San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band

The Freedom Band has been making music to build understanding between gay and non-gay communities for 37 years, and celebrates its 37th anniversary this season. Named the Official Band of San Francisco, 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.

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, pep band events and civic events.

Upcoming Events

The Panama-Pacific Centennial Concert
Saturday, June 20, 2015, 8:00 pm
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, 3301 Lyon Street, San Francisco

The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of SF under the direction of William Sauerland and the SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band under the direction of Pete Nowlen present The 37th Annual Pride Concert: The Official Musical Tribute Celebrating the Centennial of the Panama-Pacific International Exhibition. Guest performers include the Bay Area Rainbow Symphony, Camerata California, and Oakland East Bay Gay Men’s Chorus.
Information and tickets: www.annualprideconcert.org

The Dance-Along Nutcracker Goes Over The Rainbow
December 12 & 13
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, CA

Mark Narins | Composer

Composer Mark Narins recently completed his first symphony. In June 2014 he conducted the world premiere of his dynamic tone poem SACRED SPACE for orchestra with viola obligato conducting the Kensington Symphony Orchestra. After first pursuing a career as a conductor, Mark Narins began composing in the 1990s. His early works were inspired by inscriptions found on tombstones in the Hebrew graveyard of Graz, Austria. Selma Weiss-Dramatic Lament for Baritone was the first composition from this source. This was followed soon afterwards by the full length opera Theresa Kren (2008-2012) about a mother’s partially successful attempt to resurrect her daughter from the grave on the day of the daughter’s tombstone unveiling.

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay is proud to be sponsored in part by Grants for the Arts of the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund, the Jon Sims Endowment Fund for the Performing Arts, Betty’s List, Cummings Properties, the Castro Lions, and the SF LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration Committee.
CONCERT PROGRAM

The Golden Find – Drake at Pt. Reyes
   Mark Narins
   The Fogges
   Sailing into Pt. Reyes Harbor
   Repairs and Rejoicing
   The Miwoks
   Alarm
   Furious Dance for All

San Francisco Suite *
   Roger Nixon (1921-2009)
   Ferde Grofé (1892-1972)
   (arr. Kevin Tam)

   The Gold Rush
   Bohemian Nights
   The “Mauve Decade”
   1906-1960 – “Like the Phoenix arising from the ashes – The rebirth of San Francisco”

Intermission

Suite of Serenades*
   (arr. Kevin Tam)
   Victor Herbert (1859-1924)

   Spanish
   Chinese
   Cuban
   Oriental

Among My Souvenirs - Humoresque **
   John Philip Sousa (1854-1932)
   (arr. Kevin Tam)

Pas Redouble
   Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)
   (trans. Frackenpohl)

* World Premiere     ** Modern Concert Premiere

Pete Nowlen celebrates his 2nd season as Artistic Director of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band during the Band’s 2014-2015 season. Appointed Artistic Director of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band in August, 2013, Pete Nowlen is one of Northern California’s busiest musicians. On the faculty at both Sacramento State and UC Davis, where he is Director of Concert Bands, Pete currently holds Artistic Director posts with Camerata California Chamber Choir, the Rancho Cordova Civic Light Orchestra and is Artistic Advisor of Music in the Mountains in Nevada County, California. He is the founder and driving force behind Sacramento’s VITA Academy, dedicated to revitalizing classical music through innovative community and audience engagement and school music programs.

CONCERT PRODUCER: Donella Olsen
COVER ART: Michael Kerner