

PALM SPRINGS GAY MEN'S CHORUS



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Holiday Spectacular!

December 19TH - 21ST 2025

THE Plaza THEATRE



PALM SPRINGS
GAY MEN'S CHORUS

JERRY R. SORIA-FOUST ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
JOEL BAKER PRINCIPAL ACCOMPANIST

Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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PALM SPRINGS GAY MEN'S CHORUS



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Welcome to Our 26th Season!

On behalf of the entire Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus (PSGMC), it is my distinct pleasure and honor to welcome you to the opening of our exhilarating 26th Season!

We are thrilled this year to be performing in our brand-new home: the newly restored Plaza Theatre. This historic venue is truly a gem of Palm Springs. The spectacular acoustics and elegant architecture perfectly

complement the power and passion of our music. We are absolutely overjoyed to begin our residency here and look forward to sharing this incredible space with you for many seasons to come.

The enthusiasm for this season has been overwhelming! We were excited and honored that our first concert, "Bells, Brass & Sass," sold out a full month in advance. We deeply appreciate your commitment to PSGMC. Tonight, we invite you to enjoy all the elements as we ring the bells, blare some brass, and give a little sass!

The work of PSGMC extends far beyond the stage. We are proud to serve our community—a mission made possible only through the generous support of our partners and patrons. We extend our deepest gratitude to the Cities of Palm Springs and Rancho Mirage for their belief in the transformative power of the arts, demonstrated through crucial grant funding that sustains our artistic endeavors and outreach programs.

Our gratitude also extends to the many patrons whose generous donations allow us to reach the community through diverse events like Palm Springs Pride, the Rancho Mirage Library Concert Series, the Plaza Theatre open house, mini concerts at local nursing facilities, the Martha's Village Thanksgiving Day Run, the Tour de Palm Springs, and many more.

Thank you for joining us today. Your presence is the final and most essential ingredient to every performance. May the music entertain you, inspire you, uplift you, and connect us all.

With sincere appreciation and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe".

Joe Nelson

President, Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus

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PSGMC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit 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

TENOR I

Charles Gallagher#2016	Danny Catalan2025	Jeff Kopasz+2016	Charles Shobe*2022
Steve Baker2010	Frank Duncan2018	David Mooney2023	Michael Tryba2023
Thomas Benner2020	Gregory Fear2022	Adam Ramirez2025	Kenneth Ugarte2021
Trey Campbell2019	Daniel Greathouse2025	Wesley Ryan#2024	Shaun Waters2024
Ty Carson Bruellman2024	Scott Jones2025	Dave Sanchez#2021	



TENOR II

David Kennelly#2024	Keoni Devereaux-Crockett, Jr. 2025	Alan McPhail2012	Ernie Santora1998
Skip Lang#2013	John Dubler2024	Al Meritt2010	David Schaeffer2022
Maxwell Mierzejewski#2023	Michael Gettle2024	Noel Mikkelsen2025	Tom Shoon2019
Daniel Barrera2024	Brian Gordon2022	John Mora2025	Everette Solomon2024
Joel Brown2024	Jeff Hocker2014	Marc Oka2025	Steve Suttles2020
Bill Butler*2011	Peter Kukielski2025	Greg Pretre2022	Douglas Ware2018
Anthony Buttacavole2025	David Leh2022	Chip Prince+2021	Mark Wilson2015
Joe Dahman2006	Joshua Mahler2025	Jonathan Rodriguez2024	
Mark Davis2024	Michael Mammina2025	Tim Rogers2023	



* Administrative Section Manager +Music Section Leader, # Leave of Absence

BARITONE

Daniel Alejo# 2024	Gary Dexter 2024	Kurt Jacobowitz-Cain . 2012	Serjio Peña 2018
BJ Allen 2023	David Edmiston 2022	Andrea Laguni 2015	Mario Pescatore 2024
Kevin Allen# 2021	Matt Fox 2023	Lawrence Lane 2025	Jim Ribeiro, Jr 2022
Ray Avery 2025	Ernest Gerke# 2015	Tom Laurita 2016	Brent Ries# 2025
Mike Bell 2025	Bob Gurwin 2024	Rocky J. Lewis 2021	Michael Richerson 2024
Paul Boisse 2021	Don Hansen 2019	Jessay Martin 2013	Steven Shuman 2017
John Bauder# 2024	Ronald Harkness 2024	Jon Mauren# 2025	Scott Stewart 2021
Frank C Cacciola 2025	John Hawley 2022	Charles McClendon . . . 2014	Raymond Stimson 2018
Marc Copfer+ 2022	Karl Hebenstreit 2024	Joe Nelson 2016	Adam Thomas 2025
Vincent D'Anna 2014	Berton Herringer 2024	John O'Connell# 2022	Mark Treadwell-Knight . 2022
Ernesto De Leon Marquez 2025	Patrick Howard* 2023	Robert Patnode 2018	Eddie Vidales 2025



BASS

Jay Begert# 2025	Carl King 2025	Jeffrey Nottke+ 2022	Robert Stone 2022
Patrick Bonomo 2023	Paul Kowal 2015	Wilson Raiser 2021	Hal Stradley 2013
Dan Carlentine* 2016	Bryan Kreisinger-Denk 2022	Ted Rexall-Scott 2025	James Terrazas 2025
Alex Cheney 2024	Ken Kuchma 2017	Chuck Rice 2023	Russ Treadwell-Knight . 2019
Jims Erickson 2024	David Latulippe 2024	John Rourke 2024	Bill Wilensky 2024
Bill Eyler 2016	Jason Lewis 2022	Robert Siebert 2023	
Richard Fluechtling . . 2019	Rick McCusker Lippiner 2019	Dan Smith 2025	
Roger Hunt 2025	Noel Martinez# 2018	David J. Smith 2025	



* Administrative Section Manager +Music Section Leader, # Leave of Absence

BRUCE KENYON'S THE ARRANGEMENT (BKTA)

Directed by Chip Prince

TENOR

Steve Baker
Thomas Benner
Danny Catalan
David Mooney
Chip Prince

LEAD

Mark Davis
Brian Gordon
Al Meritt
Greg Prettre
Steve Suttles
Mark Wilson

BARITONE

BJ Allen
Ernesto De Leon Marquez
John Hawley
Jason Lewis
Bryan Kreisinger-Denk

BASS

Bill Eyler
Roger Hunt
Jeffrey Nottke
Wilson Raiser
Chuck Rice
David J. Smith



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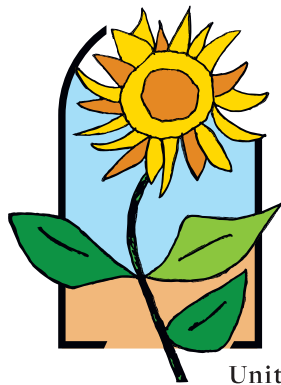
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Mezzo Soprano



Luís Salcido IV
Baritone



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ACCOMPANIST - \$500 - \$999 Benefits above + Two invitations to our catered Maestro's Circle Spring appreciation event

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

SPONSOR - \$20,000 AND ABOVE Benefits above + Named as Season Presenting Sponsor and other benefits tailored to the donor

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

Maestro Circle benefits for this year are based on donations in PSGMC's prior fiscal year, August 1, 2024 to July 31, 2025

IN MEMORIAM

We fondly remember our friends who once made beautiful music with us.

Mark Austin
Michael Baldwin
Doug Bedard
Bruce Berg
John Bethel
Thor (Theo) Blackburn
Bill Bordanado
Tom Brady
Lyle Brummet
Bill Callahan
Bruce Chartier
Lawrence Chandler
Hainie Chew
James Clossin
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Tom Cooper
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JOIN OUR LEGACY SOCIETY AND ENSURE YOUR VALUES LIVE ON...

The Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus Legacy Society honors those individuals who make provisions in their estate plans or establish life-income gifts to benefit PSGMC.

When you leave a gift of any size to PSGMC, you're helping us amplify our voices as we seek a world of hope, inclusion and social justice, where discrimination has been overcome and all people are treated with dignity and respect.

Please consult with your attorney or tax professional to discuss possible tax advantages of a planned gift.

**For more information, please reach out to our Chorus Administrator
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We are honored to acknowledge the generosity of our Legacy Society members:

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AUDITIONS

Tuesday, January 6 - Open Rehearsal 6:30-8pm,
followed by audition appointments between 8pm-10pm

Tuesday, January 13 - Audition appointments from 5:30pm-7pm

PSGMC

**PALM SPRINGS
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Jerry R. Soria-Foust, Artistic Director

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If your donation is not listed, please contact Steve Baker,
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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 25 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 a conductor and activist today.

From 2004-2009, 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 mainstage 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 ensemble specializing in diverse repertoire performed in intimate settings in the Bay Area. He also served briefly as the Artistic Director for the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco, where the chorus collaborated with luminaries like Sharon Gless and Sir Ian McKellen, as well as guest-conducted the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus on several 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 a drastic expansion of the organization's programs, ticket sales, subscribers and budget. From 2011-2019, Jerry founded and served as Artistic Director 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 BroadwayWorld 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, the American College of Education and San Diego State University. Jerry serves on the Education & Membership Committee of GALA Choruses and is a member of the American Choral Directors' Association.



Joel Baker Principal Accompanist

Joel Baker is a native of the Seattle area and earned his Bachelor's degree from the University Of Washington School Of Music, where he studied with international concert pianist Robin McCabe. Joel moved to the desert in 2003 and has remained busy ever since. Currently, Joel can be found running an open mic at Roost Lounge on Monday nights; playing for The Judy Show at The Purple Room, and playing for open mic night at Play Lounge on Wednesdays.

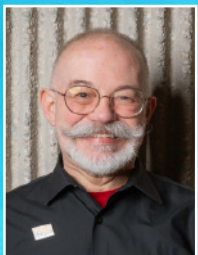
A recipient of two Desert Theater League awards for his work in the local cabaret scene, Joel was honored to serve as Music Director for two world premieres in 2024: Industrial Strength Broadway, at the McCallum, and Straight To The Heart, at Dezart Productions.

Joel is thrilled to be the principal accompanist for PSGMC since 2013.



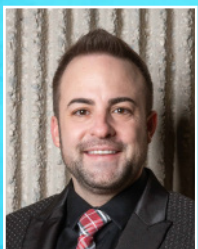
Martin Coogan ASL Interpreter

Martin is looking forward to our 26th anniversary season, and always touched by our holiday shows. Signing for the chorus has always been a dream of Martin's and you may have seen Martin signing for many public events around town for Halloween on Arenas, Greater Palm Springs PRIDE, musical theater productions and recently the LeAnn Rimes concert in Cathedral City.



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.



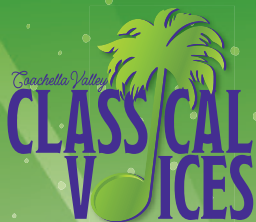
Doug Nagel Resident Vocal Coach

Montana native Doug Nagel sang over 80 operatic baritone roles including Count, Scarpia, Magnifico, Dutchman, Wotan, Figaro, Jochanaan, and Germont. Doug recently returned to Billings to sing Jochanaan and direct Rimrock Opera Foundation's Salomé. Doug premiered the role of Theseus in Roumanis' Phædra, 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 role at 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 Opera Idaho and Rimrock Opera, where he guided 30 productions including, Aida, Così, Traviata, Butterfly, Crucible, Barber, Merry Widow, Bohème, Figaro, Girl of the Golden West, Elixir, Tosca, Carmen, Die Fledermaus, to name some. 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 and Baker started Coachella Valley Classical Voices (CVCV), a new nonprofit, producing free concerts of Opera and Broadway throughout the valley. The Cathedral City Arts Council has just awarded CVCV a grant to produce Mr. Nagel's 50-minute bilingual version of Hansel and Gretel in Cathedral City.

Nagel sang solo for the inaugural concert for the Palm Springs Symphony.
Nagel is directing The Merry Widow at Palm Canyon Theatre in May 2026.



2025-2026 Season

Wed, October 22 • 7pm

CVCV Concert

Rancho Mirage Library

Sun, October 26 • 3pm

College of the Desert

Fundraiser

Pollock Theatre

November 1 • 1pm

November 2 & 3 • 7pm

Hansel and Gretel

Palm Canyon Theatre

*Purchase tickets at
PalmCanyonTheatre.net*

Sun, November 16 • 3pm

CVCV Solo Concert

The Mizell Center, Palm Springs
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Sun, January 18 • 3pm

CVCV Concert

St. Margaret's Palm Desert

Wed, February 4 • 6pm

Auction of Arias 2.0

PS Underground
Ticketed Event

Sun, February 15 • 3pm

**Giarrusso/Waltzes
Concert**

Hope Palm Desert
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Wed, February 25 • 7pm

CVCV Greatest Hits

Palm Canyon Theatre
*Purchase tickets at
PalmCanyonTheatre.net*

Sun, March 29 • 3pm

CVCV Concert

United Methodist Church
Palm Springs
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May 21-24

The Merry Widow

Palm Canyon Theatre
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PalmCanyonTheatre.net*

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FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to the 26th season of the Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus and to this stunning new venue! What a thrill it is for PSGMC to be part of the historic rebirth of the Plaza Theatre. Since we began dreaming about this venue as our new home, the Foundation leadership and Plaza staff have been nothing but welcoming. They have treated us like family and supported us with all we need to present high-quality performances, you have come to expect. We are grateful for this opportunity and for the partnership with this amazing theatre!

Our program tonight includes something for everyone - from the glorious opening set with music by John Williams and Dan Forrest, to music by Cher and the Weather Girls. We make a stop in the Hawaiian Islands with our special guests Hula Palm Springs, and we have new arrangements commissioned by PSGMC just for this concert, including "Love Is Love" and "One Voice" (featuring members of Adopt the Arts' Changels). A highlight of tonight's concert is sure to be our interpretation of the Nigerian carol, "Betelehemu," featuring special guest dancer Hassan Shaibu. And there is so much more!

Besides main stage performances like this one, PSGMC is out and about in the community, year-round, singing for justice and helping to build a stronger, more vibrant Coachella Valley. We are proud to have been a part of this community for a quarter-century!

With all of the negativity and chaos in the world around us right now, it is my hope that "Bells, Brass & Sass" will bring you moments of nostalgia, laughter and joy. We hope you leave the theatre inspired, uplifted, and with a smile on your face!

Our audiences are the most supportive and generous around. Thank you for always showing up and sharing your time, money and enthusiasm with us - you are truly appreciated!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry". The signature is stylized with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Jerry R. Soria-Foust, Artistic Director
PSGMC

ACT I

MERRY CHRISTMAS, MERRY CHRISTMAS

John Williams/Leslie Bricusse

Arranged by Rob Bradley

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO (from LUX)

By Dan Forrest

LOVE IS LOVE (The Christmas Eve Song)

By Beth Wood / Arranged by Naomi LaViolette

Co-commissioned by PSGMC 2025

Soloists: Marc Oka & Jessay Martin

Understudies: Carl King & Gary Dexter

A KING IS BORN

By Sy Gorieb and Tim Hosman

Arranged by Tim Sarsany

Soloist: Marc Copfer

Understudy: Adam Ramirez

MELE KALIKIMAKA

R. Alex Anderson

Arranged by Jay Althouse

Featuring Hula Palm Springs

LUX AURUMQUE

Eric Whitacre

Soloist: Chip Prince

Danny Catalan, Adam Ramirez

DJ PLAY A CHRISTMAS SONG

As performed by Cher and Kelly Clarkson

Hudson, Geller, Schick, McLaughlin, Abraham

Arranged by Eric Knechtges

ONE VOICE

Ruth Moody

As performed by the Wailin' Jennys

Arranged by Pax Ressler

Commissioned by PSGMC 2025

Featuring members of Adopt the Arts' Changels

Friday Soloists: Daniel Barrera, Bob Gurwin, Joel Brown

Saturday & Sunday Soloists: Kenneth Ugarte, Alex Cheney, Chip Prince

Understudies: Jessay Martin, Joel Brown, John Dubler



INTERMISSION

ACT II

BETELEHEMU (Nigerian Christmas Song)

Via Olatunji

Arranged by Wendell Whalum

Featuring dance soloist & choreographer Hassan Shaibu
and PSGMC Dance & Drum Ensembles

Conducted by Jeff Kopasz

Soloists: Joel Brown & Ty Carson-Bruellman

CHRISTMAS EVE IN MY HOMETOWN

Arranged by C. Hine

Performed by PSGMC's Barbershop Ensemble, The Arrangement

RONDO ON A THEME BY TELEMANN

Performed by the PSGMC Handbell Ensemble

Featuring guests from the Palm Springs United Methodist Church

RING THOSE CHRISTMAS BELLS

Gus Levine & Marvin Fischer

Arranged by Ryan Murphy

Featuring the PSGMC Handbell Ensemble

TE DESEO FELIZ NAVIDAD

Arranged by Hilario Duran

Choral arrangement by Steve Milloy

Friday Soloist: Ernesto De Leon Marquez

Saturday & Sunday Soloist: Daniel Herrera

SHALOM

By Dan Forrest

Featuring Kelly Groves and Luis Salcido

DEAR SANTA (Bring Me A Man)

As performed by the Weather Girls

Arranged by Chad Weirick

Friday Soloist: Adam Ramirez

Saturday & Sunday Soloist: Ty Carson-Bruellman

GLORIOUS

Melissa Etheridge

Arranged by Rich Cook

Friday Soloists: Jessay Martin & Tim Rogers

Saturday Soloists: Carl King & Alex Cheney

Sunday Soloists: Jessay Martin & Alex Cheney

Understudies: Mark Davis & Karl Hebenstreit

HAPPY HOLIDAY/HOLIDAY SEASON

Arranged by Chad Weirick



ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jerry R. Soria-Foust	Artistic Director & Conductor
Joel Baker	Principal Accompanist
Doug Nagel	Resident Vocal Coach
Chip Prince	Barbershop Director
Jeff Kopasz	Rehearsal Assistance
Martin Coogan	ASL Interpreter

SHOW PRODUCTION

Tessa Walker	PSGMC Production Stage Manager
Mariah Pryor	Plaza Theatre Technical Director
Sky Ciolino	Plaza Theatre Events Manager
Steven Dalzell	Sound Engineer
Bart Freed	Lighting Design & Programming
Vivid Staging Solutions	PSGMC Production Partner

PSGMC SECTION LEADERSHIP

Jeff Kopasz	Tenor I Music Section Leader
Chip Prince	Tenor II Music Section Leader
Marc Copfer	Baritone Music Section Leader
Jeffrey Nottke	Bass Music Section Leader
Charles Schobe	Tenor I Administrative Section Leader
Bill Butler	Tenor II Administrative Section Leader
Patrick Howard	Baritone Administrative Section Leader
Dan Carlentine	Bass Administrative Leader
Skip Sidoti	Section Five (Volunteer) Leader

BETELEHEMU DANCERS



Hassan Shaibu
Dancer &
Choreographer
"Betelehemu"

Frank Duncan
Patrick Howard
Bryan Kreisinger-Denk
Jonathan Rodriguez
Shaun Waters

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Diana Makale'a Ashkenasy	MeiLing Ku'ulei Tom
Dolores Anuhea Spalasso	Sarah Lelehua Scherzinger
Flori Napua Trinidad	



HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

Amy Bahnson	Alan McPhail	Mark Treadwell
Bill Butler	Al Meritt	Russ Treadwell-Knight
Rich Fluechtling	Jeffrey Nottke (Leader)	Mark Wilson
David Latulippe	Serjio Pena	Susie Zachik
Jessay Martin	Robert Siebert	

MEET THE ORCHESTRA

Joel Baker	Piano
Sherri Marmon	Flute
Adam Zilberman	Alto Saxophone/Clarinet
Todd Parker	Trumpet
Brian Bergstrom	Trombone
Bram Conley	French Horn
Mari Mizutani	Violin
Teresa DiPietro	Cello
Les Woodson	Bass
Kurt Jordan	Keyboard II
Mike Johnson	Guitar
Allen Carter	Drumset
Wallace Kent	Percussion II/Mallets
Chip Prince	4-Hand Piano

CHILLBAR

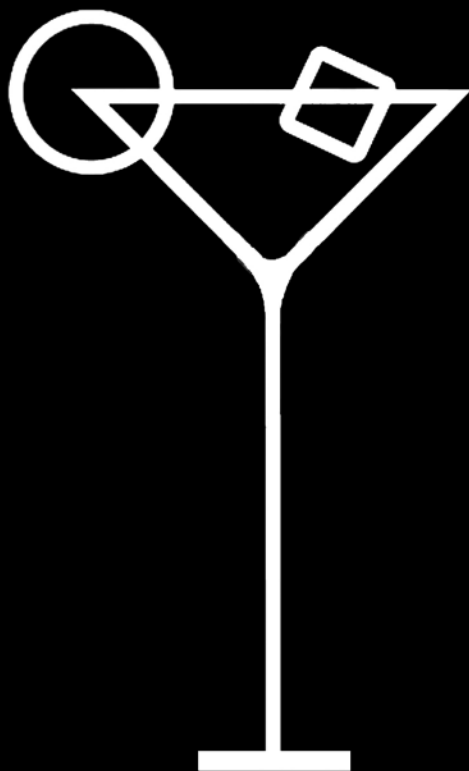
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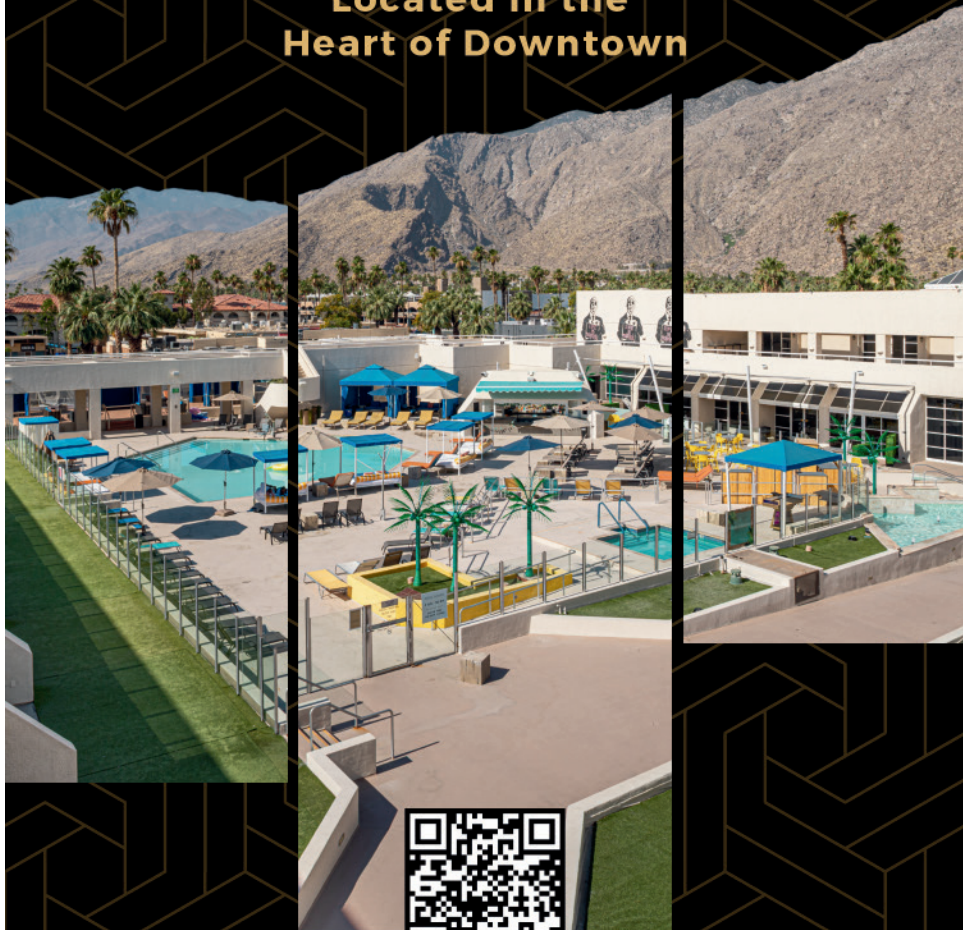


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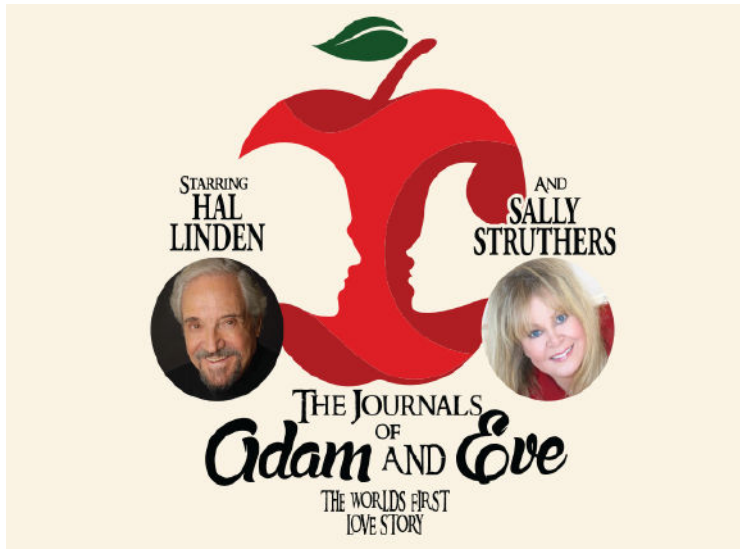
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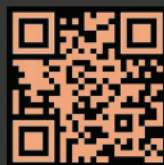


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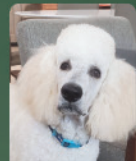
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