San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus records

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2020
Descriptive Summary

Title: San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus records
Dates: 1978-2014
Collection Number: 2009-01
Creator/Collector: San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus (Tom Burtch, Chorus Historian)
Extent: 24 cartons, 8 oversize boxes and 2 oversize folders (approximately 38 linear feet)
Repository: GLBT Historical Society
San Francisco, California 94103

Abstract: This collection documents the history and influence of the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus, and its impact on the lives of members, audiences and LGBT people around the nation and world.

Language of Material: English

Access
Collection is open for research. Funding for processing this collection was provided by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR).

Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus records. GLBT Historical Society

 Acquisition Information
Gift of Justin J. Taylor, SFGMC Board Chair, on behalf of the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus, in December 2013

Biography/Administrative History
The Stonewall riots, which erupted in New York City on June 28, 1969, sparked a rebirth of gay culture around the United States and the world. One of the most influential and enduring institutions to emerge in the post-Stonewall decade was the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus. The world’s first openly gay men’s chorus sang in public for the first time from the steps of San Francisco City Hall in November of 1978, at a candlelight vigil for Harvey Milk on the day he was murdered. The Chorus was founded by Jon Reed Sims, and the group’s mission is to spread social equality for LGBT people. The Chorus has exercised its influence in many ways, including a 1981 national tour that helped spark the creation of similar groups in the U.S. and overseas. They continue to tour the country, inspire thousands and are credited with igniting the worldwide gay and lesbian choral movement. The Chorus has also commissioned many widely performed works that address issues of concern to the LGBT community, including homophobia, AIDS, Don’t Ask Don’t Tell, and marriage equality. For more information on the history of the Chorus, see: http://www.sfgmc.org/about/

Scope and Content of Collection
This collection documents the history and influence of the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus, and its impact on the lives of members, audiences and LGBT people around the nation and world. The collection is divided by topic, including: administrative records; Board of Directors materials; correspondence; financial records; donations and grants; awards; media coverage; member information; publicity materials; recordings; materials related to concert production, such as guest stars, concert themes, programs, and posters; information on the genesis and impact of the landmark 1981 National Tour and formation of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses; materials related to the effects of and response to AIDS, including fundraising, memorial services and obituaries; commissioned works; photographs; and Chorus and audience surveys. Some audiovisual materials have been digitized. Please contact the managing archivist for more information.

Indexing Terms
Gay men
Music
San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus -- Archives.
Golden Gate Performing Arts.

Container List for the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus Records