

PALM SPRINGS GAY MEN'S CHORUS

DEFYING GRAVITY

- ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT -



With Special Guest
KRISTINE W

APRIL 25TH - 28TH 2024
Palm Springs Art Museum
ANNENBERG THEATER



ASL INTERPRETED

PSGMC

PALM SPRINGS
GAY MEN'S CHORUS

JERRY R. SORIA-FOUST, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

PSGMC.com

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PALM SPRINGS GAY MEN'S CHORUS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is our pleasure to welcome you to Defying Gravity, our spring concert offering for 2024. These are songs that speak to our collective desire to be a part of the world around us. We sing of the value of supporting one another in love and friendship, of experiencing something exciting and unique every day.

Our Chorus mission is based on living this message through our singing and our actions. We strive to bring hope to our community through our George Zander Memorial Fund Anti-Bullying Grants. These grants are awarded to Valley schools each year. You will hear from one of the students this evening about how our support helps to give them a safe space, a refuge, in an uncertain world.

We seek to bring our message to many audiences in the Valley while singing for organizations like Greater Palm Springs Pride on the main stage, Palm Desert Library, and the Rancho Mirage Library. We have sung the National Anthem for the Tour de Palm Springs and the Gay Softball League Opening Day. We sang a special arrangement for the Peggy Lee star dedication on the Palm Springs Walk of Stars. Participation in these occasions, and others, allows us to spread our joy. We love any opportunity to sing!

We look forward to traveling to Minneapolis this July to perform with about 7,000 other singers for the GALA Festival, a worldwide organization of Gay & Lesbian Choruses which hosts this quadrennial gathering. What could be better than sharing our voices and missions through a week of music making!

Let us entertain you, lift your spirit, and elevate your joy!

Alan McPhail, President
PSGMC



PO. BOX 4082,
PALM SPRINGS, CA 92263
P. 760-219-2077

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PSGMC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Through musical excellence, community outreach, and civic responsibility, the Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus, seeks to entertain, inspire, and educate the culturally diverse community in which we live.

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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	Alan McPhail 2012	Dave Sanchez 2021
Rick Beanes 2023	Gregory Fear 2022	David Mooney 2023	Charles Shobe* 2022
Thomas Benner 2020	Charles Gallagher* . . . 2016	Santiago Rodriguez . . . 2021	Michael Tryba 2023
Ryan Bernis 2023	Jeffrey Hillard 2024	Wesley Ryan 2024	Kenneth Ugarte* 2021
Trey Campbell* 2019	Jeff Kopasz+ 2016	Ramiro Salazar 2023	

TENOR II

Andrew Bird* 2016	Tommy Estrada* 2016	Michael McKeehan* . 2023	Ernie Santora 1998
Joel Brown 2024	Michael Gettle 2024	Al Meritt 2010	David Schaeffer . . . 2022
Wayne Bryan* 2023	Brian Gordon 2022	Maxwell Mierzejewski 2023	Tom Shoon 2019
Bill Butler* 2011	Jeff Hocker 2013	Joe Musser 2016	Steve Suttles 2020
Jerry Chism* 1998	Charles Kibby* 2024	Eric Parisini* 2024	Douglas Ware 2018
Joe Dahman 2006	Thompson Lange 2021	Gregory Pretre 2022	David Warren 2024
Zane DiVita* 2023	David Leh 2022	Chip Prince+ 2021	Mark Wilson 2015
Henry Doering* 2016	Marcio Matias 2021	Tim Rogers 2023	

BARITONE

B.J. Allen 2023	David Edmiston 2022	Kurt Jacobowitz-Cain . 2012	Mario Pescatore 2024
Kevin Allen 2021	Matt Fox 2023	Andrea Laguni 2015	Jim Ribeiro, Jr. 2022
Jeffrey Arnold 2024	Dr. Lawrence Frost . . . 2003	Rocky J Lewis 2021	Steven Shuman 2017
Paul Boisse 2021	Ernest Gerke 2015	Rick Lippiner* 2019	Paul Snively 2021
Allen Byerly* 2022	Bob Gurwin 2024	Jessay Martin 2014	Scott Stewart 2021
Paul D. Cain 2012	Donald Hansen 2019	Scott Montroy* 2023	Raymond Stimson . . . 2018
Iain Campbell 2014	Ron Harkness* 2023	Joe Nelson 2016	John Whearty 2009
Marc Copfer 2022	John Hawley 2022	John O'Connell* 2022	
Vinnie D'Anna 2014	Berton Herrlinger 2024	Bob Patnode 2018	
Gary Dexter 2024	Patrick Howard 2023	Serjio Peña 2023	

BASS

Patrick Bonomo 2023	Ken Kuchma 2017	Jeffrey Nottke+ 2022	Robert Siebert 2023
Dan Carlentine* 2015	Russel Learn 2013	Wilson Raiser 2021	Carl Stevens 2023
Jason Duncan* 2009	Jason Lewis 2022	Chuck Rice 2023	Rob Stone 2022
Rich Fluechtling 2019	Oleg Liebowitz 2001	George Rockel* 2017	Hal Stradley 2013
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GUEST ARTIST



KRISTINE W

Named by Billboard Magazine as the #8 Greatest Dance Artist of All Time and the #3 greatest from the Last Decade, Kristine W has proven herself a lasting talent. Through nearly twenty-five years in music, she has consistency delivered songs that touch hearts and souls and compel bodies to find the mighty groove out on the dance floor. She's had 17 #1 singles in her career, tying Mariah Carey for the sixth-most Billboard #1 dance hits.

Kristine W's first #1 was in 1996 with her debut single, "Feel What You Want." She quickly followed it with her second chart-topper, "One More Try." And then a third: "Land of the Living," securing Kristine's place as a new dance floor star. When the Land of the Living album was officially released in 1997, Kristine's in-store concert at the Virgin Megastore in Times Square drew lines of adoring fans around the block.

She signed with RCA Records for her 2000 album, Stronger, landing at #1 with its title tune and "Lovin' You." Then tragedy struck. Kristine was diagnosed with a particularly aggressive strain of leukemia that had only a 30 percent chance of survival. She was given an experimental stem cell transplant and spent the next two years fighting the disease while also raising two infant children.

In 2003, Kristine returned to music with a new album Fly Again, this time with the pioneering indie dance label, Tommy Boy. She racked up three more #1s: the title song, "Save My Soul" and "The Wonder of It All."

After topping the charts again with her dance remake of the Ashford/Simpson-penned Diana Ross hit "The Boss," Kristine debuted as a totally independent and self-managed artist with 2009's The Power of Music album. Its seven #1 hits proved Kristine's enduring appeal as a major dance music artist. In 2015, Kristine released her New & Number Ones album where she revisited some of her past hits with new mixes and edits and offered new songs that also topped the charts.

In 2018, she released "Stars", her 17th Billboard #1. The song was included on Billboard's "Best 100 Dance Songs of 2018," coming in at #25, next to Ariana Grande and U2. Her last album release was 2020's Love and Lies. Kristine's next album is scheduled to release in summer 2024.

Visit KristineW.com



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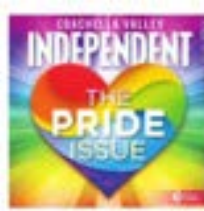
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CONDUCTOR – \$1,000 – \$1,499 Benefits above + Two invitations to our "Sneak Peek" brunch and Four invitations to our catered Maestro's Circle Spring appreciation event

COMPOSER – \$1,500 – \$2,499 Benefits above + Two single-show top tier tickets

PRODUCER – \$2,500 – \$4,999 Benefits above + Four single-show top tier tickets, Four invitations to our major donor "Sneak Peek" brunch with the Artistic Director and Six invitations to our Spring appreciation event

STAR – \$5,000 – \$9,999 Benefits above + Six single-show top tier tickets

ENSEMBLE – \$10,000 – \$19,999 Benefits above + Eight single-show top tier tickets

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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 find their voice in the performing arts. The main thrust of his work has been to create life-changing access to music, dance and theatre opportunities for young people of all backgrounds; and to explore the ways the performing 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

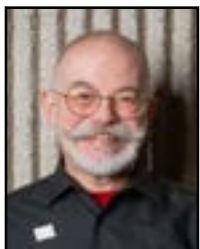
Joel is a native of the Seattle area and a graduate of the University of Washington School of Music. He moved to the Desert in 2003 and has been busy as a pianist and music director ever since. Currently, he can be found playing for *The Judy Show*, starring Michael Holmes, and for the musical revue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

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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.

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Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to stand before this amazing group of singers--all of whom dedicate their time and talent every week to bring you an inspiring concert each holiday and Spring, as well as support and participate in many of the causes that make the Coachella Valley such a vibrant place to live!

The music you will hear tonight is a collection of soaring songs that celebrate the human spirit. My friend, Kristine W, is the perfect complement to this program, as her entire career has been dedicated to uplifting our community and inspiring others to soar beyond the limitations of gravity. She is not only a Billboard #1 artist (one of the all-time greatest!), but she is an ally to our community like no one else! I know many of you have enjoyed dancing to her music over the past 25 years!

This program is notable not just because of the beauty of the pieces, but because many of selections on the program are being performed for the first time; they have been commissioned by

PSGMC for this concert or borrowed as unpublished works from composers or other choruses especially for this program.

Our opening number, a mash up of two of Broadway's most beloved songs, was commissioned by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and the San Francisco Symphony by up and coming composer/arranger Saunder Choi. Aloe Blacc's inspiring "Hello, World" calls all the earth's seven billion stars - those of us who live here - to take collective responsibility for our planet and for each other. I heard and knew it would sound phenomenal sung by 90 men's voices. "From Now On" from The Greatest Showman and Westlife's stunning "I Wanna Grow Old With You" are just two of the pieces that were arranged for PSGMC by our dear friend Eddy Clement. And an old favorite by the Fifth Dimension takes on new meaning as a commissioned arrangement dedicated to an Indianapolis Men's Chorus member who passed away during the height of the HIV/AIDS crisis in the Midwest in 1992.

In July, PSGMC will join more than 7000 other singers from our LGBTQIA choral movement in Minneapolis for a quadrennial celebration of music and community. We feel a sense of pride and responsibility to represent our wonderful Palm Springs community in front of wildly enthusiastic audiences in world-class venues. Many of the pieces you hear tonight will be on our festival program.

In our last piece, Joseph Martin's The Awakening, the chorus sings of a dream where music has disappeared--where no steeples ring, no birds sing and no choirs sing to change the world. It is a hopeless and stark world, a world of literal silence. As the dream ends, we awaken to hear bells ringing and voices singing out. The world is alive again with the sound of music. It is a call for us all to let music live in our own lives and in the world around us.

My sincerest thanks to all of you for joining us.

PALM SPRINGS GAY MEN'S CHORUS

DEFYING GRAVITY

ACT I

OVER THE RAINBOW/DEFYING GRAVITY

Arlen & Yarberg; Stephen Schwartz
Arranged by Saunder Choi

SKY FULL OF STARS

Performed by Coldplay
Arranged by Charles Beale

HELLO, WORLD

Written and performed by Aloe Blacc
Arrangement by Pax Ressler
Commissioned for PSGMC 2023
Soloists: Jessay Martin, Marc Copfer, BJ Allen, Jeffrey Hillard,
Ramiro Salazar, Santiago Reyes

I LOVE YOU / WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD

Thiele/Weiss; Louis Armstrong
Arranged by Craig Hella Johnson
Soloists: Dave Sanchez, Jeffrey Hillard

THE LAND OF THE LIVING Special Guest Kristine W with The Arrangement

(Chip Prince, Director)

STAND UP

(From Harriet)
Cynthia Erivo & Joshua Bryan Campbell
Arrangement by Mark McCormick
Commissioned for PSGMC 2023
Soloists: Jessay Martin, Joel Brown

I WANNA GROW OLD WITH YOU

with a video tribute to our lifelong loves
Arrangement by Eddy Clement
Commissioned for PSGMC 2023
Soloist: Ramiro Salazar

A Word from our Board of Directors Presentation of George Zander Anti-Bullying Grants

THE WONDER OF IT ALL Performed by Special Guest Kristine W with PSGMC

Vocal parts arranged by Chip Prince

FROM NOW ON

(from The Greatest Showman)
Benj Pasek & Justin Paul
Arrangement by Eddy Clement
Commissioned for PSGMC 2023
Soloist: Marc Copfer

PALM SPRINGS GAY MEN'S CHORUS

DEFYING GRAVITY

INTERMISSION

ACT II

RAFFLE DRAWING

INTO THE UNKNOWN

(from Disney's Frozen 2)
Panic at the Disco Version
Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez
Arranged by Pax Ressler

UP, UP & AWAY

5th Dimension/Jimmy Webb
Arranged by Pete Schmutte

MEDLEY OF BILLBOARD #1 HITS Performed by Special Guest Kristine W

Mixed by Legendary Producer Chris Cox
Vocal parts arranged by Chip Prince

GLITTER IN THE AIR

By Billy Mann and P!NK
Arrangement by Eddy Clement
Commissioned for PSGMC 2023

ELECTRICITY

(from Billy Elliot)
Elton John & Lee Hall
Arranged by Chip Prince
Performed by The Arrangement (Chip Prince, Director)

WE SHALL OVERCOME & LEAN ON ME

Arranged by Mark Hayes
Soloist: Maxwell Mierzejewski

FIREWORK

Performed by Katy Perry;
By Linda Perry, et al
Arranged by David Maddux
Soloist: BJ Allen

A Word from the President of the Board of Directors

A.G. Performed by Special Guest Kristine W with PSGMC

World Premiere / Collab with 7th Heaven, United Kingdom
Vocal parts arranged by Chip Prince

THE AWAKENING

Joseph M. Martin

SBEMP Attorneys is proud to support the Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus, truly a chorus like no other.

We take great pride in our senior counsel, Charles Gallagher, who has been a dedicated member of the Chorus for many years and will be performing with the team Defying Gravity at this year's Annual Spring Concert.

Together, let's celebrate diversity and harmony.



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Thank you to all of our partners who booked PSGMC to sing at their Community Events. These performances give us a chance to rehearse our standard repertoire and prepare for our concerts in front of an audience.

Special thanks to PSGMC's Joe Nelson, Chair, Scheduling and Logistics.

- City of Palm Springs - Annual State of City - Nona Watson
- DAP Health Equity Walk - James Lindquist
- Palm Springs Pride - Ron deHarte
- All Saints Episcopal Church - Riverside - Abe Fabella
- Citrus Place Retirement - Riverside - Maribel Echeverria
- St. Theresa Church - Palm Springs - Art Obester
- Center for Spiritual Living - Palm Springs - Rev. Ed Tanzi
- Living Out Palm Springs - Trip Mills
- Tour de Palm Springs - Tim Esser
- Palm Springs Gay Softball League - Fernando Rodriguez
- Star dedication for Peggy Lee - Scott Nevins
- Palm Desert Library Sunday Sounds - Mary Hobson
- Rancho Mirage Library Music Series - Dom and Joanne Summa



One of PSGMC's newest tenors Ramiro Salazar is doing his second AIDS/LifeCycle in June of 2024. Every year thousands of people from all over the world gather in San Francisco to start a 545 mile journey to Los Angeles on bikes to raise money for AIDS/LifeCycle, which provides life saving services to people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.



To support Ramiro's ride scan the QR code or visit:
<https://giving.aidslifecycle.org/participant/RamiroSalazar>

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Joel Baker.	Principal Accompanist
Chip Prince	Barbershop Director & Staff Arranger
Doug Nagel.	Resident Vocal Coach
Martin Coogan.	ASL Interpreter
Joe Gregore-Duffield	Choreographer
Jeff Kopasz.	Tenor I Section Leader
Chip Prince	Tenor II Section Leader
Jeffrey Nottke	Bass Section Leader
Charles Schobe	Tenor I Section Manager
Bill Butler	Tenor II Section Manager
John O'Connell	Baritone Section Manager
Dan Carlentine.	Bass Section Manager

ORCHESTRA

Joel Baker.	Piano/Keyboard I
Kurt Jordan.	Keyboard II
Mari Mizutani.	Violin I
Jeannine Manthey	Violin II
Mike Johnson	Electric & Acoustic Guitar
Denise Briesé	Bass
Dennis Burke.	Drums/Percussion
Chip Prince	Staff Arranger

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 • Matt Fox • Joe Gregore Duffield • Berton Herrlinger • Andrea Laguni
 Joe Nelson • Sergio Pena • Mario Pescatore • Wesley Ryan • Ramiro Salazar • Robin Somes



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. Joe is excited to be working on his second show with PSGMC!

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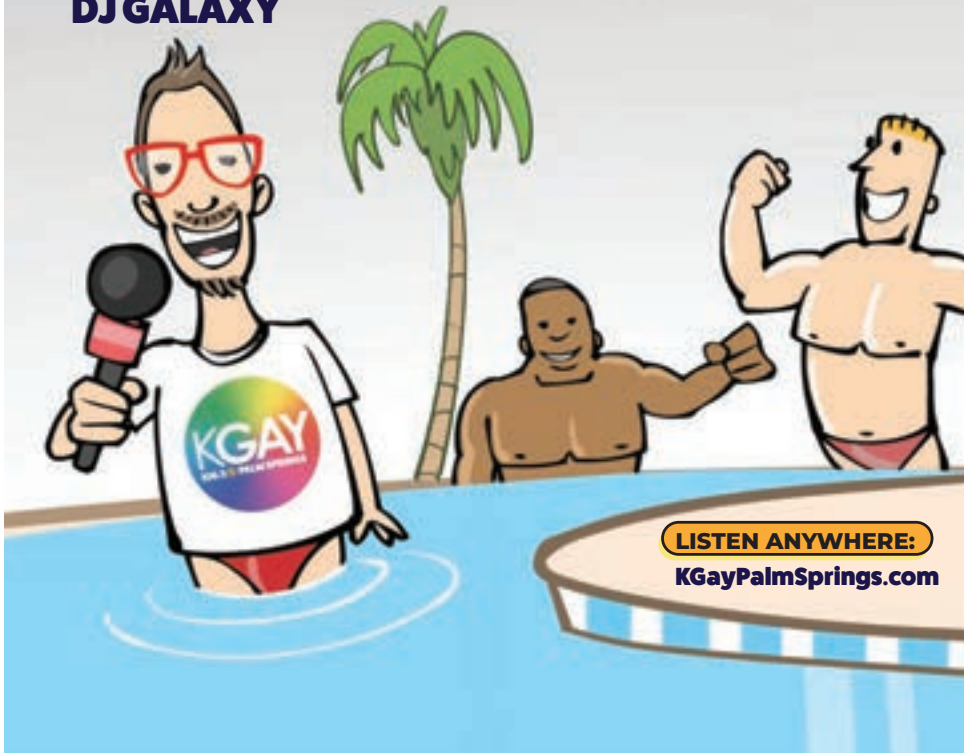
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In the coming year, we pledge to keep doing our best to *be the best*, delivering compassionate, high-quality, leading edge care to the Coachella Valley. Thank you, one and all. You are, and always will be, our inspiration to reach new heights.

Learn more about our accreditations and recognitions at EisenhowerHealth.org/Awards



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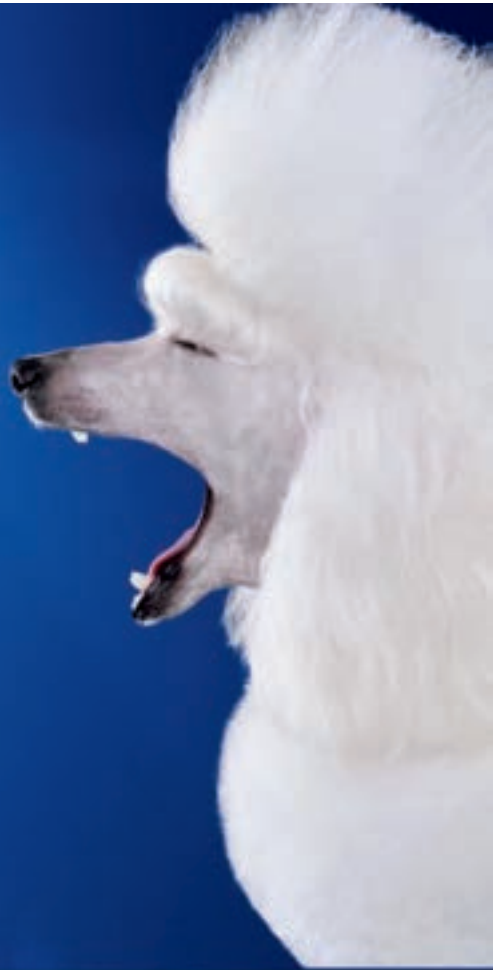
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