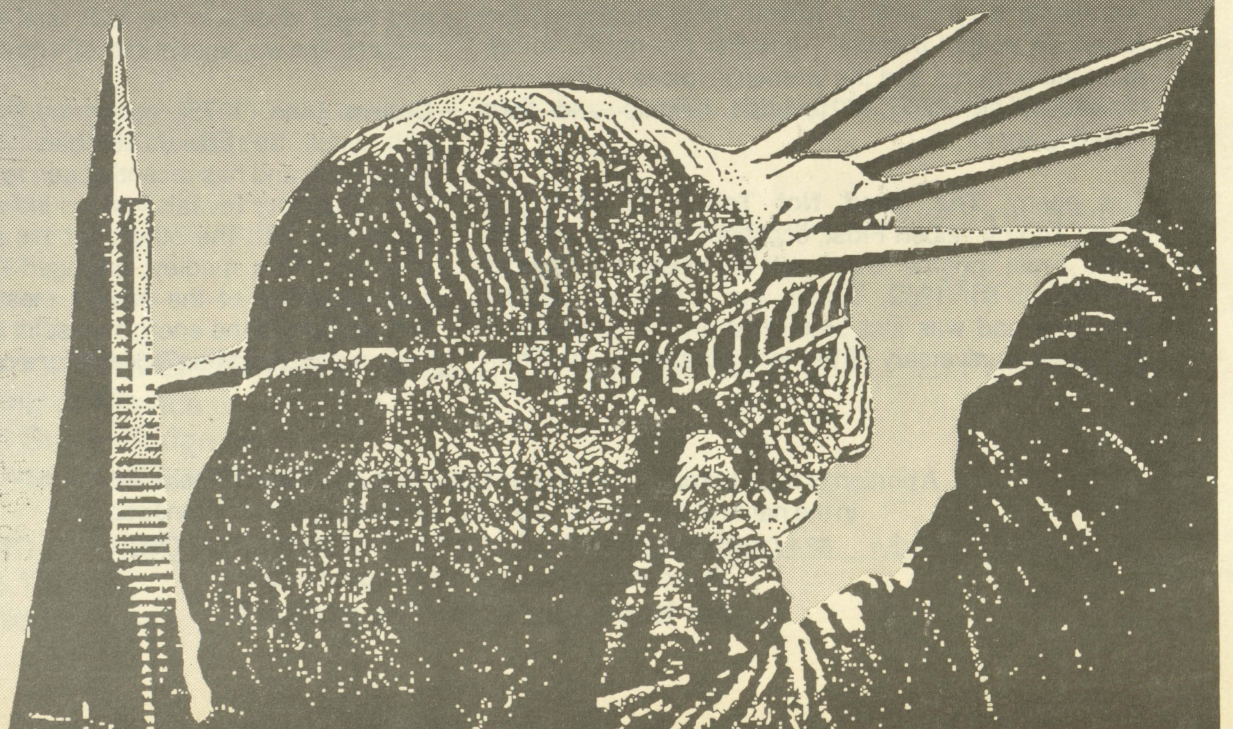


LESBIAN/GAY CHORUS OF SAN FRANCISCO  
• PRESENTS •

# THIS • IS • OUR COUNTRY

introducing  
• Jené Bombardier •

• Rodger D. Pettyjohn •  
Musical Director



## PROGRAM NOTES

by Carolyn Nash and Rodger D. Pettyjohn

Our program tonight honors the cultural diversity of this great nation. Selected musical works have roots in Africa, New England, and the South; in great cities and small towns; in our own and earlier times. Each number has its interesting and unique story. The members of the "mixed" chorus hope the following notes will add to your enjoyment of our concert.

American Musical Theatre has its origins in European Operetta. At the turn of the century, such persons as Victor Herbert and later Jerome Kern composed and produced musicals in this country. The form took hold and was popularized during the Great Depression and the War Years. Many stars were made, including Jeanette MacDonald, Fred Astaire, and Judy Garland.

**West Side Story**, composed by Bernstein with lyrics by Sondheim, achieved financial and artistic success in 1957. The musical illustrates the tensions between White and Puerto Rican Segments of lower-class New York society in the 50's within the context of a love story -- a 20th century Romeo and Juliet.

**Balm Of Gilead** finds its roots in the religious pre-Civil War South. Its sustained lyricism expresses the slaves' anticipation of a better life after death. This arrangement is by William L. Dawson (1967). Mahalia Jackson counts this gospel song among her favorites. Whatever your religious persuasions, it is a song of hope in crisis.

**Elijah Rock** is a traditional Negro spiritual, here arranged by Jester Hairston. The spiritual form represents a synthesis of African tribal music and the American gospel tradition. Imagine the men's voices as beating drums and the women's voices calling over distances, all rising to feverish heights and then receding again.

The poem, **The Road Not Taken**, is from You Come Too by Robert Frost, copyright 1916. It and six other Frost poems were set to music by Randall Thompson in 1959, under the collected title of Frostiana and was first performed on the occasion of the 200th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Town

of Amherst, Massachusetts. The composer conducted and the poet was present. While Frost's context may not have been "gay," the poem has much to say to gay men and lesbians.

**Some Folks** (1855) by Stephen Foster is a witty tongue-in-cheek toast to the carefree life. Foster composed and published prolifically, and was famous during his lifetime both in America and Europe. Lasting favorites include "Oh Suzanna" and "Jeannie With the Light Brown Hair." He wrote his songs for the most popular kind of lyric theater entertainment during the mid-nineteenth century in the northern states -- the blackface minstrel show.

**Shenandoah** is a gorgeous American folk song celebrating heartland America, her hills and river valleys. This 1976 arrangement by Marie Pooler updates the setting by adding chanters for a 20th century jazz improvisation effect.

In the 60's many of us were listening to the **Sounds of Simon and Garfunkel**. Paul Simon wrote music and words for the selections in our medley, arranged by Jerry Novak. "Sounds of Silence" (1964) may be described as a hymn of alienation, of a voice that exists in a city but finds no comfort there, and is unable to communicate with other lonely souls. "The 59th Street Bridge Song" (1966, aka "Feeling Groovy") is an exuberant melody which encourages us all to "slow down." "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" (1969) is a ballad reminiscent of gospel in its sweet melody and comforting message. On release, it topped popularity and sales charts in the U.S. and Britain. The song endures and we present it tonight from our hearts.

**Chorus Line** (1975), composed by Marvin Hamlisch, with lyrics by Edward Kleban, is often presented theatrically and has recently been released as a feature film. The story reveals various individuals sharing and competing with the others for the chance to perform their art. This medley, arranged by Harry Simeone, contains three of the show's most popular numbers and expresses the energizing spirit that can result from various people uniting together for a common goal.

A portion of each ticket will be donated to the Statue of Liberty Restoration Fund  
in the name of the Lesbian and Gay Community of San Francisco  
as a positive statement to the people of our country regarding  
the contributions we are making to society.

**We hope you enjoy the concert!**

# THIS IS OUR COUNTRY

A Salute to the Cultural Diversity of America

## THE LESBIAN/GAY CHORUS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Rodger D. Pettyjohn, Musical Director  
Dwight Okamura, Piano  
John Chase Crimen, Sign Language Interpreter

March 5 & 8, 1986  
8:00 p.m.

First Unitarian Church  
San Francisco, CA

### PROGRAM

Choral Selections from West Side Story .....Leonard Bernstein

Tonight

I Feel Pretty

One Hand, One Heart

Maria

Carol Booth, Soloist

America

Chris Manchester, Carolyn Nash, Bill Sanderson, Doug Watklins, Soloists

There Is A Balm In Gilead .....Traditional Spiritual

Judith Finrock, Craig Jordan, Soloists

Elijah Rock .....Traditional Spiritual

Prisoner (Love Theme, Eyes of Laura Mars) .....Karen Lawrence, John Desautels

Who Will Buy (Oliver) .....Lionel Bart

Since I Fell For You .....Buddy Johnson

Jene' Bombardier, Vocalist

Max Mooney, Piano

Java Jive .....Ben Oakland

Tuxedo Junction .....arr. by Jerry Novak

Muni Transfer

(Chris Manchester, Jene' Bombardier, Craig Jordan, Doug Watkins)

### INTERMISSION

Frostiana .....Randall Thompson

1. The Road Not Taken

Some Folks .....Stephen Foster

Shenandoah .....arr. by Marie Pooler

Sounds of Simon and Garfunkel .....Paul Simon

The Sound of Silence

The 59th Street Bridge Song

Bridge Over Troubled Waters

Highlights from A Chorus Line .....Marvin Hamlisch

I Can Do That

What I Did For Love

One

## BIOGRAPHIES

**RODGER D. PETTYJOHN**, Musical Director, holds degrees from Texas Christian University and the University of Texas. He is known in the Bay Area for his work with the critically acclaimed men's chamber chorus, Die Maennerstimmen, which he founded in 1980, and as co-founder and active member of the Society of Gay and Lesbian Composers. He has been active as a singer, accompanist and/or conductor since the age of 5. His first work for all electronic medium, Missa Amatorius (Erotic Mass), will be premiered at the next concert of the Society of Gay and Lesbian Composers, Sunday, March 23, 4:00 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1127 Sanchez, San Francisco.

**DWIGHT OKAMURA** is a graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music with a degree in composition. He has been pianist with the San Francisco Symphony and the Symphony Chorus, as well as various ensembles in the City. He also does arrangements for film and television scores and is actively involved in musical theatre.

San Francisco-born **JENE' BOMBARDIER** has been performing since the age of 8. She was awarded a superior rating for her solo performance at the Reno Jazz Festival in 1978 and has sung roles in several school musical productions, including I've Won! (which she helped compose). Her studies have centered on jazz at both Los Medanos College and California State University (Hayward).

## FRIENDS OF THE CHORUS

Bert S. Bloom  
Richard L. Collier, Jr.  
P. Rossi and Anita C. Floyd  
Roger S. Gross  
Robert Hawk  
Carolyn A. Madere  
Renny Marinaccio  
Paul Mart  
Joseph and Marie Mitchell  
Frances Petrocelli  
Larry D. Soule  
Dennis Warren

## SPECIAL THANKS

Robert Hawk  
Jesse Kane  
Chris Lirely  
Scott Martin  
Kim Payne  
Leo Anthony Raya  
Linda Rohde  
Michael Samuel  
Warren Spare

### *Sf* Lesbian/Gay Chorus

584 Castro Street, Suite 284 San Francisco, CA 94114

#### STAFF

Rodger D. Pettyjohn, Musical Director  
Jim Spinelli, Treasurer  
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Bill Sanderson, Manager's Secretary  
Mary Cantrell, Production  
Leslie Bayless, Production

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Jerry Bumgarner  
Michael Clarke  
Craig Jordan  
Bill Sanderson  
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#### ALTOS

Leslie Bayless  
Carol Booth  
Mary Ann DePietro  
Lorrie Leiker  
Rose Mary Mitchell

#### BASSES

Stephen Collier  
Dennis Castle  
Michael Lucero  
Craig Machado  
Max Mooney  
David Stratton  
Bill Ward  
Douglas Watkins

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Auditions for our chorus will be conducted on Saturday, March 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please call 566-6496 for an appointment.

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The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco will appear at the Golden Gate Performing Arts Gay Pride Concerts, June 27-28, 1986; place for concert is still to be announced.

Our next full concert will be on August 1 and 5, 1986, at First Unitarian Church, Franklin and Geary, San Francisco, 8:00 p.m. each night. These concerts will be part of the Cultural Week for Gay Games II and will premier six new scores by members of the Society for Gay and Lesbian Composers.