



Our Mission:

The Gateway Men's Chorus affirms and promotes gay culture and acceptance through excellence in musical performance and education.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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With *Prom*, June 19 & 20, Gateway Men's Chorus Relives Memories of High School Romance and Bids Farewell to Artistic Director Al Fischer

Final concert of 2014-15 Season is presented at the Edison Theatre at Washington University

St. Louis, Missouri (May 29, 2015) –The Gateway Men's Chorus presents *Prom* June 19 and 20, a celebration of high school romance and that iconic night for every teenager when the lights turned low, emotions ran hot, and the possibilities were endless. The concert, presented at the Edison Theatre at Washington University closes GMC's 2014-15 Season and will be the final concert for Artistic Director Al Fischer before he moves to Washington State. In addition to great music, the two-night event will feature prom photos in the lobby, the crowning of a prom court on stage each night, and a special prom "after party" immediately following closing night. It's an event sure to send audiences home with all-new *Prom* memories to cherish for years to come.

The concert weekend, set to feel like a high school prom at which the men of the Chorus are providing the entertainment. Starting a half hour before each performance, the dance floor will be open for audience members and singers to share. Audiences are encouraged to don their creative formal wear, bring a date, get prom photos in the lobby, and dance throughout the evening to the music. Before each performance and at intermission, members of the audience will be invited to enter into a raffle to run for Prom King or Prom Queen. A "Prom Court" will be crowned nightly on stage, another way audiences will be invited directly into the fun of the evening. Other members of the Prom Court will be selected through online voting, part of the organization's first major social media fundraising campaign. After the Saturday performance, GMC will host a prom "after party" at Bethel Lutheran Church, a few blocks down the street from the Edison Theatre.

The concert will be Al Fischer's final concert with the Gateway Men's Chorus, after nine years with the organization. "We wanted to send Al out on an incredibly high note, with a concert that honors his years of service," says Executive Director Tori Gale. "*Prom* will be a perfect way to celebrate the legacy of high-production values that Al has brought to the Chorus with a truly interactive production of eclectic musical tastes. This concert will delight audiences old and new, young and old. It's the perfect event to attend and discover the fun of a GMC concert."

Al Fischer will remain Artistic Director until July 31, 2015, assisting the organization as it transitions to new artistic leadership and leading GMC through the region's many Pride activities in St. Louis, St. Charles, and the Metro East. Al will then relocate to Yakima, Washington, where he has taken a full time teaching job and will join his husband Charlie Robin, who was recently named CEO of the Capitol Theatre. The organization will welcome incoming Artistic Director, Robert Stumpf, on August 1, 2015.

Prom performs on Friday, June 19th and Saturday, June 20th at 8 p.m. at the Edison Theatre, 6445 Forsyth Avenue, University City MO 63130. Tickets to the concert are available for \$25, with discounted rates available for students and seniors. The prom “after party” will take place immediately following the Saturday, June 20th performance at Bethel Lutheran Church, 7001 Forsythe Boulevard, St. Louis MO 63105. Cover for that event is \$10 and includes house wine and “spiked” punch. For tickets or information, visit www.gmcstl.org.

About the Gateway Men’s Chorus

Since April 1988, the Gateway Men’s Chorus has been performing to the delight of thousands throughout the St. Louis region with the mission of affirming and promoting gay culture. In 2012, Gateway Men’s Chorus was awarded the Focus St. Louis “What’s Right With The Region” award for improving racial equality and social justice. Since its inception, the Chorus has grown to approximately 100 members and has become one of the most successful male choral arts organizations in St. Louis both in musical repertoire and longevity.

The mission of Gateway Men’s Chorus is to affirm and promote gay culture and acceptance through excellence in musical performance and education. The organization furthers this mission by producing beautiful male choral music and presenting a positive image of gay men. The Gateway Men’s Chorus annually produces a three-concert season, highlighting a diverse blend of musical styles and entertaining performances. The organization also participates in a large number and wide range of special events and community outreach activities throughout the year. The group is open to singers of all backgrounds who sing within male vocal registers.

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