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San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus presents **HOLIGAYS ARE HERE**

December 11 – 12 at Nourse Theater

SAN FRANCISCO (November 12, 2015) – Today, **San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus (SFGMC)** and **Dr. Timothy Seelig, Artistic Director**, announced the holiday performances for Season 38: Expect The Unexpected, featuring three performances of **HoliGays Are Here**, running **December 11-12** at the **Nourse Theater** (275 Hayes St, San Francisco). Performances are Friday, December 11 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, December 12 at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets range in price from \$25-65 and are available now on www.SFGMC.org or by calling City Box Office at (415) 392-4400.

HoliGays Are Here joins together joyful, raucous takes on holiday classic with stunning new choral works. Highlights include brand-new pieces by Broadway and cabaret composers **Ernie Lijoi** and **Lawrence Rush**, a medley of **Meghan Trainor's** "I'll Be Home" and holiday standard "I'll Be Home For Christmas," a beautiful world premiere by award-winning composer **Laura Karpman** set to a text written by best-selling author **Rebecca Walker** honoring the role of mothers in our lives, as well as a wide range of holiday favorites sung by the 300 men of SFGMC.

"For 38 years, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus has provided our city with the 'alternative' holiday experience," writes Seelig. "No one has so much fun stretching the boundaries of the traditions and music of the season - new and old. This year's concerts are packed as full as Santa's bag. There will be lots of things you didn't even know you loved, such as reindeer in tutus and dancing recycle bins for the fruitcake you don't know what to do with. We turn the holidays on their heads and set them back up again!"

Known for its warm, rich choral tones and over-the-top productions, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus continues its tradition of bringing holiday cheer to the Bay Area this

year. *HoliGays Are Here* runs the gamut, from “A Chorus Line” to “The Nutcracker,” “Ave Maria” and “Silent Night” to a 21st century love songs “Merry Everything” and “Text Me Merry Christmas.” The show crosses genre upon genre, all while dishing up a delightful program of holiday music. As Seelig notes, “The HoliGays are here indeed!”

In 1990, the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus gathered for the first time on Christmas Eve at the Castro Theatre to truly bring the holidays home to those who had none. Thus began the annual tradition of joining together every Christmas Eve at the Castro Theatre for this night of joyous music and heartwarming festivities.

This holiday season marks the 25th Anniversary that SFGMC returns to the Castro Theatre (429 Castro Street, San Francisco) on Christmas Eve for the *Home for the Holidays* performances on **Thursday, December 24, 2015** at **5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.**

The Chorus will be taking its holiday show to three other locations around the Bay Area this season. On **Saturday, December 5, 2015** members of SFGMC perform for the first time at the **Leshner Center for the Arts** in Walnut Creek, CA with two shows at **3 p.m.** and **7:30 p.m.** (1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek).

The next day, **Sunday, December 6, 2015** marks the 25th edition of SFGMC’s “Home For The Holidays” concert in Santa Rosa, presented with longtime partner **Face 2 Face Sonoma County AIDS Network**, at **3 p.m.** at Wells Fargo Center for the Arts (50 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa). A portion of the proceeds from the performance will be donated directly to Face 2 Face.

Lastly, on **Friday, December 18, 2015**, all four of SFGMC’s vocal ensembles (The Lollipop Guild, Vocal Minority, SWAG and HomoPhonics) will perform at **8 p.m.** at Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse (2020 Addison Street, Berkeley).

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About San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus

For nearly 40 years, the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus has courageously served as the international standard bearer for a powerful and accomplished mix of high-caliber performance, human rights, community activism, empowerment and inclusiveness, establishing it as an icon among LGBT organizations. Founded in 1978, it was the first organization of its kind and is credited with starting the LGBT choral movement, galvanizing and changing the course of LGBT history. It continues to rally and inspire other arts-based community organizations around the world. Under the leadership of Artistic Director and Conductor Dr. Timothy Seelig, SFGMC has in recent seasons established a heightened level of performance standards receiving audience and choral acclaim, increased its touring and recording profile and broadened its impact and reputation in the community while maintaining its signature blend of humor, personality and high-voltage performances. For more information, visit www.sfgmc.org and @sfgmc (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram).