



# Gateway Men's Chorus 29th Season Annual Report



## From the Board President



### What an incredible year we have shared during GMC's 29th season!

As our new fiscal year started, we welcomed new artistic leadership as Robert Stumpf joined us to begin his tenure as Artistic Director. While it was bittersweet to say goodbye to Al Fischer, who had given nearly a decade to GMC in a wide range of capacities, having a successor with such strong musical instincts and rigor as Robert helped make a smooth transition possible.

In his first year as Artistic Director, audience response and critical response is clear: our concerts sound better than ever. Offering a strong mix of moving, challenging choral repertoire with fun, popular hits, GMC concerts during our 29th season told a powerful story of excellent musicianship, community, and hope:

**In December, *Make the Yuletide Gay*, rang through North City's stunning St. Stanislaus Church.** Musical selections ranged from Biebl's "Ave Maria" to a hilarious send up of everyone's favorite holiday dessert, "Fruitcake." Plus, Robert intro-

duced a new holiday tradition of raffling off the opportunity for audience members to conduct a holiday carol at each concert – leading to some of my fondest memories of our two packed performances of this concert.

**In March, GMC made its first appearance at the newly-renovated Sun Theater in Grand Center with *Dear Future Husband*.** The concert celebrated marriage equality, with music that included the titular Meghan Trainor song, pop favorites about love, a classic opera chorus, a suite of Beatles songs, and three world premieres... including two commissions underwritten with the support of several national donors. The concert provided two powerful evenings of music-making that re-affirmed GMC's role in our community's civic dialogue about equality, freedom, and love.

**In June, our annual Pride concert returned to its home at the Edison Theater,** thanks to a second year of generous underwriting from Washington University. Titled *Big Gay Sing*, the concert was a celebration of the LGBT community that featured fun full-chorus tunes, a few sing-a-longs, some unforgettable solo turns from guest artists, and the return of CHARIS, the St. Louis Women's Chorus, to the GMC stage for several guest numbers. The concert also took a serious turn in the wake of the tragedy in Orlando, with a moving tribute to the gay men who lost their lives at the Pulse nightclub, and a lobby fundraiser to help support Orlando's gay men's chorus.

Throughout the season, GMC's role in the community grew, as members of the chorus sought not only to support the needs of our peers nationally, but also to give back to our local community in St. Louis. **In advance of each of our main season concerts, GMC offered a community fundraiser concert.** In Decem-

ber, we sang in Ferguson as a fundraiser for the Ferguson Library System; in March at the Metropolitan Community Church as a fundraiser for the Missouri Courage Scholarship; and in June at a special event in support of Cherubs, a support foundation for children and families affected by congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH). Combined, these concerts helped make meaningful financial contributions to these worthy causes. GMC also supported a range of other community partners through song this year, with performances during the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Pride St. Louis, and Metro East Pride.

**The strength of our programs also reflected the strength of our finances.** With thanks to the leadership of our entire board, as well as our staff leadership in Executive Director Tori Gale and Artistic Director Robert Stumpf, **GMC ended fiscal year 2016 with a surplus.** It was the first time in at least six years that the organization was able to end the fiscal year in the black without relying on board-designated "rainy day" funds or a surprise end-of-fiscal year angel gift. This speaks both to the fiscal responsibility of our staff surrounding expenses, growth in concert ticket revenue, and extremely generous support from our community. In the pages of this annual report, you will see listed those individuals and corporations that helped make this fundraising success possible, but we would be remiss not to thank and celebrate the generosity of Wells Fargo Advisors. A supporter of GMC for several years, WFA trusted us with a significant increase in their financial investment this year, making a gift of \$25,000, our largest single corporate gift in GMC's history. Our own singing members also increased their investment in GMC this year, with a highly-successful fundraising drive that exceeded its goal by close to 40%.

One final highlight of a year filled with wonderful success stories brought the voices of GMC onto the national stage. Every four years, GALA, the umbrella organization for LGBTQIA choruses, hosts an international festival. In 2016, that festival featured choruses from as far away as Shanghai, Cuba, and Europe and

was hosted in Denver, Colorado. While GMC had participated in the past, singers always attended on their own dime, so only a fraction of singing members were able to attend. Starting in 2013, GMC made a commitment to raising enough money to send every singer who wanted to be part of this remarkable event. Three years later, nearly \$18,000 had been raised through generous individual gifts, three "Homegrown Cabaret" fundraising events, and even some guest bartending.

Thanks to these efforts, **GMC subsidized registration expenses for all singers and provided scholarships for travel and accommodations for those singers who needed additional support – making it possible for every singer who wanted to participate to join over 6,000 singers from across the world at the GALA Festival.** GMC singers performed their own set (including our two world premiere commissions) and had the opportunity to participate in performances and special events throughout the six-day festival. (GMC singers even joined singers from twelve other choruses for a mammoth performance of *I Am Harvey Milk* featuring composer Andrew Lipka in the title role.) For all who attended it was an unforgettable opportunity to build community through song at the international level.

**But none of this could have been possible without you, our supporters.** Gifts at every level made such a successful year possible. And success during our 29th season puts us on a steady footing for even greater impact during our 30th. For those who have given, we will strive to continue to be good stewards of your support – touching lives through music and helping to ensure the voices within our community are heard, respected, and understood.

We are so grateful to you for your support!



Joe Gfaller  
Board President

## From the Artistic Director



Dear friends and members of the Gateway Men's Chorus of St. Louis,

It has been a privilege to take the helm here this past year in season 29, and what a remarkable year it has been! We've presented three world premieres – two of which being commissioned especially for us with financial support from some of our friends from the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus. We also explored a brand new concert venue to GMC – the recently refurbished Sun Theatre. We sang in six languages, performed benefit concerts for the Ferguson Public Library and for children with an extremely severe condition – congenital diaphragmatic hernia. We also celebrated marriage equality with our friends Metropolitan Community Church.

GMC has an important place in St Louis – we're one the most visible LGBT organizations in the region, and have the potential to expand our footprint even wider through our mainstage concert series and our outreach performances. We are also expanding our presence in the community through non-musical activities such as food banks.

My most sincere wishes to you, and I hope to see you during season 30!

Robert Stumpf, MA  
Artistic Director

Facing page from top: "Fruitcake" from *Make the Yuletide Gay*, Dec. 2015 | Michael Martinez performs a solo in *Dear Future Husband*, March 2016 | The full company of singers during a final dress rehearsal of *Dear Future Husband*, March 2016 | Guest emcee Anna Skidis Vargas with the men of GMC and the women of CHARIS in *Big Gay Sing*, June 2016 | A group of GMC singers at the Denver Center for the Arts during the 2016 GALA Festival, July 2016

# The 29th Concert Season in Pictures



# Thanks to Our Generous Donors

The Gateway Men's Chorus is deeply grateful to the support of all of our generous donors. The below list recognizes those individuals, corporations, foundations, and government entities whose investment in GMC has made the 29th season possible.

Gifts recognized below are categorized by the value of financial contributions and fund-raising event ticket purchases in support to our annual operating fund and to our GALA Festival Fund between August 1, 2015 and July 31, 2016. In-kind support is not referenced.

## **Support of \$25,000 or greater**

Wells Fargo Advisors

## **Support of \$10,000 or greater**

The Regional Arts Commission  
The William A. Kerr Foundation

## **Support of \$5,000 to \$9,999**

Arts & Education Council  
Keith Thompson & Dan Dowd  
The Missouri Council for the Arts  
Washington University in St. Louis

## **Support of \$2,500 to \$4,999**

Dan Ader & David Cornelius  
Enterprise Holdings  
Joe Gfaller & Kraig Turner  
Dr. Ken Haller  
Colin Keller & Aaron Banner  
G Ink  
Hartford Coffee Company  
Monsanto Corporation

## **Support of \$1,000 to \$2,499**

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Paul Acker & Emery Gloe  
Walter Adair

Boeing Corporation  
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Darren Chapman & David Watson  
Stephen F. Griffin  
Matt Houck & Cody Vedier  
Dr. William & Mrs. Laura Houck  
Joe Nelson & John Goad  
Michael Parker  
Brian Shearrer & Darin Jenkins  
Steve Swymeler

## **Support of \$500 to \$999**

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Michael Temkin  
Myron Thompson

## **Support of \$250 to \$499**

Mike Asbury  
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Rob Boschert  
Ron & Charles Brunk-Parker  
Melissa & Chad Elliott  
Joey Neal  
Drew Perkins  
Kirk Price

# Thanks to Our Generous Donors

Gwen Riley  
Shawn Telkamp  
Richard Wagner  
Stacey Wehe & Paul Jorjorian  
**Support of \$100 to \$249**

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Sandy Colvin  
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William Roth  
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## **Support of \$50 to \$99**

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Shirley J. Waide  
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## **Support of \$49 and below**

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Lauren Lyerla  
Lyn Magee  
Sharon Maust  
Karen Monnich  
Jay Reiter  
Harry Witt

## Financial Overview

Income		Expenses	
Membership Dues:	\$12,386	Program Expenses:	\$129,180
Concert Ticket Sales:	\$38,874	Fundraising Expenses:	\$15,805
Contributions, Grants, Fundraising Events:	\$103,033	Management & General Expenses:	\$14,596
Program Advertising:	\$5,350	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$159,581*</b>
In-Kind Support:	\$1,004	<i>*Note that this total includes roughly \$18,000 in program expenses related to the GALA Festival, \$14,000 of which was transferred from the GALA Festival Fund during the fiscal year to underwrite costs for this event.</i>	
Investment Income & Sale of Inventory:	\$1,770	<b>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS:</b>	<b>\$5,111</b>
Gain from Sale of Assets:	\$2,243		
Misc. Income	\$32		
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$164,692*</b>		

*\*Note that this total includes roughly \$4,000 in contributed revenue for the GALA Festival Fund, a separate fund from the annual operating budget.*

## GMC Leadership Team

### Season 29 Staff

Robert Stumpf, Artistic Director	Tori Gale, Executive Director
Martin Fox, Principal Accompanist	Drew Perkins, Administrative Manager
John Adams, Sign Language Interpreter	

### Season 29 Board of Directors

Joe Gfaller, President	Keith Thompson, Vice-President
Colin Keller, Secretary	William 'Guy' Crouch, Treasurer

Dan Ader, Dennis Cobb, Melissa Elliott, Morgan Morris,  
Reagan Nelson, Steve Swymeler, Kraig Turner