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DECEMBER 14TH -17TH 2023

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GAY MEN'S CHORUS**

JERRY R. SORIA-FOUST, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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PALM SPRINGS GAY MEN'S CHORUS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our holiday celebration of song: Ring, Swing, Sing! For this concert we are singing in Spanish, Latin, Hebrew, and Xitsonga as well as English. That takes care of the Sing part! You will hear the Ring part as we dust off the handbells for that distinctive, beautiful sound. How about the Swing? It is our pleasure to welcome Hope Diamond to the stage to share her trademark sound

and style. Something new for us!

Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus was established in 1998 and through the years we have expanded and improved our musical offerings along with finding ways to integrate ourselves into the community. We are frequent performers at local events such as the Pride Mainstage and DAP Equity Walk. In the summer months we organize a School Supplies Drive to benefit two elementary schools in the Valley. At the end of November, we held a very successful Toy Drive at the Palm Springs Certified Farmer's Market to brighten the holidays for the residents of Martha's Village and Kitchen in Indio.

Today you will notice that the lobby has a display of multiple bottles of wine. This is known as the Wall of Wine and you have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets to take home that Wall. This raffle supports our efforts to provide grants to the Gay/Straight Alliance Clubs in our local schools. You will be hearing from one of the student leaders this evening about how these grants assist them in finding safe places in their school environment.

If you are enjoying the sounds and happy feeling of our singers, we invite you to join us for auditions on January 2, 2024. Auditions begin at 6:30 PM. Complete information can be found at PSGMC.com to schedule an appointment.

Sit back, relax, and enjoy the program. We are excited to share our songs with you.

Alan McPhail

Alan McPhail, President
Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus



P.O. BOX 4082,
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PALM SPRINGS GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Jerry R. Soria-Foust (2021), Artistic Director

Joel Baker (2013), Principal Accompanist

TENOR I

Steve Baker 2010	Frank Duncan 2023	Joe Musser* 2016	Michael Tryba 2023
Rick Beanes 2023	Charles Gallagher . . . 2016	Santiago Rodriguez . . . 2021	Kenneth Ugarte 2021
Thomas Benner 2020	Jeff Kopasz* 2016	Ramiro Salazar 2023	
Ryan Bernis 2023	Alan McPhail 2012	Dave Sanchez 2021	
Trey Campbell* 2019	David Mooney 2023	Charles Shobe* 2022	

TENOR II

Andrew Bird 2016	Tommy Estrada* 2016	Michael McKeehan* . . . 2023	David Schaeffer 2022
Wayne Bryan* 2023	Brian Gordon 2022	Al Meritt 2010	Tom Shoon 2019
Bill Butler 2011	Jeff Hocker 2013	Maxwell Mierzejewski . . 2023	Steve Suttles* 2020
Jerry Chism* 1998	Michael Labadie-Mendes* 2023	Gregory Pretre 2022	Douglas Ware 2018
Joe Dahman 2006	David Leh 2022	Chip Prince+ 2021	Mark Wilson 2015
Zane DiVita 2023	Rocky Lewis 2021	Tim Rogers 2023	
Henry Doering* 2016	Marcio Matias 2021	Ernie Santora 1998	

BARITONE

BJ Allen 2023	Zane DiVita 2023	Patrick Howard 2023	John O'Connell* 2022
Kevin Allen 2021	David Edmiston 2022	Kurt Jacobowitz-Cain . . 2012	Bob Patnode 2018
Paul Boisse 2021	Matt Fox 2023	Bryan Kreisinger Denk . . 2023	Serjio Pena 2023
Allen Byerly 2022	Dr. Lawrence Frost . . . 2003	Andrea Laguni 2015	Jim Ribeiro 2022
Paul Cain 2012	Ernest Gerke* 2015	Rick Lippiner* 2019	Steven Shuman 2017
Iain Campbell* 2014	Donald Hansen 2019	Jessay Martin 2014	Paul Snively 2021
Marc Copfer 2022	Ron Harkness* 2023	Scott Montroy 2023	Raymond Stimson 2018
Vinnie D'Anna 2014	John Hawley 2022	Joe Nelson 2016	John Whearty* 2009

BASS

Patrick Bonomo 2023	Jason Lewis 2022	Chuck Rice 2023	Rob Stone 2022
Dan Carlentine* 2015	Oleg Liebowitz 2001	George Rockel 2017	Hal Stradley 2013
Rich Fluechtling 2019	Noel Martinez* 2018	Robert Siebert* 2023	Gary Timmerman* 2022
Ken Kuchma 2017	Jeffrey Nottke+ 2022	Carl Stevens 2023	
Russel Learn* 2013	Wilson Raiser 2021	Scott Stewart 2021	

* Section Manager +Section Leader # Leave of Absence

BRUCE KENYON'S THE ARRANGEMENT

DIRECTED BY CHIP PRINCE

TENOR

Steve Baker
Rick Beanes
Thomas Benner
David Mooney

LEAD

Marcio Matias
Al Meritt
Greg Pretre
Tom Shoon
Scott Stewart
Mark Wilson

BARITONE

BJ Allen
Rich Cole
John Hawley
Bryan Kreisinger Denk
Rocky Lewis

BASS

Joel Baker
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Zubin Mehta, Conductor
Beethoven: Symphony No. 6 | Beethoven: Symphony No. 3
Sponsored by Barbara Fremont



ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA | Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024, 7:30 pm
Vasily Petrenko, Music Director | Isata Kanneh-Mason, Piano
Prokofiev: Piano Concerto No. 3 | Rachmaninoff: Symphony No. 2
Sponsored by Jane & Larry Sherman, Roberta Holland



PACIFIC SYMPHONY | Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024, 7:30 pm
Carl St. Clair, Music Director | Olga Kern, Piano
Rachmaninoff: Piano Concerto No. 3 | Brahms: Symphony No. 1
Sponsored by Norman Forrester & William Griffin



SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY | Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024, 5 pm
Rafael Payare, Music Director | Pacho Flores, Trumpet
Ortiz: Altar de bronce, Concerto for Trumpet | Ravel: Le Tombeau de Couperin
Sponsored by Helene Galen & Jamie Kabler, The Nevinny Family, Gail Richards



ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA | Wednesday, Mar. 6, 2024, 7:30 pm
Nathalie Stutzmann, Music Director | Haochen Zhang, Piano
Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 5 | Dvořák: Symphony No. 9
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SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY | Thursday, Mar. 21, 2024, 7:30 pm
Esa-Pekka Salonen, Music Director | Lisa Batiashvili, Violin
Sibelius: Violin Concerto | Sibelius: Symphony No. 1
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BIOGRAPHIES



Jerry R. Soria-Foust Artistic Director & Conductor

Jerry R. Soria-Foust is a professional music educator and arts leader, with a career spanning more than 30 years. At the age of 19, Jerry had his first GALA Choruses experience, performing in the inaugural season of the Indianapolis Men's Chorus. That experience was transformational, and he credits participation in a number of GALA organizations for the fulfilling life he leads as an artist, husband and dad.

From 2005-2009, Jerry served as Artistic Director for the San Diego Men's Chorus, where he led the chorus through a number of milestones, including performing as main stage entertainment on an ocean liner for RSVP Cruises, singing the national anthem for the San Diego Padres, and becoming the resident choral ensemble in the newly renovated Balboa Theatre in downtown San Diego. During his time with SDMC, the Chorus collaborated with a number of award-winning artists, including Tony-nominated Sharon McNight, Broadway & American Idol star Frenchie Davis, Olympic legend Greg Louganis, playwright Del Shores, Grammy-nominated Westwind Brass, the San Diego Women's Drum Circle, and more.

Jerry was the Founding Director of Opus Q – A Men's Vocal Ensemble, a select group specializing in diverse repertoire performed in intimate settings in the Bay Area. He also served as Artistic Director for the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco, during which time the ensemble collaborated with luminaries like Sharon Gless and Sir Ian McKellen, and he had the honor of guest conducting the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus in performance on two occasions.

As a professional theatre director and producer, Jerry has been involved in over 100-ticketed productions. As Executive Director and Director of Education of Berkeley Playhouse, he led expansion of the organization's programs, ticket sales, subscribers and budget by 400%. From 2011-2019, Jerry served as Artistic Director and Dean of Windy City Performs, an all-ages professional theatre and conservatory in Chicago, where he created after-school and pre-professional training programs in music, dance and theatre. WCP was nominated for multiple Broadway World Chicago awards over the years; and was named Chicago Magazine's Readers' Choice award for Best Theatre in 2016.

Jerry's passions include inspiring people of all ages to love the performing arts, creating access to life-changing performing arts opportunities for children of all backgrounds, and exploring how the arts can answer some of today's most difficult challenges. Jerry is a graduate of Butler University and San Diego State University, and has just finished his school building administrator license..



Joel Baker Principal Accompanist

Joel is a native of the Seattle area and a graduate of the University of Washington School of Music. He moved to the Desert in 2003 and has been a pianist and music director ever since. Currently, he can be found playing for *The Judy Show*, starring Michael Holmes, and for the musical revue *Palm Springs Jump!*, at the Purple Room.

Joel serves on the faculty of Midsummer Musical Retreat in Walla Walla, WA, and on the accompanist staff for Musical Theater University in Rancho Mirage. He also plays for various cabaret artists in the area, and has won two Desert Theatre League awards for his work. Among local theaters where Joel has taken on the title of Music Director are: Palm Canyon Theatre, Desert Theatreworks, Desert Rose, and Desert Ensemble Theatre Company. Joel and his husband, Don Vasconcelos, are the authors of the song "*Christmas In Palm Springs*".



Martin Coogan ASL Interpreter

Martin is delighted to be in his eleventh year with PSGMC. Dance has been the favorite part of his musical theater journey until sign language came along. That is when he knew he had to follow that path. Taking ASL in college, Martin has been able to bridge the gap between the Deaf and hearing communities, in many different ways. Although, music is the place for him to shine. We are glad to have him as part of our program.



Chip Prince Bruce Kenyon's The Arrangement Director

Chip is thrilled to be involved with PSGMC after a 22-year absence from Palm Springs. While living in New York City he sang in and accompanied the NYC Gay Men's Chorus, under Dr. Charles Beale. Chip has had over 30 years of experience playing piano and conducting Broadway shows and tours. He served as Associate Conductor on the National Tour of Newsies and can be heard playing piano in the Broadway HD movie. New York and National Tour keyboard and/or conducting credits include Les Misérables, Sunset Boulevard, Miss Saigon, Mary Poppins, Ragtime, The Fantasticks, and A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder. Back in the desert since 2020, Chip most recently music-directed and accompanied Coachella Valley Repertory's 2023 West Coast Premiere of The Fantasticks, a Love Story Reimagined. He is honored to direct Bruce Kenyon's The Arrangement.



Jeff Kopasz Music & Rehearsal Assistant

Tenor Section Leader, joined PSGMC in 2016. He is in his 13th year teaching Music in schools, the past 7 of which are here locally with Palm Springs Unified School District. He has also music-directed several full-scale and "Broadway Junior" musicals at his schools. Jeff is an active member of the Palm Springs Teachers Association and serves as one of their CTA State Council reps. A graduate of Chapman University's Conservatory of Music (B.M. Music Education; Conducting), he is currently studying for a Masters degree at CSU San Bernardino.



Doug Nagel Resident Vocal Coach

Montana native Doug Nagel sang over 80 operatic baritone roles including Count, Scarpia, Dracula, Dutchman, Figaro, and Germont. Doug returns to Billings in March to sing John the Baptist and direct Rimrock Opera's production of Salome. Doug premiered the role of Theseus in Roumanis' Phaedra, broadcast on PBS. International attention came when he created the role of de Santander in the Virginia Opera world premiere of Musgrave's Simon Bolivar, later singing the production at the Royal Albert Hall, London, broadcast on the BBC. Mr. Nagel is heard on Albany Records in Nosferatu as the title role of Orlock (Dracula).

Nagel was the Artistic Director of Rimrock Opera, where he guided 26 productions including Aida, Così, Traviata, Butterfly, Crucible, Barber, Merry Widow, Bohème, Figaro, Girl of the Golden West, Elixir, Tosca, Carmen. Doug has judged the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and sat on the NEA Opera Grant Committee.

Nagel recently retired as Associate Professor from MSU Billings. Residing in the Coachella Valley with his husband, Steve Baker, a longtime member of PSGMC and former board president. Nagel has a voice studio and directs the troupe of professional singers, Coachella Valley Classical Voices. Doug proudly serves as the Vocal Coach for PSGMC.

SPECIAL THANKS

Section V Chair Skip Sidoti would like to thank the volunteers who assist us at rehearsals and performances.

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The Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus would like to give a special thanks to the Annenberg Theater and the Palm Springs Art Museum, their employees, and their volunteers for going above and beyond for our organization. We would also like to thank Ector Simpson and the entire events team at the Mizell Center for their hospitality and impeccable service every Tuesday evening! Chip Prince for selected instrumental arrangements.

PALM SPRINGS GAY MEN'S CHORUS

RING! SWING! SING!

ACT I

RING THOSE CHRISTMAS BELLS

Arranged by Ryan Murphy
FEATURING PSGMC HANDBELL CHOIR

COOL YULE

Steve Allen; Arranged by Steve Milloy
FEATURING PSGMC DANCE ENSEMBLE
CHOREOGRAPHY BY JOE GREGORE-DUFFIELD

BELIEVE from POLAR EXPRESS

Ballard & Silvestri; Arranged by Mark Hayes
Dave Sanchez, Soloist

EVERYBODY'S WAITIN' FOR THE MAN WITH THE BAG

Stanley, Taylor & Brooks; Arranged by David Briner
PERFORMED BY THE ARRANGEMENT

A LA NANITA NANA

Traditional Carol, Arranged by Dan Davison

and

CONVIDANDO ESTA LA NOCHE

Juan Garcia de Cespedes; Arranged by Eugene Rogers

WELCOME GUEST ARTIST, HOPE "DIAMOND" DEANS

THIS CHRISTMAS HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS GOD BLESS THE CHILD

LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW

Sammy Cahn & Jule Styne; Arranged by Chad Weirick
CHOREOGRAPHY BY JOE GREGORE-DUFFIELD

A Word from our Development Team
& George Zander Anti-Bullying Fund Grant Awards Presentation

FROM A DISTANCE (CHRISTMAS EDITION)

Julie Gold & Jay Landers; Arranged by Chad Weirick
Marc Copfer, Soloist



PALM SPRINGS GAY MEN'S CHORUS

RING! SWING! SING!

INTERMISSION

ACT II

TUBA!

Traditional Xitsonga; Arranged Michael Barrett
Quartet: Bryan Kreising Denk, B.J.Allen, John O'Connell, Oleg Liebowitz

HALLELUJAH!

From The Messiah - A Soulful Celebration
G.F. Handel; Arranged by Tim Sarsany
FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST HOPE "DIAMOND" DEANS

SHIR L'SHALOM

Rotblit & Rosenblum; Arranged by J. David Moore
Zane DiVita & Ramiro Salazar, Soloists
Charles Gallagher, Descant

HARRY CONNICK, JR. SET I PRAY ON CHRISTMAS THE HAPPY ELF

WHEN MY HEART FINDS CHRISTMAS
Harry Connick, Jr.; Arranged by Jonathon Myatt
FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST SOLOIST HOPE "DIAMOND" DEANS

TEXT ME MERRY CHRISTMAS

Javerbaum & Schlesinger; Arranged by Adam Scott
PERFORMED BY THE ARRANGEMENT

A Word from the President of the Board
& Wall of Wine Raffle Drawing

AVE MARIA

Franz Biebl

OH HAPPY DAY

Edwin R. Hawkins; Arranged by Kathleen McGuire
FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST SOLOIST HOPE "DIAMOND" DEANS

SILVER BELLS

Arranged by Kevin Robison
FEATURING PSGMC HANDBELL ENSEMBLE



GUEST ARTIST



HOPE "DIAMOND" DEANS

Hope Diamond is an international vocalist based in the Coachella Valley. Her album, *Awaken* is out on Spotify, iTunes and other media outlets. It features music arranged and performed by the Paul McDonald Big Band. Hope will be a special guest with the Paul McDonald big band sound this fall 2023 for several major events.

Hope is an important musical force in Southern California where her dynamic, yet sultry vocals are regularly featured in clubs and concerts. She recently was asked to be a special guest at the Long Beach jazz festival where she performed with the festival founder The Al Williams quartet for a tribute to the late

Barbara Morrison. Now with the release of *Awaken* which reached #23 on the Jazz week charts, in Feb. and remained in the top 50 for 12 weeks, she is quickly becoming well-known across the U.S and globally on radio broadcasts and performances as fans enjoy the mash up of tunes jazzy and soulful with a Big Band flair.

Very much at home whether singing jazz standards or vintage soul, Hope is heard at her best throughout the nine songs that comprise *Awaken*. She is joined by trumpeter Tom Brown, trombonist Lee Thornburg, saxophonist and guitarist Michael Parlett (the CD's producer), pianist-keyboardist-arranger Paul McDonald, top rhythm section players, and various background singers. Paul McDonald's arrangements perfectly showcase Hope's vocal versatility, and her interpretations make each song her own. They have performed all across the coastal region and now Hope will be showcasing her top charting tunes again late this summer under the direction of Paul McDonald and his band

Hope is also presenting her own big showcase with Jazz, Blues and RnB Big Band style with the Paul McDonald 17-piece Big band 2023 as she highlights amazing tunes from her album while also presenting songs from the great American songbook. A soulful artist with beautiful attire who can belt a hi note clear across the room without a mic. Hope is a riveting presence from the time she hits the stage through her final encore. After 5 sold out shows this winter, Hope is preparing to do it again and has excepted a request to do a 4 nite Christmas performance as special guest with a 100-piece chorus and jazz band that is already projected to sell out all 4 nights. She is also doing a follow up in London England for a jazz showcase late summer after having videoed her holiday single "Have yourself a Merry little Christmas" in London, available on YouTube.

Hope has continued to raise the bar since she began this journey in jazz in Southern Hope returned from Vancouver Canada Aug 2023 where she did 2 sold out shows with a great band from Vancouver. Hope will highlight this season with a 4-night Holiday show with a 90 plus all men's choir in Palm Springs with the PSGMC.. She will then complete the season with her own concert at the Aqua Caliente Casino PS Dec 20th with a tribute to the Women of blues. More to come as she heads into 2024 with 2 powerhouse shows already booked. Look forward to more outstanding performances and events this decade with the jazz and rhythm and blues bands Hope will front as the artist with versatility and grace, leaving you with a sense of sweet memories to hold on to in the love of the great American songbook.

Sing Out Proud!

AUDITIONS

JANUARY 2 from 6pm-8pm or JANUARY 9 from 5:30pm-6:45pm
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Joel Baker	Principal Accompanist
Chip Prince	Barbershop Director
Doug Nagel	Resident Vocal Coach
Martin Coogan	ASL Interpreter
Joe Gregore-Duffield	Choreographer
Jeffrey Nottke	Handbell Leader
Jeff Kopasz	Tenor 1 Section Leader
Chip Prince	Tenor 2 Section Leader
Jeffrey Nottke	Bass Section Leader
Charles Schobe	Tenor 1 Section Manager
Henry Doering	Tenor 2 Section Manager
John O'Connell	Baritone Section Manager
Dan Carlentine	Basses Section Manager

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Joel Baker	Piano
Paul McDonald	Keyboard II and Guest Pianist
Les Woodson	Bass
Mike Johnson	Guitar
Dennis Burke	Drums

SHOW PRODUCTION TEAM

Nick Wass	Production Manager
Tessa Walker	Stage Manager
Joey Guthman	Lighting Designer
Rick Mendieta	Sound Engineer
Andrea Laguni	PSGMC Venue Coordinator
Joe Nelson	PSGMC Logistics & Load-in Coordinator
Jan Judziewicz	PSGMC Backstage Volunteer Coordinator
John O'Connell	Company Manager

DANCE ENSEMBLE

PSGMC

Dan Carlentine • Marc Copfer • Frank Duncan • Andrea Laguni • David Leh
Joe Nelson • Ramiro Salazar • Robin Some

Joe Gregore Duffield

Joe was the producer & director for the San Diego Gay Men's Chorus for 7 years (2015-2022) and has been a singing member, dancer and choreographer with them for 26 years. Before chorus, Joe has performed in California, Hawaii and Colorado in productions of A Chorus Line, Damn Yankees, Fame, Sophisticated Ladies, Pajama Game, The King & I, Grease, Guys and Dolls, Once Upon a Mattress, South Pacific, Unsinkable Molly Brown, 6 productions of West Side Story and many more. He is presenting his second one-man cabaret show in San Diego on December 20th called Unwrapped 2: More Confessions of a Chorus Boy. Joe is excited to be working on his first show with PSGMC!



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AUDITIONS
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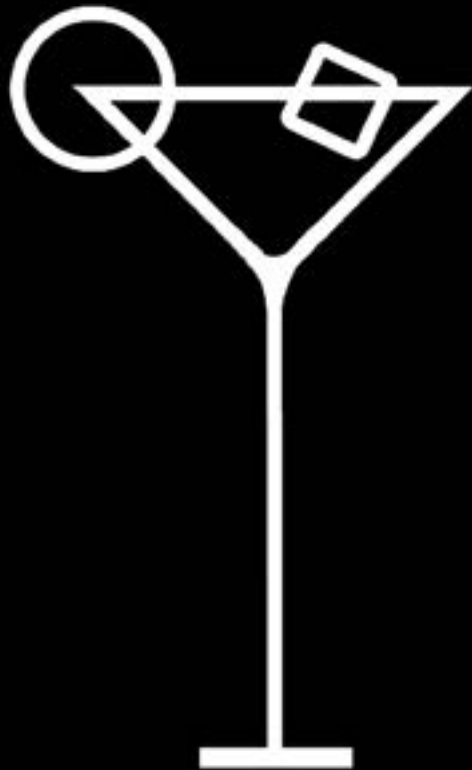
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