

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[NOTE TO EDITORS: Calendar listing information is below]

Boston Gay Men's Chorus March Concert Series Focuses on the Family *Sons & Daughters* will feature "Beneath the African Sky" and New England premiere of "Alexander's House"

Boston, MA—The Boston Gay Men's Chorus proudly presents *Sons & Daughters*, a celebration of families and all their complexity, joy, heartbreak, and triumph in performances March 22 and March 23 at New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall. Highlights of the performance will include the New England premiere of the one-act musical "Alexander's House," the story of a gay man whose untimely death brings together friends, family, and a long-lost son, and "Beneath the African Sky," a work inspired by sisters who shuttled for six years among African refugee camps searching for their parents. Larry Souza, who has directed and choreographed musicals around the country and is a two-time recipient of the American Dance Awards Choreographer of the Year Award, as well as the 2013 winner of the IRNE Award for Choreography, will direct and choreograph the performance.

Through these and other songs, including a piece based on Khalil Gibran's beloved poem "Your Children," Boston Gay Men's Chorus Music Director Reuben M. Reynolds, III has crafted a song cycle that explores the meaning of parenthood and family and the varied ways we create families.

"The LGBT community has always created family in many different ways," said Reynolds, the Chorus' music director since 1997. "But if you had told me 20 years ago that I'd see chorus members slipping out of rehearsal to rush home to tuck their three-year-olds into bed, I never would have believed it. Greater acceptance and legal advances allow LGBT people to further expand the types of families we create. With *Sons & Daughters*, we wanted to look at the various permutations of family and what it all means."

"Beneath the African Sky" tells the story of two sisters who were just six- and 15-years old when their lives were devastated by the Rwandan genocide. They eventually immigrated to the United States and learned through international aid organizations that their parents had survived the genocide. In 2006, Oprah Winfrey arranged for the family to be reunited, bringing international attention to their story.

"Alexander's House" features music and lyrics by composer Michael Shaieb and a book by Shaieb and Brent Lord. In the opening number, the chorus sings, 'Families come in many shades of gray,' which encapsulates the message of *Sons & Daughters*. The concert will also include music from Broadway classics *Dreamgirls* and *Carousel*, as well as songs from the award-winning revue *Closer Than Ever*.

"This the best of classical music mixed with musical theater," said Boston Gay Men's Chorus Executive Director Craig Coogan. "You will not hear anything else like it at other choral concerts. It's an experience that will stay with you long after the final note has been sung."

CALENDAR LISTING

Boston's Gay Men's Chorus presents

SONS & DAUGHTERS

Reuben M. Reynolds, III, Music Director

The Boston Gay Men's Chorus celebrates all things family. Bring your family to our family. Music from Broadway, pop culture and choral traditions tell the stories of how we choose our families. The New England premiere of the one-act musical *Alexander's House* is funny, heartbreaking and touching and it will leave you inspired and amazed.

Saturday, March 22, 2014 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 23, 2014 at 3 p.m.

New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough St., Boston 02115

Tickets \$20–\$60 (Before ticket fees, \$5 additional walk-up)

Tickets available at www.bgmc.org or 617-542-SING (7464)

The Boston Gay Men's Chorus is generously supported by Bank of America, JetBlue, Reproductive Science Center, and Manhunt. BGMC is a proud partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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About the Boston Gay Men's Chorus

Boston Gay Men's Chorus creates musical experiences to inspire change, build community and celebrate difference. The BGMC is one of New England's largest and most successful community-based choruses. Founded in 1982, the 175-voice ensemble is celebrated for its outstanding musicianship, creative programming, and groundbreaking community outreach. Under the dynamic leadership of Music Director Reuben M. Reynolds III, the BGMC sings a wide spectrum of classical and popular music and creates social change by providing a positive, affirming image of the gay and lesbian community. The Chorus is heard live by more than 10,000 people each season and thousands more through recording, television and internet broadcasts. In November, 2013, CBS-WBZ named The Boston Gay Men's Chorus one of the top five choirs in the city of Boston.