LESBIAN/GAY CHORUS OF SAN FRANCISCO
Pat Parr, Artistic Director
presents

FRIDAY, JUNE 28 • HERBST THEATRE • 8:00 PM

GUEST ARTISTS
San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus
San Francisco Winds of Freedom
VOICES: Bay Area Lesbian Choral Ensemble
Pre-Show Entertainment-Equal Voices

HOST
Donna Sachet
Empress XXX

Sponsored in part by Grants for the Arts
The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco

The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco is proud to present our 16th Anniversary Season. As the oldest continually singing lesbian and gay chorus in the country, we celebrate the life, energy, and strength of our community in all our endeavors: our concerts, fund-raisers, outreach programs, and performances at many and various San Francisco events.

In 1994 we were honored to be the first lesbian and/or gay-identified group ever to receive the prestigious Arts Excellence Award from the Business Arts Council of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and released our first professional recording, "Together in Harmony".

We are proud of these accomplishments, but our biggest reward is always in our performances. Whether singing to our loyal concert audiences, at AIDS fund-raisers, in hospitals, conventions, or at civic events such as the San Francisco Fair Gay Day, we of the Lesbian/Gay Chorus raise our voices and join our hands to share the power and love we find in singing and working together.

The Chorus welcomes you, thanks you for your support, and hopes that you enjoy the show!

Pat Parr, Artistic Director

Pat brings to the Chorus a wide variety of musical experience. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Oklahoma City University with a Bachelors of Music degree in piano performance and a Bachelor of Music Education degree in vocal music. Pat conducted the Transamerica Chorus for two years and sang with the Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorale prior to being chosen as conductor for the L/GCSF. He continues to act as both a musical director and an accompanist for various Bay Area theaters including Lamplighters and 42nd Street Moon. This is Pat's tenth season as Artistic Director of the L/GCSF.

Donna Sachet, Host

Just six short years ago, Donna Sachet started her adventure in San Francisco. The City has applauded her fun-loving spirit, quick wit, and musical talent ever since. She started singing right away with the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, where the personality of Donna was actually born during a spring retreat. In 1993 she was selected Miss Gay San Francisco and two years later became the thirtieth publicly elected Empress of the City. Donna has been seen throughout the community, judging contests, emceeing fund-raisers, cutting ribbons and hosting parties. She has entertained at venues as varied as The Plush Room and Kimo's, Great American Music Hall and Marlena's, Masonic Auditorium and the foot of the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. As Empress this past year, she served as goodwill ambassador all over the country, in Canada, and in Mexico. She and her Emperor, Brian Benamati, received the Darrell Yee Award for fund-raising from the AIDS Emergency Fund and Donna Sachet received the 1996 Cable Car Entertainer of the Year Award. She is thrilled to be a part of tonight's musical extravaganza.
The Evolution of NakedMan

Anticipating our pending performance at GALA V in Tampa in July, and considering the importance of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus as the grandfather of gay choruses around the world, Stan Hill, the Artistic Director of SFGMC empowered the Commission, a group of highly talented musicians from the chorus who drew up a prospectus detailing exactly what they wanted to express at both GALA V and for their home audiences through such a work. We advertised for composers nationally and received over 50 submissions and, after tireless deliberation, the choice was made: our own composer-in-residence Robert Seeley. Our audiences have heard Robert's soaring melodies for years in Irish Blessing, Everyone Sang, You Are My Star, Jubilant Gloria and countless other songs of inspiration and pride. To find a text worthy of Robert's talents, we turned to Philip Littell, fast becoming one of America's most important poets and librettists. Commissioned by San Francisco Opera for librettos to both Conrad Susa's The Dangerous Liaisons and Andre Previn's Streetcar Named Desire, Philip seemed the obvious choice. Philip then came from L.A. and interviewed over sixty chorus members seeking unique perspectives on gay life in the 1990's and how the vast spectrum of gay life expresses itself through the members of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. The result: NakedMan. A cantata of dramatic and impassioned expressions written directly from the musical and emotional expressive power of the men of the chorus.

On behalf of the entire chorus, we would like to sincerely express our appreciation to the members of the Commission Commission whose hard work and patient screening of scores of submissions made NakedMan possible.

The Commission Commission of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus
Dr. Stan Hill, Artistic Director, James Conrad, Joe Gregore, David Hempling, Tom McQueen, Steve Ng, Jess Perry, Justin Taylor, Paul Trombley, Tony Maclintosh, Sam Zifferblatt

Dr. Stan Hill, Artistic Director

Dr. Hill received his postgraduate degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as a student of Charles Leonhard and Willard Zemlin. His doctoral dissertation on the voice has been adapted for use by the music faculty at CSU - Fullerton and portions of his thesis have also been published in the Journal of the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

A dynamic conductor, arranger, clinician and vocal coach, Stan's career spans the elementary, secondary, university, church and community choral spectrums. Stan is a member of NATS and is well known in choral circles for his witty, humanistic and iconoclastic approach to choral conducting. Stan lives in the city with his roommates Derek Gordon and Arturo Fernandez and his cocker Molly Daggers, who is a good girl.

VOICES: Bay Area Lesbian Choral Ensemble

Founded in 1988, VOICES: Bay Area Lesbian Choral Ensemble is primarily a cappella vocal ensemble whose dual purpose is to combine lesbian visibility with musical excellence. VOICES' repertoire includes songs by Sweet Honey in the Rock, Rachel Bagby, Holly Near, Ferron, Joan Simcoe, Betsy Rose, traditional songs from a variety of cultures; jazz and barbershop quartet music, madrigals, original works by members, and other songs reflecting the diversity of the lesbian community.

Valerie L. Brown

Valerie started her musical journey at the age of four. Continuing through her teenage years Ms. Brown held positions as Guest Vocalist and Conductor of several California African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church Youth Choruses. After moving to San Francisco in 1974, Ms. Brown became a popular singer/performer on the local coffeehouse circuit. In 1976 she joined the Army and traveled throughout the U.S. and South Pacific as lead female vocalist in the U.S. Army Soldier's Bands. Ms. Brown was awarded U.S. Armed Forces "Best Female Vocalist".

After completing her tour of service Ms. Brown studied voice at the SF Conservatory of Music and finished college at UCSF with a degree in Computer Science. Valerie joined VOICES: Bay Area Lesbian Choral Ensemble in 1990 as a second alto. In 1994 she produced VOICES' successful "As a Woman" concert at the Yerba Buena Garden Theater. In November 1995, Ms. Brown was appointed to the position of Music Director and Conductor.

Equal Voices

Since July 31, 1995 when Equal Voices gathered for their first rehearsal, they have developed a very appreciative audience. Under the artistic direction of Rick Weaver, they have been special guests of the NATIONAL AIDS UPDATE CONFERENCE at Civic Auditorium; performed a Christmas concert for Coming Home Hospice; offered a Friends & Family Concert at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, San Francisco; and have provided music for worship services at 1st Congregational Church, San Francisco and Unity Church of Today, Redwood City.

Equal Voices wishes to thank the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco for the chance to be a part of the 18th Annual Pride Concert and would like to invite everyone to attend their Broadway revue this fall at the Magic Theatre/Fort Mason entitled "Broadway - San Francisco Style!", where their special guests will be the irreverent a cappella group, Jungle Red. Happy Pride!
San Francisco Winds of Freedom

When the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band (SFL/GFB) steps onto Market Street for the Lesbian Gay Freedom Day Parade in June 1996, the Band marks its 18th Anniversary. The Band is the first openly gay and lesbian musical organization in the world. Its creation played a fundamental role in the creation of other performing groups around the world.

Today the Band performs in three incarnations: the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band (marching band), the San Francisco Winds of Freedom (concert band), and the San Francisco Spirit Band (pep band). The Band's Community Concert Series, a series of free pops-style concerts, was nominated for a 1992 Cable Car Award and was awarded a Special Director's Cable Car Award in 1993.

Led by Artistic Director Nancy Corporon the Band has performed at a wide range of events. Members performed with the Lesbian & Gay Bands of America at Bill Clinton's inauguration. A Christmas Eve spot on ABC-TV's Good Morning, America featured the Band's annual Dance Along Nutcracker performance in 1993, and in 1994 the band took the performance to San Francisco's premiere arts facility, Center for the Arts Yerba Buena Gardens, where it performed before a soldout crowd.

Nancy Corporon, Conductor and Artistic Director

Once a professional musician with the Chicago Symphony and on and off-Broadway, Corporon has long been a leader in the lesbian/gay music movement. In 1979, inspired by long-time friend Jon Sims, she founded and conducted the New York Gay Community Marching Band (now the Lesbian and Gay Big Apple Corps). Corporon took over as Artistic Director of the SFLGB in January 1990, and the Band has been growing in size, musicianship, and audience ever since.

Corporon earned a Bachelor's of Music degree in 1971 from Oklahoma City University. One of the youngest members of the Oklahoma City Symphony, she played as assistant first horn during her senior year at OCU, receiving a full scholarship to the Repertoire Training Program at Brevard Music Center. She performed with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, studied with Dale Clevenger, and has performed with the Chicago Symphony under conductors Seiji Ozawa, James Levine, Carlo Maria Giulini, Edo de Waart and Sir Georg Solti.

In 1994, Corporon served on the Board of the Cable Car Awards and Show and the committee for the Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center of the new main library. She is currently a Vice President at Wells Fargo Bank. In 1994 and 1995 she was the recipient of the Wells Fargo President's Award, given in recognition of outstanding community service by an employee, for her work with the Band.
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ASL - Bill Gallimore II
A Sweet Sixteen Birthday Fantasy assembled by Pat Parr

San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus
Dr. Stan Hill - Artistic Director Richard Rogers - Principal Accompanist
James Conrad - Associate Accompanist
ASL - Randall Stephens
Selections from NakedMan
Music by Robert Seeley, Lyrics by Philip Littlell
Commissioned by San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus
for GALA V, July 6-14, 1996, Tampa, Florida

VOICES: Bay Area Lesbian Choral Ensemble
Valerie L. Brown - Music Director
ASL - Pam Parham
Rise Up Music and Lyrics by Melanie DeMore
A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square Music and Lyrics by Eric Mashnitz and Manning Sherwin
Wanting Memories Music and Lyrics by Ysaye M. Barnwell
Big Boned Gal kd lang arranged for VOICES by Deborah Jue

San Francisco Winds of Freedom
Nancy Corporon - Conductor
ASL - Bill Gallimore II
Show Time James Christensen
Kaddish W. Francis McBeth
Toccata Marziale Ralph Vaughan Williams

Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco
Pat Parr - Artistic Director Charley Creasey - Accompanist
ASL - Bill Gallimore II
The Road Not Taken Music by Randall Thompson
Lyrics by Robert Frost
Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves Giuseppe Verdi
from Nabucco
I Wish I Know How It Would Feel to be Free solo - Joe Callinan, Tenor
arr: Pat Parr
The Great Spirit of Love GALA V Commission for Mixed Choruses
Music by David Conte
Lyrics by Terry Jones

Combined Choruses and Winds of Freedom
Nancy Corporon - Artistic Director
We Sing the Dream Music and Lyrics by Donald M. Skirvin
GALA V Festival Anthem

INTERMISSION
CHORUS OF THE HEBREW SLAVES
from Nabucco

Va, pensiero, sull’ali dorate;
Va, ti posa sui clivi, sui colli,
Ove olezzano tepide e molli
L’aure dolci del suolo natal!

Del Giordano le rive saluta,
Di Sionne le torri atterrate...
Oh mia patria si bella e perduta!
Oh membranza si cara e fatal!

Arpa d’or dei fatidici vati,
Perché muta dal salice pendi?
Le memorie nel petto raccendi,
Ci favella del tempo che fu!

O simile di Solima ai fatti
Traggi un suono di crudo lamento,
O l’ispiri il Signore un concerto
Che ne infonda al patire virtù!

Guiseppe Verdi

Go, thoughts, on golden wings
Go, rest on the (her) hills, the (her) high hills,
Where fragrant warm and blending (is)
The sweet air of our land.

The Jordan river salute (greet),
Of Zion’s tower thrown down...
Oh my country, so beautiful and desperate!
Oh remembrance so dear and fatal.

Golden harps of the prophet bards
Why are you silently hanging on the willows?
The memory in our hearts rekindle
Of the fabled times that have past.

Oh from Jerusalem the fateful
Take the sound of our cruel lament
To inspire God with a harmony
That infuses our suffering with virtue (power)!

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The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco, the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus, and VOICES: Bay Area Lesbian Choral Ensemble are members of GALA Choruses (the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses), an international alliance of over 100 men’s, women’s, and mixed choruses dedicated to providing leadership and inspiration to the Lesbian and Gay movement through excellence in the choral arts. GALA Choruses produces a choral festival every four years—the next is July, 1996. GALA Choruses also plans annual conferences for directors and managers, addresses problems of mutual concern, and assists with the sharing of music holdings. For more information please write or call: GALA Choruses, Inc., PO Box 65084, Washington, D.C. 20035; (202) 467-5830.

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L/GCSF

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