THE BEAT GOES ON:
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS WITH THE SAN FRANCISCO LESBIAN/GAY FREEDOM BAND

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
JADINE LOUIE

SATURDAY
APRIL 26, 2003
7 PM
EVERETT MIDDLE SCHOOL
SAN FRANCISCO
The debut of the world's first openly gay musical group in June 1978 is for many an indelible memory of pride and hope. Followed by heady days of celebrity and an outpouring of support that brought it to venues such as Davies Symphony Hall and the Hollywood Bowl, the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps in those first years was a balm for a community hounded by escalating rhetorical, legal, and personal attacks. Such a time alone would be worth celebrating.

And the healing goes on. From the first Milk-Moscone memorial marches, every Mayor's Domestic Partners Ceremony and Alternative Family Picnic, the opening of the Hormel Lesbian/Gay Center, the Hayward Gay Prom, Gay Games, and countless concerts, parades, fairs, fundraisers, memorials and celebrations, the Band has pursued its mission of marching one step closer to a just society, sometimes with diminished resources, but never with diminished heart or purpose.

In time, memories adhere to certain anniversaries, making them mixtures of celebration and reconciliation. The past quarter century of LGBTIQ life has been, to say the least, a lively debate of issues ranging from semantics, empowerment, and efficacy to diversity and dignity. Through name changes, structural changes, painful losses, and shifting relationships with sibling organizations, the Band (San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band is still such a mouthful) has reflected the evolution of the larger community.

Despite my natural resentment when politics divert energy from music making, I welcome the questioning and struggle. For artists and citizens, apathy is death.

The Band weathers the shifting tides of strategy, taste, and personnel by clinging to two constants: 1) providing a steady stream of performances at community events, large and small, and 2) creating a place to come out of the closet as an artist. It has often been said that the Band uses music to build bridges between communities. Music makes superficial nearly every identity distinction concocted to divide human society, communicating through shared experience instead of interpreting experience through words. This transcendent quality gives a glimpse of our best natures and deepest hopes.

This program features objects, images, and words from the past and, of course, music, which places us properly in the present. As we are touched by the music, we become connected to everyone who has also touched it and to everyone who will. When we experience music, rich with connotation and context, we become a bridge between the past and the future. Tonight we celebrate what we've been and prepare for what we can be. There is still so much to do.

Happy Birthday to us all!
Named the "official band of the City of San Francisco" by Supervisor Tom Ammiano and Mayor Willie Brown in 1998 in honor of its 20th anniversary, the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band is the first openly gay musical organization ever, inspiring the formation of lesbian and gay bands, choruses and performing troupes around the world. Founded in 1978 at the height of Anita Bryant's anti-gay crusade, the Band made its debut marching ahead of Supervisor Harvey Milk's convertible in the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade. The Band has been making music to build understanding between gay and non-gay communities for a quarter century.

Conducted by Jadine Louie, the Band is one of the most active music organizations in the Bay Area, practicing its commitment to community service with appearances 15-20 times a year in venues ranging from Golden Gate Park (S.F. AIDS Walk) to City Hall (San Francisco Domestic Partners' Ceremony) to Treasure Island (Servicemembers Legal Defense Network's Red, White & Blue Angels Picnic) to the Tenderloin YMCA (YMCA Senior's Connection New Year's Dinner) to Centennial Hall in Hayward (Project Eden's Gay Prom). This year, the Band's Community Concert Series, an award-winning series of free, pops-style concerts begun in 1993, entered its second decade with an inspiring collection of pieces gathered around themes of social justice.

The Band annually performs for hundreds of thousands at parades throughout the year, including San Francisco's St. Patrick's Day Parade (1st prize, Best Civilian Band), its Chinese New Year's Parade (2nd place, Best Senior Band), the Veteran's Day Parade and at pride parades throughout the region, including Santa Cruz, Marin, Reno, Los Angeles and Fresno. Some of the Band's credits include performances at the Union Square Grand Reopening, the 9/11 memorial ceremony, the Jewish Community Center music series, Clarendon Elementary School's Gay Awareness Day, the 6th anniversary of the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Cultural Center and the Lucasfilm company picnic at Skywalker Ranch. Members have performed at both Presidential Inaugurals of Bill Clinton and at Gay Games in Australia as part of the Lesbian & Gay Bands of America (LGBA) massed bands. The Band is also a regular feature at the annual Old Fashioned 4th of July Alternative Family Picnic at Yerba Buena Gardens.
GET YOUR SAN FRANCISCO LESBIAN/GAY FREEDOM BAND CD NOW

THIS BREAKTHROUGH 2 CD SET contains two decades worth of incredible music by the world's first lesbian/gay musical organization. Each of the band's eight conductors is represented in the 27 selections: show tunes, marches, classical transcriptions, and yes, even the Waltz of the Flowers from The Nutcracker. Over two hours of music in all! Get a copy of this first-ever recording for yourself or as a gift. The price is just $22 (includes tax) for both CDs.

For sale in the lobby, along with Band t-shirts and more!

Happy 25th Anniversary, San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band!

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a documentary in progress by
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Pas Redouble (quick march)
Camille Saint-Saëns, arr. A. Frackenpohl (op. 86, 1890)

Tulsa: A Symphonic Portrait in Oil
Don Gillis, trans. M. Ford (1950)

Hanukkah in Santa Monica
Torn Lehrer, arr. J. Louie
Trauma Flinstone

Rocky Point Holiday
Ron Nelson (1969)

The Fairest of the Fair
John Phillip Sousa, ed. F. Fennell (1908)

If My Friends Could See Me Now
Cy Colman, original lyrics by Dorothy Fields
Special lyrics by Jon Sims

Moorside March
Gustav Holst, arr. G. Jacob (1928)

An American Elegy
Frank Ticheli (2000)
Keith Sklower, oboe; Heidi Beeler, trumpet

Festive Overture
Dmitri Shostakovich, trans. D. Hunsberger (op. 96, 1954)
Tom Sellars, clarinet

MUSIC NOTES

Pas Redouble (quick march) :: Camille Saint-Saëns, arr. A. Frackenpohl (op. 86, 1890)
This concert march was originally written for four-hand piano and has been a favorite in the repertoire since its arrangement for wind ensemble in 1972. Saint-Saëns had a prodigious musical mind; he amazed Richard Wagner by memorizing one of the German’s complicated scores after only one reading. The pas redouble is in the spirited style of the gallop, a popular 19th century dance. Its tempo varied with the custom of the time and the skill of the performer. No doubt the composer would favor technical virtuosity and humor, gifts he had in abundance.

Tulsa :: Don Gillis, trans. M. Ford (1950)
Subtitled A Symphonic Portrait in Oil with Gillis’s tongue characteristically in cheek, this is a tone poem in four sections depicting the history of the Oklahoma city. A peaceful opening represents the time before the appearance of European Americans, this moves into a violent struggle over the land, which is changed from wilderness to modern city. The next sections depict oil drilling (building to a gusher), then a parade and dance in the streets. In addition to his compositional achievements, Gillis produced Toscanini’s NBC radio broadcasts, was an executive at Interlochen Music Camp, and chaired the arts department at two colleges. SFLGFB performed this piece with Jon Sims at Davies Hall in 1981.
Hanukah in Santa Monica :: Tom Lehrer, arr. J. Louie
Performed by the effervescent Trauma Flintstone – actor, singer, composer, and Band-hag – this rare and thoroughly silly song stopped the show at the Dance-Along Nutcracker™ in 1999. Even the stagehands were singing it! Dance-Along 2003 runs December 6-7.

Rocky Point Holiday :: Ron Nelson (1969)
A windy seaside resort in Rhode Island inspired this wild musical excursion, calling on a rich variety of colors from the instruments, including extensive use of percussion. By fusing jazz elements with inventive melodies and sophisticated compositional technique and form, Nelson joined other composers of the mid-20th century in forging a uniquely American style. His later works show the influence of non-Western cultures.

The Fairest of the Fair :: John Phillip Sousa, ed. F. Fennell (1908)
Generally considered one of Sousa’s most melodic marches, Fairest of the Fair was written for the annual Boston Food Fair. Its title was inspired by the memory of an attractive stranger who worked there. This piece opened the Band’s first concert here at Everett Auditorium in 1978.

If My Friends Could See Me Now :: Cy Colman, original lyrics by Dorothy Fields; special lyrics by Jon Sims
Known simply as “Friends,” this has been the Band’s theme song since its first performance with new lyrics sung by the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus at the 1978 concert. Tonight, alumni musicians take the stage and, lead by Donna Sachet, everyone is invited to sing along.

Moorside March :: Gustav Holst, arr. G. Jacob (1928)
Moorside Suite, from which this march is the finale, was commissioned as a competition piece for the British National Brass Band Championship (remember the movie Brassed Off?) in London’s famous Crystal Palace. The march consists of a bold modal opening, a second theme with more conventional phrasing, and a trio in the style of a ceremonial procession. After listening to it several times at the first performance Holst wrote of the wonderful players who “combined the enthusiasm of amateurs with the skill of professionals.” The sensitive and mystical Holst played the trombone and loved brass bands. His suite The Planets is a standard in orchestral literature and his two Suites for Military Band are foundations of modern band repertoire.

An American Elegy :: Frank Ticheli (2000)
An expression of hope, a tribute to quiet courage, and a reminder of the connection between all human beings, An American Elegy was the centerpiece of a commemorative concert performed by the Columbine High School Band. Starting in the lowest register and rising gradually to an open cry, the beginning of the piece came to the composer in a dream. Three themes – hope, serenity, and sadness – are commingled throughout. A four-part canon builds to a quotation from the school’s Alma Mater (which Ticheli wrote, since Columbine didn’t have one), followed by an offstage trumpet at the heart of the piece. The versatile Ticheli, who writes for both band and orchestra, is a rare creature: a composer appreciated while still alive. SFLGB performed this piece in its 2002 Community Concert series on social justice themes.

Festive Overture :: Dmitri Shostakovich, trans. D. Hunsberger (op. 96, 1954)
Rarely has the public and the personal been so deeply related in music – or music so filled with political irony – as in the work of Shostakovich who, as composer laureate, directly experienced the USSR’s contradictions and corruptions while creating pieces that glorified it. To survive, he invented a musical code understandable to the public but unobjectionable to the censors. Shostakovich’s large body of serious works is a musical diary of national trauma, personal suffering, and the endurance of the human spirit under oppression. His numerous scores for films, ballets, and public events were often witty, sometimes satirical. Festive Overture opens with a majestic fanfare derived from a simple birthday piece originally written for the composer’s daughter. It was created for the 30th anniversary of the October 1917 Revolution but, like many works of the time, was suppressed until after the death of Stalin. Given the disillusion with which Shostakovich lived his entire adult life, the overture’s exuberant optimism must have reflected a dream of a just society.

The Cosmique Krewe of Colour

Congratulations the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band for 25 years of service to the LGBTQI community

laissez le musique roulez!
Artistic Director/Conductor JADINE LOUIE watched the Band's first performance in the 1978 Pride parade perched in a tree near the main library. She was music director of two orchestras by the time she was twenty-one and majored in French Horn, but earned an engineering degree and worked as a contractor for over a decade before joining the Band and a fulltime profession in music. Called "the spiritual center" of the Band's Dance-Along Nutcracker™ by the Chronicle's C. W. Nevius — a comment she holds as dear as the frequent references to her deadpan delivery — Ms. Louie brings to the Band's Community Concerts a love of music written in our time and an ability to make complex musical ideas understandable to audiences at different levels of sophistication. Past conducting/coaching credits include: All-City Honor Orchestra, SF Recreation Symphony, Symphonic Tornado, Swingfever Big Band, Bay Area Women's Philharmonic, Golden Gate Opera, and Prometheus Symphony. Ms. Louie is a past Honorary Grand Marshall of the SF Pride Celebration and is proud to serve on the Board of Directors of Community United Against Violence (CUAV).

High-flying acrobatic cheer squad CHEER SAN FRANCISCO (formerly known as the Bay Area Raw Rahs) partnered with the Band for many years at parades, community events, and the Dance-Along Nutcracker.™ Cheer SF performs year-round at countless fundraisers and community events.

Artistic Director Emeritus NANCY CORPORON directed the Band from 1990-96. Encouraged by friend Jon Sims, she founded New York's Big Apple Corps — one of the many member organizations of the Lesbian and Gays Bands of America (LGBA).

Actor/composer/singer MRS. TRAUMA FLINTSTONE (nee Anderthal) recently returned from NYC, performing in "Christmas with the Crawfords" (her ninth year) and in "The Andrews Sisters' Hollywood Canteen." Trauma is currently in rehearsals for "When Pigs Fly" at New Conservatory Theatre and working on "Burning Louise," a new musical. Out-of-drag, s/he is a composer, currently creating a song cycle called "Trinity," based on extant poetry. In high school, Trauma played trombone in the marching band — no lie!

ROBERTO HERNANDEZ is working hard to produce this year's 25th Annual Carnaval Parade and Celebration. Join the Band on Sunday, May 25, in celebrating a Happy Birthday with this sister organization.

An early supporter of the Band, philanthropist JAMES HORMEL recently served as the first openly gay U.S. Ambassador and continues to advocate for civil rights, and specifically, LGBT organizations and causes.
DONNA SACHET was crowned Miss Gay San Francisco 1993 and went on to become Empress XXX of San Francisco in 1995. Donna has shared the stage with many divas, including Linda Imperial, Jo Carol, Jessica Williams, Cynthia Manley, Vicki Shepard, Jeannie Tracy, Martha Wash and Nell Carter. She is an active member of the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus. Each year Donna produces and hosts her own holiday event “Songs of the Season,” which last year raised more than $7,500 for the AIDS Emergency Fund San Francisco.

Also founded by Jon Sims in 1978, the SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN’S CHORUS is the Band’s closest sibling organization. The groups co-produced numerous productions for years and still perform together with the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Chorus at the annual Pride Concert (this year’s concert: Friday, June 27 at Mission High School).

JOSE SARRIA (aka the Widow Norton) was the first openly gay person to run for public office in the U.S. and is the founder of the charitable Imperial Court system of Emperors and Empresses. A lifelong supporter of the Band, he has made numerous donations, including the first sousaphones.

Cocksucker
a love story
a new play at theatre rhinoceros
May 2003

Congratulations to the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band!

James J. Haight, Atty. At Law
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have contributed in some way  

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ALPHABET SOUP:
ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES & SFLGFB

In 1979, Golden Gate Performing Arts, Inc. (GGPA) was formed as a nonprofit umbrella organization under which the Band, the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus (SFGMC), and other L/G performing arts groups could conduct business. SFGMC continues to operate under GGPA to this day.

In 1981, the Band created the San Francisco Band Foundation, Inc., another nonprofit umbrella organization. The name of the corporation was later changed to honor the band’s founder. It is currently called the Jon Sims Center for the Arts (JSC). In 2003, after considerable discussion leading to the conclusion that each organization needed to develop differently to best serve its mission, the Band and JSC decided to dissolve their operating relationship. Though saddened to end this longstanding association, both organizations are pleased to have found a resolution that permits healthy growth in new directions for all.

A new nonprofit corporation, San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, Inc. has been born. It is currently awaiting final approval of its tax-exempt status. In the interim, SFLGFB operates under the gracious fiscal sponsorship of Golden Gate Performing Arts. While payable to GGPA, all donations to the Band, fully tax-deductible to the extent of the law, are restricted for that purpose.

1978: A visionary’s dream - openly gay performing groups across the nation winning hometown respect.

2003: The dream of Jon Sims remains alive, thanks to you.

Congratulations to the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, for 25 years of making dreams come true, for millions.

Keeping your dreams alive, along with those of Jon Sims, is what the Jon Sims Endowment Fund for the Performing Arts is all about. Your contribution is needed so the mission of financially assisting qualified LGBT performing groups can continue. Gifts to the Endowment Fund may be:

- Cash
- Securities
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Please visit our information table in the lobby tonight to learn more about how you can help keep the dream alive.

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UPCOMING BAND EVENTS

COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES

“The Tonic of Wildness”
program includes: Bugler’s Holiday · Fingal’s Cave · Harry Potter Symphonic Suite
Canticle of the Creatures · Ye Banks and Braes O’ Bonnie Doon
Friday, June 20 | 8:15 pm | Bethany United Methodist Church
1268 Sanchez at Clipper Street, San Francisco. Free admission.

AN OFFICIAL SF PRIDE EVENT

The 25th Annual Pride Concert
presented by Golden Gate Performing Arts and
the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco
Friday, June 27 | 7 pm + 9 pm | Mission High School
Tickets: $20 Advance (go to www.sfgmc.org) / $25 Day of Show

OUTDOOR CONCERT

Ol’ Fashioned Fourth of July
Alternative Family Picnic
Friday, July 4 | 11 am - 4 pm | Yerba Buena Gardens

Join us! For more information on these events, or to join the Band,
check out our website at www.sflgfb.org, or call 415 255-1355.