36TH ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE CONCERT
TOGETHER STRONG
Sat., June 14, 2014 | 3 p.m.

Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco
San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band
Special Guests Camerata California
Jefferson Packer

World Premiere
From Darkness to Light by Phil Orem,
dedicated to the memory of Nelson Mandela

West Coast Premiere
I Am in Love with the World by Nathan Hall
with text by Maurice Sendak

Kelly Cullen Auditorium 220 Golden Gate Ave, San Francisco
Jose Julio Sarria was an American political activist from San Francisco, California who, in 1961, became the first openly gay candidate for public office in the United States. He is also remembered for performing as a drag queen at the Black Cat Bar and as the co-founder of the Imperial Court System.

Sarria was born to Julio Sarria and Maria Dolores Maldonado. His parents did not marry and his father showed no interest in his son's life. Maria initially raised Jose on her own, but when this became too difficult she placed him with another couple. Both they and his mother indulged his early interest in wearing girl's clothing.

Sarria showed an affinity for languages, which led to his first serious romance with another man. Sarria tutored Paul Kolish, an Austrian baron who had fled from the Nazis. Sarria and Kolish fell in love, and their relationship endured until Kolish and his son were killed in a car accident in 1947.

Sarria served in the United States Army during World War II. Following his discharge, he studied to become a teacher and frequented the Black Cat. He met waiter Jimmy Moore, whom Sarria described as "the love of [his] life." Sarria was hired as a cocktail waiter. Following a conviction on a morals charge, Sarria, realizing he could not now become a certified teacher, began performing in drag. He appeared regularly at the Black Cat. An early LGBT activist, Sarria co-founded several homophile organizations, including the League for Civil Education, the Tavern Guild and the Society for Individual Rights.

Sarria became the first openly gay candidate for public office in the United States when he ran for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1961. In 1964 Sarria declared himself "Empress Jose I, The Widow Norton" and founded the Imperial Court System, which grew to become an international association of charitable organizations.

Following the closure of the Black Cat in 1964, Sarria went to work with restaurateur Pierre Parker. The pair operated French restaurants at World's Fairs. While at the 1964 New York World's Fair, Sarria learned that Jimmy Moore had committed suicide.

Sarria worked at several more Fairs before retiring in 1974. After living with Parker in Phoenix, Arizona for several years, Sarria returned to San Francisco. He continued to reign over the Courts for 43 years, before abdicating in 2007.

For his lifetime of activism, the city of San Francisco renamed a section of 16th Street in Sarria's honor.

Image credit: Nate Gowdy
Photography

Welcome to the 36th Annual San Francisco Pride Concert

This concert is a major collaboration that comes together every year thanks to the work of a diverse and dedicated team.

San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band
Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco

Artistic Directors
William Sauerland, Overseeing Artistic Director
Pete Nowlen

Concert Steering Committee
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Special Thanks
Alyssa Stone, Executive Concert Producer
Wes Kashwagi, Graphic and Program Designer
Kelly Cullen Community Center
Camerata California
Jefferson Packer, Guest Soloist
and to all the amazing volunteers who helped make this event possible
San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band

The Freedom Band has been making music to build understanding between gay and non-gay communities for 35 years, and celebrates its 35th anniversary this season.

Named the Official Band of San Francisco by the Board of Supervisors, the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band is the first openly gay music organization on earth, inspiring the formation of social activist lesbian and gay bands, choruses and performing troupes around the world.

Pete Nowlen, Artistic Director

Founded in 1978 by Jon Sims at the height of Anita Bryant’s anti-gay crusade, the Band debuted by marching behind Supervisor Harvey Milk’s convertible in the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade.

Each year, the 70-piece wind ensemble performs its Community Concert Series, an award-winning series featuring challenging wind ensemble music and culminating in the Band’s wacky holiday production, the Dance-Along Nutcracker®. The Band also performs year round at parades and pep band events.

San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band

Pete Nowlen is the Artistic Director of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band. He has been a member of the UC Davis faculty since 1988, and the CSU Sacramento faculty since 1990. He was a member of the French horn section of the Sacramento Symphony from 1987 to 1996, and is active as an orchestral and chamber musician, with performance credits including the San Francisco Symphony, Opera and Ballet Orchestras and the San Jose and Oakland Symphonies.

An active conductor of bands, orchestras and choruses, he is Director of Concert Bands at U. C. Davis and Artistic Director of Sacramento’s VITA Academy, Camerata California (a chamber choir), the Rancho Cordova Civic Light Orchestra, and is Artistic Advisor of the Music in the Mountains Festival in Nevada County, California.

Join the band! Book the band! www.SFLGFBOrg

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San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band | Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco | Camerata California | Trauma "Joe Wicht" Flintstone | Jefferson Packer

**Hymn for Africa**
Peter Meecham
Performed by San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band

**Today is the Gift**
Samuel Hazo
Performed by San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco, and Camerata California

**From Darkness to Light - World Premiere**
Phillip Orem, Words by Nelson Mandela & William Ernest Henley
Performed by San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco, and Camerata California

**They Can’t Take That Away from Me**
George Gershwin & Ira Gershwin, arr Warren Barker
Performed by Trauma Flintstone and San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band

**City Trees**
Michael Markowski
Performed by San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band

**I Am In Love With The World - West Coast Premiere**
Nathan Hall, Words by Maurice Sendak
I. What’s Made and Ludicrous
II. I Had a Brother
III. Dream Daughter
IV. Time Spent
V. The Man I Lived With
VI. I Am Not Afraid of Death
VII. I Am In Love With the World
VIII. Live Your Life
Performed by Jefferson Packer, Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco, and Camerata California

**In honor of José Sarria**
Empress José I, The Widow Norton

**Votre toast, je peux vous le render** (Toreador Song)
George Bizet, From Carmen

**God Save Us Nellie Queens**
Unknown, Words by José Sarria
Sing-along: God Save Us Nellie Queens
God Save Us Queens and Lesbians, too
From Every Mountainside
Long may you live or fly
God Save Us Nellie Queens
God Save Us Queens

**Over the Rainbow**
Harold Arlen, Words by E. Y. Harburg, From The Wizard of Oz
Performed by San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco, and Camerata California

A Q&A session with Nathan Hall, Phil Orem, and the conductors will follow the performance in the Concert Hall.
Nathan Hall, Composer

Nathan Hall's works have been called "fearless" in their multifaceted expressions of the composer's personal and musical identity. Nathan uses music as an artistic medium to explore a variety of fields including science, nature, the fine arts, history, and sexuality. This interdisciplinary interest comes from a need to map out a geography of experiences of the world, as well as to take the listener or participant on their own personal journey.

There is an element of humanity present in all of Nathan's works, from his traditional classical pieces for chamber ensembles to experimental electronic pieces, sound sculptures, and multimedia projects.

Many of Nathan's works are based on his travels. His recent album _The Origin of the Sun and Moon_ is directly connected to his year living in Iceland. These pieces have a diary-like quality in which that particular piece of music could have only been made in that place, at that time.

Hall’s site-specific performances reinterpret scientific data or historical documents to create a sonic landscape whose fantastical or dreamlike sounds actually originated in real locations. Other works like _Tame Your Man_ are inspired by the composer's sexuality and experiences as a gay man, creating a special intimacy between performer and audience.

Nathan Hall is a former Fulbright Fellow and holds his Doctorate in Musical Arts from the University of Colorado, Boulder. He holds his BA degree from Vassar College and his MM from Carnegie Mellon University.

His recent album _The Origin of the Sun and Moon_ is directly connected to his year living in Iceland. These pieces have a diary-like quality in which that particular piece of music could have only been made in that place, at that time.

Philip Orem, Composer

Philip Orem received his B.M. and MM. in piano performance from Northwestern University as well as a diploma in Composition and Arranging from the Grove School of Music. While at Northwestern he was elected to Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Pi Kappa Lambda and The College Register.

His compositions and arrangements have been performed and recorded throughout the U.S. and Europe. In April 1996, he was awarded a NEA Meet the Composer/Midwest grant by Arts Midwest to spend five days overseeing the premiere of his Variations for string orchestra by the McHenry County Youth Orchestra and rehearsals of various choral, concert band and jazz band pieces at local schools and churches in McHenry County, Illinois. In 2009 his Octet in E-Flat won an Honorable Mention from the Humboldt State Brass Chamber Music Workshop Composition Contest.

He has been composer in residence at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Park Ridge, IL since 2007 where his Requiem was premiered January 15, 2012 as part of their Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observances. His is also the resident composer and pianist for Congregation Solei in Highland Park, IL. In the past year there have been premieres of two song cycles, _A Wonder Is What It Is_ with poetry by Wendell Berry and Songs to Throw at the Sun with poetry by Langston Hughes, several choral pieces for Jewish, Christian and ecumenical services and Invocation and Dance for a Pagan God for trombone choir.

This fall will see the premiere of _Three Psalms_ for clarinet and piano. He is very active in all musical aspects of musical theater having worked on over 130 productions including work with Karen Morrow, Tommy Tune, Charlotte Rae, Sheldon Harnick, Joanna Gleason and the late Betty Garrett, Charles Nelson Reilly and Georgia Brown. He has composed the music for three children’s musicals including Theatre West’s Storybook Theatre production of _The Emperor’s New Clothes_, which won an Artistic Director Achievement Award from the Valley Theater League for best music in a children’s musical. For five years he served on the faculty of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts West in Los Angeles.


Jefferson Packer, Guest Soloist

Jefferson Packer, bass-baritone, is honored to be collaborating with the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco on this wonderful program. Maurice Sendak, Nelson Mandela, and Escamilo are three quite different personae to inhabit in the course of one program!

Though Jefferson has sung since childhood, he obtained his Master's of Music in piano from San Francisco State University. Shortly thereafter he began vocal study with tenor Dale Tracy, and since 2010 he has been a student in the private studio of soprano Sara Ganz, past resident artist of the San Francisco Opera and professor of vocal studies at Mills College in Oakland.

Jefferson made his solo recital début in 2013 with soprano Alice Ko, performing a program of arias and duets in three different venues throughout San Francisco.

He most recently appeared as the villain Haman in the western hemisphere première of Cristiano Lidarti’s _1774 purimspiel Esther_, set to a Hebrew-language adaptation of the libretto for Handel’s oratorio of the same name.

Jefferson sings with the American Bach Soloists under the direction of Jeffrey Thomas, and San Francisco Renaissance Voices under the direction of Todd Jolly and Katherine McKee.

He is the baritone soloist at St. Thomas Anglican Church in San Francisco, and lives with his partner Marceli, a professional violist, and Figaro, their adored 28-pound Corgi mix (they think).

Camerata California

The Camerata California was formed in the year 2000 to promote the performance of classical instrumental and vocal music. Camerata is comprised of professional musicians united in the wish to apply their experience and vocal qualities to an activity of uncommon depth and inspiration.

It is a versatile chamber choir and is capable of carrying any repertoire with a large expressive range. These qualities are made possible because of the training, long experience, and the musicality and voices of its members.

The Camerata California has appeared with its own chamber orchestra as well as with the Auburn Symphony, the Camellia Symphony, Gold Country Chamber Orchestra and the Sacramento Ballet. Camerata California is a nonprofit public benefit corporation administered by a board of directors.

Joe “Trauma Flintstone” Wicht, Master of Ceremonies

Trauma Flintstone is a genuine Band Hag. She has been a featured performer with the SFLGFB for 7+ seasons of Dance-Along Nutcrackers, as well as numerous concerts and fundraisers.

Other favorite local performances have included _Mr. Irresistible_ at the Alcazar, _The Divine Sister_ (as the Mother Superior) at New Conservatory Theatre Center and 10 years as Gloria Swanson and Patty Andrews in _Christmas with the Crawfords_. With Katya Smirnoff-Skyy, Trauma co-produces the Cabaret Showcase Showdown, now in its 5th season.
The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band is in the midst of our first Challenge Grant, a two-year program from Cummings Properties. The overall goal of this capacity-building grant is to help the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band develop and maintain its financial stability and sustainability. The final phase of the Challenge Grant is underway with a big goal: by June 30, 2014, raise $50,000 more in new funds for a total of $147,000 so that we can earn the maximum matching amount from Cummings Properties.

Your generous tax-deductible donation can help us reach this goal.

To make a donation, please visit www.SFLGFB.org

Upcoming SF Freedom Band Performances

SF Giants LGBT Night Game
June 26, 2014 - 7:00 pm

SF Trans March
June 27, 2014 6 pm

Pink Triangle Dedication
June 28, 2014 - 9:00 am

Pink Saturday Street Party
June 28, 2014 - 6:00 pm

San Francisco Pride Parade & Festival
June 29, 2014 - 10:00 am

Parade - Larkspur / Corte Madera
July 4, 2014 - 10:00 am

San Francisco AIDS Walk
July 20, 2014 - 9:00 am

Community Concert, San Francisco
September 27, 2014 - 3 pm

SF Veterans Day Parade
November 9, 2014 - 11:00 am

Dance-Along Nutcracker®
Dec 13, 2014 - 2:00 pm; Dec 14, 2014 - 11:00 am

Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco Donors

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