento AIDS Foundation and a former Producing Director of Sacramento's Exchange for the Performing Arts, whose production of Robert (The Dolly) Locke's Rose Jewel and Harmony won the award for Best Original Production. Mullen's own plays, A Country Musical and Tricycles, have played to mediocre to excellent reviews in Los Angeles and Sacramento and Placerville.

In 1986, Mr. Mullen was honored by On the Wing arts magazine as "...one of Sacramento's leading arts visionaries...innovative movers and shakers in the establishment of Sacramento as a regional center for the arts."

Geoffrey Chang is a former Producing Manager, Road Manager and Personal Manager for rockstar Elvin Bishop and has worked with such musical luminaries as Jefferson Starship, Kansas, Pablo Cruise, John Lee Hooker and Y&T. Tours led him to coordinate productions in the continental U.S. as well as Hawaii, Canada and Guam.

At the Golden Bear in Southern California, Geoff coordinated the presentation of over 100 acts including John Mayall, Tower of Power, David Crosby and Robin Williams.

As owner of GRC Management, Geoff has assisted in various productions in the Bay Area including his role as Production/Technical Coordinator for Mayor Art Agnos' Inauguration celebration.
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**THE SAN FRANCISCO BAND FOUNDATION**

The San Francisco Band Foundation was set up as a nonprofit umbrella organization for the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps, the San Francisco Flag Corps, the San Francisco Tap Troupe, Varsity Drag and the Aides-de-Camp in March of 1981. Since their first board meeting in 1981, the Foundation has served as the fiscal umbrella for all the above performance groups as well as adding City Swing dance band and Vocal Minority to this noted list. The Foundation’s goals have always been to foster artistic development principally within the gay/lesbian community, as well as to serve the community which it represents and the community at large.

A list of the Foundation’s performances reads like a history of the past ten years from the National March on Washington in October of 1987, to serving as San Francisco’s Official Representatives to Expo ’86 in Vancouver, B.C. The Foundation’s list of awards is long, with The Marching Band having been the top civilian band in Northern California several years and City Swing dance band winning this year’s Cable Car Award for Entertainer of the Year.

In April of 1986 the Foundation realized a longtime goal, its own home. The Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts is a work in progress, having received $71,400 in grants from the Mayor’s Office of Community Development to help renovate the space. The Center serves as the home for all the Foundation’s performing groups with the exception of Vocal Minority. Over thirty different city wide performance groups use the Center as a central force in their creative endeavors. This year the Foundation established the Jon Sims Performing Arts Endowment Fund, which directly serves to foster the continued growth and development of the Foundation’s performance groups.

We look forward to the next ten years with a great sense of expectation, with positive creative achievements, personal and collective, as our goals. We thank you, our audience, for your continued enthusiasm and support!

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**THE JON SIMS ENDOWMENT FUND FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, INC.**

As the next decade of the San Francisco Band Foundation gets underway we are establishing an Endowment Fund as a separate network for earmarked funds, grants and bequests to be protected. If you are interested in more information call or write to

The Sims Center
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Congratulations to all involved for 10 years!

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In a period of just over two years Jon Reed Sims brought a totally new perspective to San Francisco's diversified performing arts community. He opened new and exciting areas for men and women of all sexual persuasions to freely explore their own personal artistic potential.

Jon was the founder, conductor and artistic director of the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps. He also founded the dance band, *Varsity Drag* and the string orchestra, *Lambda Pro Musica*. He was the founder of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and worked to create the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Chorus and the Gay Men's Community Chorus. The people who were challenged by Jon Sims to create their own brand of artistic magic number in the thousands. Across the country, men and women are singing, playing musical instruments, marching in drill teams and tap dancing - many for the first time since high school and college.

Jon Sims was honored for his work by San Francisco's Dianne Feinstein and Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley. He was the recipient of a special 1980 Cable Car Award for his Outstanding Contribution to Entertainment in the Gay & Lesbian Community. He was named to the international Who's Who of Music and Musicians and in 1980 was listed among the Outstanding Young Men in America.

A native of Smith Center, Kansas, he earned a Bachelor's degree in French Horn as well as a degree in Theory and Composition at Wichita State University. After earning a Master's degree in French Horn at Indiana University, he 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. Additionally, Sims studied composition under Joshua Missal, Charles Jones, and the eminent composer Darius Milhaud, and chamber music under Manahem Pressler, along with performing for two years with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. He studied French Horn with Phillip Frakas and Dale Clevenger of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Mickeal Hoetzel of the Munich Philharmonic and Joseph Singer of the New York Philharmonic. He was also guest conductor for the California Bach Society.

Jon always said his philosophy was "work with people rather than the music...the music comes of its own will." He was quoted as saying, "Now we can do more than survive. We can share with each other philanthropically and through performances of the arts. We have more to live for now..." 

Jon Reed Sims died of AIDS in July of 1984, leaving behind a legacy of musical organizations inspired by his dreams and commitment to the power of music and the performing arts. Today we stand proud, attesting to that belief and to what it has done for us all personally and collectively as a community.
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