

THEATRE RAYMOND KABBAZ
presents

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF LOS ANGELES

10361 West Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90064 | TRK.US.COM

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

You Don't Own Me

John Medora, David White, arr. Sharon Udoh

About Damn Time

Blake Slatkin, Erick Frederic, Larry Price, Malcom McLaren, Melissa Jefferson, Ronald Larkins, Stephen Hague, Tehron Makiel Thomas, arr. Saunder Choi

Ray of Light

Madonna Ciccone, William Orbit, Christine Leach, Clive Muldoon, Dave Curtis, arr. Dave Volpe

Hound Dog

Mike Stoller, Jerry Leiber, arr. Sharon Udoh

Break My Heart

Michael Hutchence, Stefan Johnson, Andrew Farris, Jordan Johnson, Ali Tamposi, Dua Lipa, Andrew Wotman, arr. Sharon Udoh

Bad Romance

Stefani Germanotta, nadir Khayat, arr. Charles Beale

Dancing in the Streets

Marvin Gaye, Ivy Hunter and Williams Stevenson, arr. Dave Volpe

Express Yourself / Vogue / Born this Way

Arr. Robert Hill

Express Yourself: Madonna Ciccone, Stephen Bray; Vogue: Madonna Ciccone, Shep Pettibone; Born This Way: Stefani Germanotta, Jeppa Laursen

Love on Top

Beyonce Knowles, Terius Nash, Shea Taylor, arr. Paak Hui

Sisters Are Doing It for Themselves

Annie Lennox, David A. Stewart, arr. Steve Milloy

I'm Coming Out

Bernard Edwards and Nile Rodgers, arr. Dave Volpe

The Ballad of Sweeney Todd

Stephen Sondheim, arr. Dave Volpe

I Feel Pretty

Stephen Sondheim, arr. Dave Volpe

Children Will Listen

Stephen Sondheim, arr. Dave Volpe

Under Pressure

Brian May, John Deacon, Roger Taylor, Freddie Mercury, David Bowie, arr. Dave Volpe

I Want to Break Free

John Deacon, arr. Dave Volpe

Ain't No Mountain

Nickolas Ashford and Valerie Simpson

I Will Survive

Dino Fekaris, Freddie Perren, arr. Dave Volpe

ABOUT

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF LOS ANGELES



GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF LOS ANGELES, under the leadership of Executive Director & Producer Lou Spisto and Music Director & Conductor Ernest H. Harrison, returns for its 45th year in 2023-2024.

GMCLA continues to garner acclaim for artistic excellence while remaining deeply rooted in service to the Los Angeles community and beyond by promoting civil rights, tolerance, and acceptance through music. Founded in 1979 during the emergence of the gay rights movement, GMCLA spreads its message of love and acceptance with concerts across the globe and has raised its collective voice in the movement toward equality, social justice, the fight against the AIDS crisis, the fight for marriage equality, and all those seeking to find their own voice. GMCLA's free community concert program has provided access to concerts to tens of thousands over the decades, and its research-based education programs have served over 85,000 young people throughout the Los Angeles region.

In June 2023, GMCLA returned to Walt Disney Concert Hall to perform the extraordinary multi-media Disney Pride in Concert to two sold-out houses as the finale of Season 44, which also included "I'm With Her," a celebration of boundary breaking women in music, as well as the beloved and sold-out holiday production, "A Motown Holiday." In recent years, GMCLA has performed at Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood Bowl (with Hugh Jackman). Reaching global audiences, a GMCLA appearance at the 2020 Film Independent Spirit Awards has gained more than 7 million online views. During the pandemic, GMCLA presented virtual concerts, special events, and school programs, reaching thousands of new and longtime fans. From Los Angeles and Ireland to Brazil and New Zealand, GMCLA's streaming concerts were incredibly well received. Critics have proclaimed the Chorus "inspired" and "expressive, innovative and utterly moving," and hailed GMCLA for presenting "meaningful entertainment."



BIOGRAPHY

DR. ERNEST H. HARRISON

DR. ERNEST H. HARRISON (Music Director & Conductor) joined GMCLA in December 2019 as Music Director and Head of Education and Outreach. Dr. Harrison received his Doctorate in choral music from the University of Southern California in May 2023. He is a former Associate Conductor of the National Children's Chorus and Choir Director of the Pasadena Conservatory of Music's Cantare Chamber Choir, and is also a member of the international choral ensemble Conspirare as well as a former Board Member of the Stonewall National Museum and Archives. In Fall 2023, Dr. Harrison began his tenure as Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology specializing in the music of the African Diaspora and Music and Social Justice at Cal State Polytechnic Pomona.

His fields of study include early music, spirituals, gospel, jazz, and choral and vocal pedagogy. As an educator, Dr. Harrison is particularly passionate about the work he has done through community outreach, including choral clinics in the LAUSD school systems, presentations on healing through music, workshops through the AHJN network, and the Alive Music Project that provides free concerts to students all around the Southern California region. Dr. Harrison is a community minded educator who is dedicated to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion in the classroom and on the stage, increasing musical representation of all marginalized voices, especially those belonging to the BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities, and creating and maintaining musical safe spaces for everyone who needs them.



BIOGRAPHY

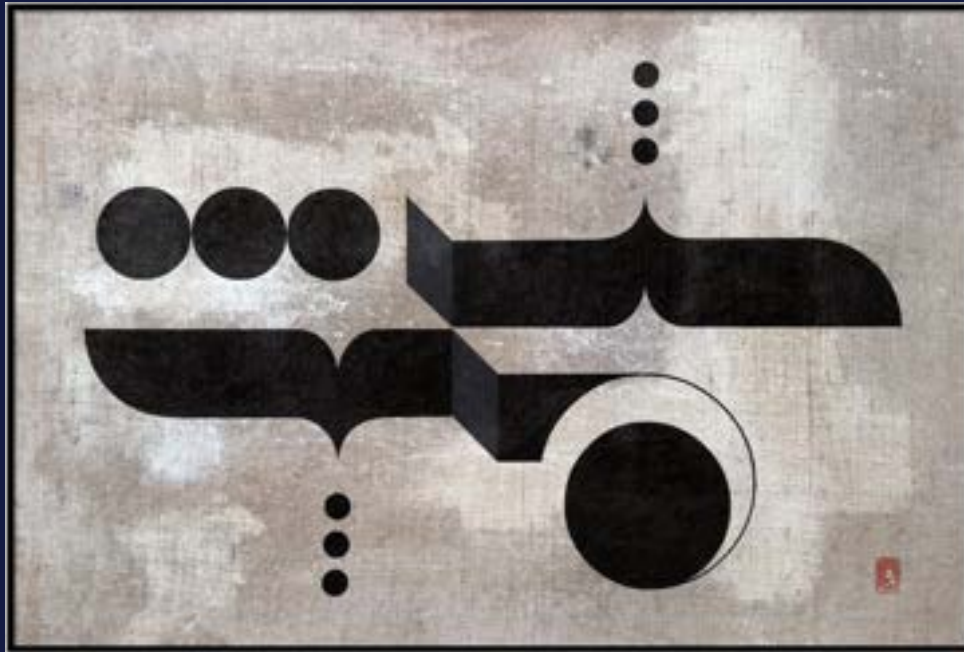
LOU SPISTO

LOU SPISTO (Executive Director & Producer) served on GMCLA's Board of Directors from 2015 to 2018 and joined GMCLA in February 2019, initially in an interim capacity. Working closely with the Board and Chorus leadership, Spisto has worked to reestablish GMCLA's fiscal health as he has done elsewhere in his four-decade-long career. He has been honored to work with and support some of the most talented and influential artists in theatre and music. He is a Tony-nominated Broadway producer and has led several of the country's most prominent arts organizations. As Executive Producer for The Old Globe, Spisto raised \$75 million for its capital campaign and produced 16 plays and musicals in three venues each year over 10 seasons.

In 11 years at Pacific Symphony, he erased the deficit, tripled the budget and built an endowment. Spisto has produced six projects on Broadway, one in London's West End and one in Los Angeles. He holds an M.A. in Arts Management from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a B.B.A. from Notre Dame. Spisto produced, directed and co-wrote the short film titled *The Come Up*, making its way to the festivals this year.



ART EXHIBITION



To celebrate its Opening Night, TRK welcomes local artist CHRIS RONK in a pre-show exhibition.

Thoughtful, almost delicate, juxtapositions of color and shape dominate the surfaces of Christopher Ronk's work with an energy that reverberates as it soothes. An immediate connection between the artist and the viewer is made through deliberate applications of pigment and form onto richly textured surfaces. His aim is to create a sense of precision and order in a chaotic world.

Emotions run deep, yet still, in Ronk's work. As an artist, he longs for a sense of symmetry, sequence and harmony, but these things do not always come easily. Although he strives for meticulous order, his work ultimately remains flawed. It is in this tension, between his desire for perfection and the ultimately flawed reality of the finished piece, where the true beauty of his work lies.

His subtly textured minimalist colorsapes and bold type influenced paintings echo and oppose the multiplicity of visual stimuli encountered in city life overwhelmed by noise, poverty, excess and an over dependence on technology. Influenced heavily by nature, the human form, architecture, music, and typography— Ronk creates visual experiences that viewers are subconsciously familiar with and inexplicably drawn to. Intentional, yet often contradictory, use of symmetry and imbalance, repetition and uncluttered space, rich palettes and monochromatic schemas, all exist within his work. Serenity amongst the chaos, Ronk's art invites a deeply meditative pause that never ceases to captivate.

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Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles

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UPCOMING EVENTS

THEATRE

DSIMON

AN EXPLORATION OF
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

OCTOBER 4

8:00PM



MUSIC

THE LOS ANGELES
VIRTUOSI
ORCHESTRA

OCTOBER 29
8:00PM



FILM

SIMONE:
WOMAN OF
THE CENTURY

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH
SUBTITLES

OCTOBER 26
8:00PM



THEATRE

FRANCOISE
PAR SAGAN

WITH CAROLINE LOEB
IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH
SUBTITLES

NOVEMBER 4
8:00PM



FILM

ANIMATION
FEST

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH
SUBTITLES

NOVEMBER 16
8:00PM



MUSIC

DJANGO FESTIVAL
ALLSTARS

WITH DORADO SCHMITT &
SONS

NOVEMBER 30
8:00PM



and more to come on
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