



For nearly 40 years, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus (SFGMC) has served as an international standard bearer for a powerful mix of extraordinary musical excellence and mission-driven activism. Founded in 1978, it was the first choral organization to courageously proclaim its orientation in its name and is credited with helping start the LGBT choral movement that now spans the entire globe, galvanizing and changing the course of LGBT history.

It continues to inspire other arts-based community organizations through its performances and involvement in human rights, community activism, empowerment and inclusiveness, establishing it as an icon among LGBT organizations.

The Chorus was founded in October 1978. Its first public appearance was only a month later, on the steps of City Hall at the candlelight vigil following the assassinations of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk. Supervisor Milk was the first openly gay person to be elected to public office in California and one of the most high profile in the world at that time. In 1981, SFGMC embarked on a national tour, performing in nine cities: Dallas, Minneapolis, Lincoln, Detroit, New York City, Boston, Washington DC and Seattle helping many of these cities launch their own LGBT choruses.

The Chorus now has over 275 singers in the large chorus and four outreach vocal ensembles. The award-winning Chorus has been heard by millions worldwide and is one of the crown jewels of San Francisco arts organizations.

Under the current leadership of Artistic Director Dr. Timothy Seelig, SFGMC has established a heightened level of performance standards receiving wide international acclaim, increased its touring and recording profile and broadened its impact and reputation in the community while maintaining its signature blend of humor, personality and high-voltage performances. The chorus has a phenomenal record of commissioning works from major composers spanning the entire gamut of styles and genres, from Stephen Schwartz to John Corigliano.

**SFGMC Mission Statement:**

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus creates extraordinary musical experiences that inspire community, activism, and compassion

**SFGMC Vision:**

A world inspired and unified by the music we create.

**SFGMC Values:**

- We believe in the transformative power of music to heal, to enlighten and to foster unity.
- We embrace the life affirming changes we create within and beyond our chorus community.
- We evolve society's views toward LGBT people through our commitment to excellence.
- We honor all who came before us and whose sacrifices made it possible for us to raise our voices.