

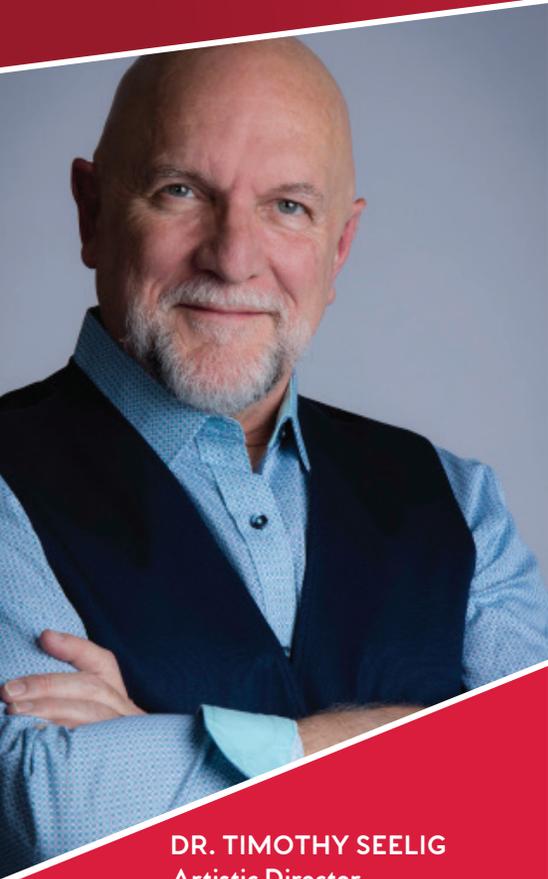
A horizontal banner with a rainbow gradient from purple on the left to red on the right. The text is white and centered.

SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S CHORUS  
**SEASON 40**

A horizontal banner with a rainbow gradient from purple on the left to red on the right. The text is white and centered.

UNSTOPPABLE

# WELCOME



**DR. TIMOTHY SEELIG**  
Artistic Director

**40.** Once upon a time, this was considered middle age. A point at which one looked back with nostalgia. Veritably “over the hill.” But that was then...

The San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus’ 40th season is not a time to rest on our laurels. It is a launchpad for what we have built over the last 39 years, and now, we’re ready for the next chapter. Enter **Season 40: Unstoppable!**

We start by going on a soul-affirming, life-changing journey to five states in the South. The Lavender Pen Tour will visit areas that face major anti-LGBTQ+ legislation and intense discrimination.

We go to spread our message of community, activism, and compassion in an effort to bring awareness and hope to our brothers, sisters, and allies in these troubled times. We will give a preview of the tour at the iconic Grace Cathedral, presented by AT&T, which will serve as the beginning of Season 40.

Our holiday show — “Elfstravaganza”— will absolutely knock your socks off with glorious singing and hilarious hijinks, taking you on a journey from the comfort of your seats all the way to the North Pole. We also return to the Castro Theatre for the 28th Annual “Home for the Holidays” show on Christmas Eve.

**CHRISTOPHER VERDUGO**  
Executive Director



Since we can't take you with us on the road, we will bring the Lavender Pen Tour to you! Join us for a magnificent homecoming concert with the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, complete with storytelling, multimedia, and gorgeous music.

To cap it all off, we bring back Andrew Lipka — composer of the seminal work “I Am Harvey Milk” that we world premiered in 2013 — for a monumental new commission about the history of the LGBTQ movement, titled “Unbreakable.” Working with Lipka are Academy Award-winners Dustin Lance Black (*Milk*, *When We Rise*) and Bruce Cohen (*American Beauty*, *Silver Linings Playbook*).

We're so excited about this coming season, and we hope you'll join us — **subscribe today at [sfgmc.org](http://sfgmc.org)!**



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# LAVENDER PEN TOUR SEND-OFF

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 – 7:30PM**  
**GRACE CATHEDRAL**

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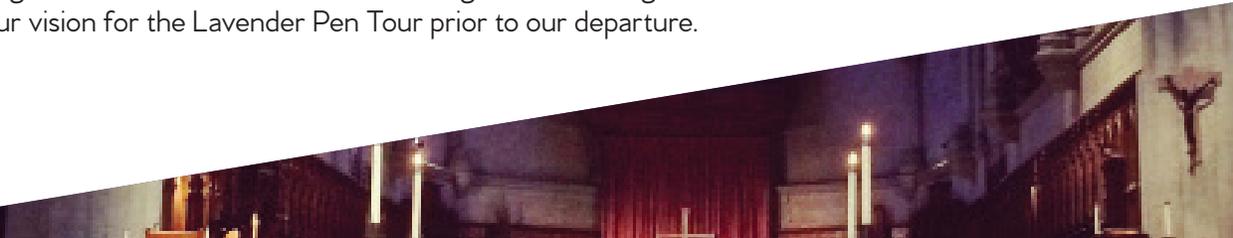
Presented by



In 1981, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus departed the Bay Area for a national tour of nine cities. The landmark tour was instrumental in birthing the LGBT choral movement, and changed the course of LGBT history forever. 36 years later, we embark on another historic tour. This time, we will travel to a part of our country in desperate need of our music and message — the Deep South.

In October 2017, the Chorus' Lavender Pen Tour will visit Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, South Carolina, and North Carolina. The tour will be an opportunity for the Chorus to share our mission of community, activism and compassion, while supporting our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters — especially youth — promoting acceptance and love through music, and raising much-needed funds for local organizations.

To celebrate the beginning of the tour, Season 40 starts with a glorious evening at **Grace Cathedral**, as we share music and our vision for the Lavender Pen Tour prior to our departure.





# ELFSTRAVAGANZA

DECEMBER 8, 2017 – 8:00PM

DECEMBER 9, 2017 – 2:30PM + 8:00PM  
NOURSE THEATER

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Have you been making a list and checking it twice? Do you long to be home for the holidays? Well, we have just the show for you!

This season, join us at the Nourse Theater for **Elfstravaganza: Making the North Pole Gay Again!** Once again, the Chorus brings its glorious singing and hilarious hijinks to take you on a journey from the comfort and coziness of your home all the way to the North Pole. Expect the unexpected with 250 elves in holiday drag singing opera, a team of fabulous reindeer, sexy shepherds, and even a few monks thrown in for an unforgettable night of fun.

We'll wrap up the holiday season with our 28th Annual "Home for the Holidays" concerts at the historic Castro Theatre on Christmas Eve — the definitive Bay Area holiday tradition!







# HOMECOMING

**MARCH 29, 2018 – 8PM**  
**DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL**

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Our first show of 2018 will be a one-night only magnificent homecoming concert to relive the most poignant moments of the Lavender Pen Tour, including stories, pictures, videos, and, of course, gorgeous music. Joining us will be our special guests from the tour — the **Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir**, along with the Oakland Interfaith Community Choir, and Oakland Interfaith Youth Choir.

We are collecting stories and making memories during the tour. We will weave them together into an unforgettable evening centered around music's ability to move hearts and minds and catalyze momentous change.

Since we can't take you with us on the road this fall, we will bring the Lavender Pen Tour back home to you. Expect an unrivaled multimedia-infused evening of music that will touch, move, and inspire you. With nearly 500 singers on stage, we'll be raising the roof!



# UNBREAKABLE

**JUNE 22, 2018 – 8:00PM**

**JUNE 23, 2018 – 2:30PM + 8:00PM**

**NOURSE THEATER**

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To cap off Season 40, the Chorus has commissioned “Unbreakable,” with the incredible philanthropy of singer Eddie Reynolds in loving memory of Edwin (Ed) Brent Jones. “Unbreakable” is a monumental new work by Andrew Lippa, creator of “I Am Harvey Milk,” which we premiered in June 2013.

Rounding off the creative team are Academy Award-winning writer Dustin Lance Black (*Milk, When We Rise*) and producer Bruce Cohen (*Milk, American Beauty, Silver Linings Playbook*). Starring in “Unbreakable” will be Lisa Vroman, soprano (*Phantom of the Opera, Aspects of Love*) and Andrew Lippa himself (*The Addams Family, Big Fish*).

Lippa’s work is daring, sophisticated, and utterly breathtaking — unafraid to ask hard questions, bold in musical style, replete with passion, and anchored by characters that work their way deep into your heart. “Unbreakable” will take us on a journey through LGBT history from the last hundred years, with a strong narrative through-line that calls for justice, hope, and equality.





Starring  
ANDREW LIPKA



# CRESCENDO

## FEBRUARY 24, 2018 FAIRMONT SAN FRANCISCO

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SFGMC's signature gala — **Crescendo** — returns in Spring 2018 more remarkable than ever! Crescendo honors individuals and corporations who tirelessly champion and promote LGBTQ equality.

This year, we head to the historic Fairmont San Francisco for the first time — a place that has hosted the likes of Tony Bennett's first performance of "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," countless A-list celebrities, U.S. Presidents and international dignitaries. Last year's gala dazzled over 500 guests with celebrities, incredible musical guests, delicious food, cocktails, dancing, and must-have auction items while honoring corporate innovator Lexus, and Kathy Griffin with our inaugural Vanguard Award.

For Season 40, we look forward to bringing you another unforgettable evening — bigger, better, and more fabulous than you could even imagine. Come dressed to the nines, ready to party with SFGMC!



SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S CHORUS  
CRESCENDO



# NATIONAL AIDS MEMORIAL

Only three years into the life of the Chorus, AIDS burst onto the scene changing all of our lives forever. Since then, the Chorus has lost 300 singers to the ravages of HIV/AIDS and continues its tireless efforts in spreading awareness and fighting the disease and its stigma.

In 1988, another group of passionate San Francisco residents decided to create a lasting memorial to the men and women who were dying every day. Through their herculean efforts, combined with the determination of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, they broke ground in 1991 in an open space at Golden Gate Park. In 1996, it became the **National AIDS Memorial Grove (NAMG)**, the first permanent AIDS memorial in the United States.

In 2018, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus will dedicate a permanent memorial within the Grove in memory of those singers who no longer stand on stage but whose voices still resound in our hearts and lives.

## GROVE





# RHYTHM

In January 2018, the Chorus will inaugurate its new educational outreach program: **RHYTHM (Reaching Hearts of Youth Through Hope and Music)**.

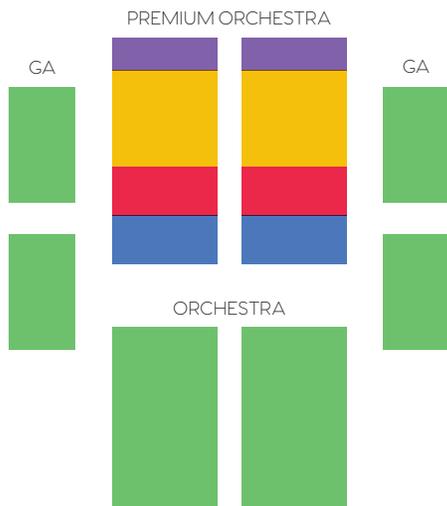
RHYTHM will take members of the Chorus into middle and high schools across the Bay Area with presentations of music and stories empowering students. The program is being developed along with Young Audiences of Northern California.

The curriculum includes preparation in the classroom prior to and following the Chorus' appearance with themes of pride, individualism, anti-bullying, and advocacy.

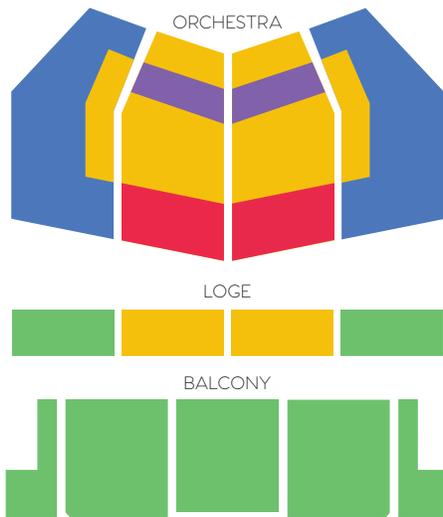
We believe that the music has the power to bring people together and reach students that could never be reached in any other way.

# SEASON 40 – VENUES

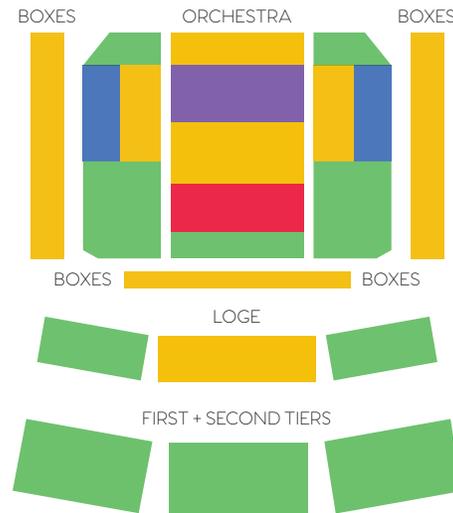
## GRACE CATHEDRAL



## NOURSE THEATER



## DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL



For the first time, we are offering a **VIP (Platinum) Subscription Package**, which features the 100 best seats in each venue. This offer is only extended to season subscribers.

# BELIEVERS CIRCLE

SFGMC's donors and subscribers allow us to continue making extraordinary musical experiences that inspire community, activism, and compassion. **Season 40: Unstoppable** will be a landmark moment for the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, with the Lavender Pen Tour to five southern states, an incredible holiday show of new favorites, a tour send-off and homecoming, and "Unbreakable" — a commissioned new work by Andrew Lipka.

Be a part of Season 40 by joining our **BELIEVERS CIRCLE**. As part of the Circle, you'll enjoy season tickets to our concerts, as well as exclusive benefits that bring you even closer into our family. **Join today!**

**CO-PRESENTER**  
**\$15,000 OR \$1250/MO**  
 NEW FOR SEASON 40!

As a **Co-Presenter**, you (or your company) will co-present one of our Season Concerts, with acknowledgement from the stage and all collateral communications, plus all Diamond Level benefits.

LEVEL	DIAMOND \$10,000 OR \$834/MO	RUBY \$7,500 OR \$625/MO	EMERALD \$5,000 OR \$417/MO	SAPPHIRE \$2,500 OR \$209/MO	PEARL \$1,200 OR \$100/MO
TICKETS	4 VIP ORCH	2 VIP ORCH	2 PREM. ORCH	2 ORCHESTRA	2 SIDE ORCH
CRESCENDO	4 VIP TICKETS	2 VIP TICKETS	2 GA TICKETS	50% OFF TICKETS	25% OFF TICKETS
GUEST ARTIST MEET & GREETS	Concerts + Crescendo (if applicable)	Concerts + Crescendo (if applicable)	Concerts	Concerts	N/A
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MEET & GREETS	Concerts + Crescendo (if applicable)	Concerts + Crescendo (if applicable)	Concerts	N/A	N/A
PROGRAM + WEBSITE RECOGNITION	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
DONOR PINS	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

## SUBSCRIBE NOW!

As a subscriber, enjoy the following benefits:

- 20% off ticket price —
- Best seats in the house, by section —
- 10% off additional ticket purchases —
- Flexible ticket exchanges —
- Lost ticket replacement —
- Personalized service for subscribers —
- Added to SFGMC's email newsletter —

## SEASON 40

### TOUR KICKOFF

September 30, 2017

### HOLIDAY SHOW

December 8-9, 2017

### HOMECOMING

March 29, 2018

### 40TH ANNIVERSARY

June 22-23, 2018

# SUBSCRIPTIONS

## LAVENDER PEN TOUR SEND-OFF

GRACE CATHEDRAL // SATURDAY, 9/30 - 7:30pm

VIP (Platinum)  GOLD  SILVER  BRONZE

## ELFSTRAVAGANZA

NOURSE THEATER

FRIDAY, 12/8 - 8:00pm  VIP ORCHESTRA (vip)  
 SATURDAY, 12/9 - 2:30pm  PREM. ORCHESTRA (gold)  
 SATURDAY, 12/9 - 8:00pm  LOGE (gold)  
 REAR ORCHESTRA (silver)  
 SIDE ORCHESTRA (bronze)

## HOMECOMING

DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL // THURSDAY, 3/29 - 8:00pm

VIP (Platinum)  REAR ORCHESTRA (silver)  
 PREM. ORCHESTRA (gold)  SIDE ORCHESTRA (bronze)

## UNBREAKABLE

NOURSE THEATER

FRIDAY, 6/22 - 8:00pm  VIP ORCHESTRA (vip)  
 SATURDAY, 6/23 - 2:30pm  PREM. ORCHESTRA (gold)  
 SATURDAY, 6/23 - 8:00pm  LOGE (gold)  
 REAR ORCHESTRA (silver)  
 SIDE ORCHESTRA (bronze)

Your subscription is essential in helping sustain our artistry — less than 40% of our funding comes from ticket sales.

**Please consider a donation to SFGMC today!**

Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your name (for recognition): \_\_\_\_\_

I / we wish to remain anonymous

In memory / honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

My company offers matching gifts. I've enclosed the necessary paperwork.

I would like to learn more about including SFGMC as a beneficiary in my will.

**VIP PACKAGE** \$266 / EACH **GOLD PACKAGE** \$208 / EACH **SILVER PACKAGE** \$172 / EACH **BRONZE PACKAGE** \$156 / EACH

<b>VIP PACKAGE</b>	QTY		TOTAL
		X \$266 =	
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**VISA**  **MASTERCARD**  **AMERICAN EXPRESS**  **DISCOVER**

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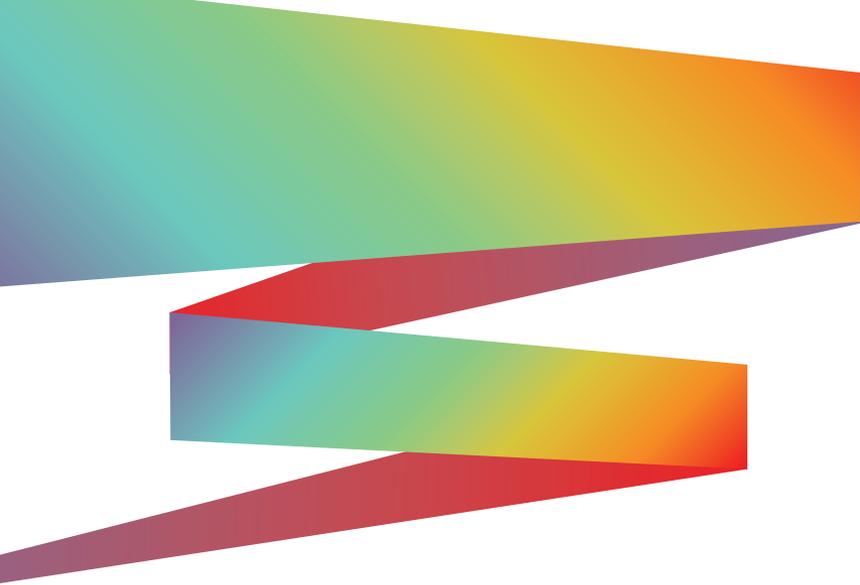
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**SAN FRANCISCO  
GAY MEN'S CHORUS**

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