ATLANTA GAY MEN'S CHORUS

RETURNING TO THE ROOT

JUNE 9 @ 7:30PM
Atlanta City Hall

JUNE 10 @ 7:30PM
Conant Performing Arts Center
Oglethorpe University
VOICES OF NOTE presents

ATLANTA GAY MEN’S CHORUS

RETURNING TO THE ROOT

Find a digital program by following this link:

Donald Milton III  
Artistic Director

David Artadi Beno  
Assistant Conductor

David Aurilio  
Interim Executive Director

Johnathan Crutchfield  
Accompanist

SPONSORED BY:

Funding for this program provided by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and is supported in part by the Mayor’s Office of Cultural Affairs.
Program

ACT 1

Kua Rongo ................................  Ngapo Wehi, arr. Mark David Buckles (TTBB Premiere) 
Lucas Artadi-Beno, Daniel O’Rourke, soloists

I Ain’t Afraid ..........................................................  Holly Near, arr. Steve Milloy 
Jacob Brinson, Jay Wynn, soloists

The Golden Rule ...............................................  Wayland Rogers 
Panache, Matthew Harrington, Neil Hediger, Daniel Moore, soloists

Returning to the Root .................................  Joshua Rist (TTBB Premiere)

Adinu.................................................................  Shireen Abu-Khader and Andre De Quadros 
David Artadi-Beno, Eugene Jennings, soloists

Not Ready to Make Nice ...............................  The Chicks

La Vie Boheme from Rent ...............................  Jonathan Larson 
Selected Singers, Matt Daigle, Joey Jaworski, Dwayne Wakefield, 
Andrew Berardi, Kyle Hildebrand, soloists

Finale B from Rent .................................  Jonathan Larson, arr. Jason Wynn

ACT 2

Seasons of Love from Rent ..............................  Jonathan Larson 
Mykal Slack, Tony Glass, soloists

Let the River Run .........................................  Carly Simon, arr. Craig Hella Johnson 
Matt Daigle, Adam Dalton, Mykal Slack, percussionists

be with me ................................. Joshua Bornfield, text by Rabbi Shmuel Hanagid (World Premiere) 
I. the moon 
II. well performed 
III. we two 
Alex Allabach, Gabriel Bishop, Christopher Ladouceur, Jim Macknik, 
Joseph Quintana, Jacob Brinson, soloists

Spaséniye Sodéial .............................................  Pavel Chesnokov

The Greatest Gift .................................  Sufjan Stevens 
Gabriel Bishop, Nicholas Johnson, Eric Mask

The Rainbow Collection ..............................  AJ Kolenc 
Panache and Various Voices Tour Group 
Nicholas Johnson, Tony Glass, Gabriel Bishop, Christopher Repotski, 
Matt Daigle, Eric Mask, Jay Wynn, soloists

Scare Away the Dark ..............................  Passenger 
David Artadi-Beno, conductor

Raise You Up/Just Be from Kinky Boots ........ Cyndi Lauper, arr. Stephen Oremus 
Kyle Hildebrand, Christopher Repotski, Tony Glass, soloists

For a digital program scan the QR code:
Selected Texts and Translations:

**Kua Rongo**
Ngapo Wehi arr. Mark David Buckles

I have heard the voice of welcome greeting me,
Welcoming me as part of the wider world!
Rise up! Welcome! Welcome!

**The Golden Rule**
Wayland Rogers

Christianity
Do unto others as you would have them do to you.
*Jesus of Nazareth, New Testament*

Islam
Wish for your brother what you wish for yourself
*The Prophet Muhammad, Hadith*

Judaism
Love your neighbor as yourself.
*Leviticus 19:18, Torah*

Sikhism
Be a stranger to no one and be a friend to all.
*Guru Granth Sahib, p. 1299*

Buddhism
Just as I am so are they, just as they are so am I.
*The Buddha, Udana-Varga*

Confucianism
Do not to others what you do not want done to you.
*Confucius, Analects*

Jainism
Treat all creatures as you would treat yourself.
*Sutrakritanga 1.11.33*

Taoism
See our neighbor’s gain and loss as your own
*Lao Tzu, T’ai Shang Kan’ Ying P’ien*

**Returning to the Root**
Joshua Rist

Seek to attain a perfect emptiness,
Remain patient and sincere,
Every living thing rising as one,
Through this we observe the returning to the root.

**Adinu**
Shireen Abu-Khader and Andre De Quadros

I follow the religion of love wherever love is found
For love is my religion and my faith

**be with me**
Joshua Bornfield text by Rabbi Shmuel Hanagid

I’d sell my soul for that fawn
of a boy night walker
To sound of the ‘ud & flute playing
Who saw the glass in my hand said
“drink the wine from between my lips”
& the moon was a yod drawn on
the cover of dawn—in gold ink

II
Take the blood of the grape from
her red jeweled glass like fire
In middle of hail
This lady with lips of scarlet
Thread roof of her mouth
Like good wine
Mouth like her body well performed:
From blood of corpses the tips of her fingers are red thus
Half of her hand is like ruby
Half quartz

III
That’s it—I love that fawn
Plucking roses from your garden—
You can put the blame on me
But if you once looked at my lover with your eyes
Your lovers would be hunting you
You’d be gone
That boy who told me: pass some honey from your hive
I answered: give me some back on your tongue
& he got angry, yelled:
Shall we two sin against the living God?
I answered: let your sin, sweet master, be with me

**Spaséniye Sodéla**
Pavel Chesnokov

Salvation is created in the midst of the earth.
Alleluia
Welcome to Returning to the Root!

I was sitting in a cafe in Jerusalem talking to a vocalist who told me about this poetry he had just found. It was written by a Rabbi in the 11th century and it was homoerotic and quite steamy. This got me thinking about love songs connected to religion and that the basis of all of the world’s religions weren’t about a deity, but about how we treat each other. The golden rule is universal, not just in religious communities, but in all communities. I yearn for a time when all people return to the root of all communal interaction; just be good to each other.

I also know that for centuries people have used religion as a force for division and supremacy. Purposefully mistranslated texts have been thrown at countless people and very specifically at the LGBTQ+ community and have caused significant harm to millions. This concert addresses that as well. Holly Near’s brilliant folk song, “I Ain’t Afraid” puts it bluntly: I’m not afraid of your deity, “I’m afraid of what you do in the name of your god.” We’re also doing a powerful song by The Chicks for all of those who were mistreated by their home religion and are “Not Ready to Make Nice.”

In the end, it all comes back to love, acceptance and community. We are stronger when we accept each other for exactly who we are, respect each other’s choices, and celebrate our differences. “Never let them tell you who you oughta be.” We’re glad you’ve come here tonight so we can “Raise You Up!”

– Donald Milton III
Tenor I
Charles Davis III
Tony Glass
Tomas Helgason
Dick Johnson
Nicholas Johnson # ^
Christopher Ladouceur
Victor Lin
Jim Macknik
Sean McClennen #
Daniel Moore #
Hunter Reedy
Doug Rosauer
Nick Ruhe

Tenor II
Andrew Berardi +
Dywahn Bethea
Gabriel Bishop #
Zach Burgess
Harry Chiu
Caleb Evans
Matt Flocco
Miguel Angel Hoppe
Brandan Howell
Phil Julien
Vito Leanza
Eric Mask #
Ben McNair
Mykal O’Neal Slack
Bill Paden

Joseph Quintana
Christopher Repotski #
Scott Tanzer
Asher Thompson
Jay Wynn # ^

Baritone
Alex Allabach
Lucas Artadi-Beno #
David Artadi-Beno # ^
Jaliyl Collins
Matthew Daigle #
Adam Dalton
Binh Dam
Woody Edie +
Matt Harrington # +
Kyle Hildebrand
Chandler Horning
Gellin Hughes +
Mike Jacobs
Joey Jaworski + *
Eugene Jennings
Mark Keeler
Christopher Merkle
Mauricio Naranjo-Diaz
Sion New III
Thomas Nguyen
Greg Savitt
Dwayne Wakefield
Jeffery Zwartjes

Bass
Don Becker
Steve Benfield
Jacob Brinson
Felix Castro
Jeff Cone
Devin Coutreyer
James Davis #
Thomas Flase
Jarrett Heatherly
Neil Hediger #
Maurice Johnson
Nicholas Kennell-Mazenko
Nathaniel Lewis #
Don Mead
Paul Newman
Daniel O’Rourke
Dan Seymour #
Philip Shannin
Hugh Simons
John Stegall +
Brian Taylor ^
David Welniak

^ Section Leader
* VON Board Member
# Panache
+ Chorus Leadership
Donald Milton III (He/Him/His) joined the Atlanta Gay Men’s Chorus in January 2018, bringing an impressive background in conducting, music education and music administration. He came to Atlanta in 2008 to become the director of music for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, the largest UU congregation in the Southeast. At UUCA Mr. Milton runs one of the most eclectic and excellent music programs in the city. Active in the Atlanta music scene, he has served as the executive director of the Atlanta Master Chorale, artistic director of the DeKalb Choral Guild, founder and artistic director of Lux Atlanta, and founder of Sky Punch, a company that produces sing-alongs, concerts and other interactive community music events.

Mr. Milton is an active choral clinician, guest conductor, lecturer, and performer. He has presented his lecture “The Second Voice Change: The Aging Voice” in a dozen states and three countries. Inspired by many trans people in the Atlanta community, Mr. Milton has been focusing on working with trans voices, helping people express themselves fully as they truly are.

Mr. Milton studied at the University of Michigan School of Music, with concentrations in education, conducting and vocal pedagogy.

David Aurilio, Interim Executive Director, (He/Him/His)

David Aurilio has over 35 years of extensive experience in the Entertainment, Marketing/Branding and Non-Profit sectors. Career highlights include creating, executive producing and casting live shows for Universal Studios theme parks in Florida, California, and Japan to producing Film/TV projects and Live Events for ABC-Disney, NBC, Warner Brothers, New Line Cinema, 20th Century Fox and the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood. Since moving to Atlanta in 2011 and has produced the GLAAD 10th Anniversary event honoring Don Lemon, volunteers as an adjudicator for ArtsBridge and served as the Executive Director for the Spiritual Living Center of Atlanta. A graduate of Kent State University in Ohio, David has a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Journalism and Public Relations.

David G. Artadi-Beno, Assistant Conductor, (He/Him/His)

has proudly sung with the AGMC and Panache since 1996. He holds a B.A. in linguistics and studied music and piano performance at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he sang and accompanied for the Men’s Glee Club and Madrigals. After earning a Master of Public Affairs degree at Princeton University, David pursued a career as an analyst with the U.S. Government Accountability Office and now serves as the agency’s Atlanta Field Office Manager. David also sings with OurSong Atlanta, speaks several languages, and is married to fellow baritone Dr. Lucas Artadi-Beno, with whom he enjoys traveling around the world and raising their rescue “fur babies.”
Additional Voices of Note Staff
Melissa Arasi, AWC Artistic Director

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Atlanta Gay Men’s Chorus Leadership
2022/2023 Season
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David Artadi-Beno, Assistant Conductor
Andrew Berardi, President-Elect
John Stegall, Financial Officer
Woody Eadie, Secretary
Matt Harrington, Librarian
Gellin Hughes, Co-Marketing Officer
Aaron DeSilva, Co-Marketing Officer

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Piano – Jonathan Crutchfield
Guitar – Joshua Bornfield
Percussion – Adam Dalton
Percussion – Mykal Slack
Percussion – Matt Daigle
The Crecendo Chorus
Celebrating our Dynamic Community of Investors

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Celebrating our Dynamic Community of Investors

LEGACY SOCIETY
The following members are recognized for their generosity in helping ensure the future for Voices of Note by including us in their estate planning:

Lee Alexander Hamel*
Loyd Clifton Lietch*
Dennis R. Nance*
Tom Sands
Greg Savitt
Elizabeth Scott
John Stegall

Join us at
https://voicesofnote.kindful.com/?campaign=335601
As many of you know, Ann was a board chair for the Atlanta Feminist Women’s Chorus and the Atlanta Gay Men’s Chorus and was instrumental in the creation of the Atlanta Women’s Chorus. As an active singing member of the AWC, Ann was membership president twice. As an honoring of her immense service to our Voices of Note family, we have started the Music Commission Fund in her name. These funds are being used to support the commissioning of new works for chorus of all voicings (SSAA, TTBB primarily, but also SATB). Ann’s commitment to our organization and her love of music makes this dedication especially meaningful for all who knew and loved her.

We hope you will support the Ann Pinyan Memorial Music Commission Fund!

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awchorus.org/ann
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Church at Ponce and Highland
1085 Ponce de Leon Ave NE, Atlanta 30306

TICKETS $20
$15 Seniors • $10 Students

Pre-Concert Talk • 7PM
Dr. Jody Noll, History Department, Georgia State University

Tickets and information:
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Your audience is right here

Hit your target audience with Voices of Note!

The Atlanta Women’s Chorus and The Atlanta Gay Men’s Chorus offer ad placement in our print and digital programs for every concert. We’ll sing your praises every time an audience member opens our program and sees your sponsorship!

**Full Page Ad:**
$300 for one or $550 for both choruses
5.25” wide, 8.25” tall*

**Half Page Ad:**
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$75 for one or $100 for both choruses
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Various Voices is the most important LGBTQ+ choir festival in Europe. The 2023 festival is organized by the social promotion association Aulos, in collaboration with Komos APS and on behalf of Legato Choirs (European Association of LGBTQ+ choirs). It is a non-competitive event that takes place every four years in a European city, chosen by the choirs who take part in Legato Choirs and/or GALA Choruses. This year, the City of Atlanta will be represented by 30 members of the Atlanta Gay Men’s Chorus in Bologna, Italy!

The goal of the festival is spreading – through music – messages, demands, needs and questions of the LGBTQ+ community, in order to promote a welcoming and inclusive world.

Through their 35-year history, Various Voices has spread the message of inclusion all over Europe. Voices of Note proudly salutes our members who will raise their voices for this wonderful event. Your accomplishment celebrates your own talents, every member of the Atlanta Gay Men’s Chorus and the Atlanta Women’s Chorus, and each one of us in the metropolitan Atlanta area. Sing Proud!
More Than A House.
It's A Lifestyle.

As a member of the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus, I proudly support the arts in our community. When you buy or sell with me, I donate a portion of my commission to Voices of Note.

Let's work together to find your next home!

Voices
Of Note

Neil Hediger

Neil.Hediger@compass.com
678.642.9037
@neilhedigerrealestate

Compass | Doyle Goodrowe
JOIN THE CHORUS!

AUDITIONS WILL BE AUGUST 31ST. SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SIGN UP.