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Music Director



Popular

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and Boston Gay Men's Chorus.**

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Popular

June 3 & 5, 2016

New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall

Reuben M. Reynolds, III, *Music Director*

Craig Coogan, *Executive Director*

Chad Weirick, *Principal Accompanist and Assistant Music Director*

LeWana Clark, *American Sign Language Interpreter*

Sarah Shoffner, *Customer Service*

Clive Grainger, *Stage Manager*

Jessica Going, *Rehearsal Manager*



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Growing up in South Georgia I knew at an early age I was different from everyone around me. I liked Bach and Beethoven! Everyone else's parents were listening to Frankie Avalon singing *Venus* or the Platters' *Smoke Gets In Your Eyes* while we were listening to Beethoven Symphonies. When I was seven I started piano lessons – the first piece I remember playing is *Bach's Minuet in G*. Sometimes I think that being gay was the least of my problems!

I came out (of my musical closet) when I was 10. That was the year I went away to summer camp and discovered the Beatles. I remember *Hey Jude* being really big in the Owl cabin that summer at Camp Indian Springs! Over the following years music to me was piano practice at home and playing the organ at church – not much pop music there. I had to wait till I went away to college to totally experience pop music again. I found it at the Limelight, a gay disco in Atlanta. They were all there – Donna Summer, Gloria Gainer and the Weather Girls – Disco Heaven! The next years were a voyage of discovery as I explored all kinds of new music!

In preparing this concert I asked members of the chorus to write stories of how pop music has affected their lives. The stories are very moving and range from beyond sad to hilarious. We will share some of them from the stage and more can be found in this program book. Make sure you read them – they are a wonderful introduction to the diversity found in our chorus. Most of all sit back and enjoy some of the most moving music ever written!



Reuben Reynolds, Music Director

Reuben M. Reynolds, III, has been the Music Director of the BGMC since 1997. After earning undergraduate degrees in both economics and music, Mr. Reynolds received his Master of Music degree from Louisiana State University where he was teaching assistant to Metropolitan Opera soprano Martina Arroyo, and was on the conducting staff of the Baton Rouge Lyric Opera. In Kansas City, Mr. Reynolds served as Music Director of the Heartland Men's Chorus from 1989 to 1998 and was also Conductor of the Philharmonia of Kansas City and the Kansas City Civic Opera Theatre. In the summer of 1994, Mr. Reynolds made his European debut conducting the Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic Orchestra and the Beethoven Chamber Orchestra of Ostrava, Czech Republic. He returned to the Czech Republic to conduct the West Bohemia Symphony Orchestra in 1995. Reuben spent the summer of 1998 in St. Petersburg, Russia, conducting the Hermitage Camerata in the Catherine the Great Theatre. Mr. Reynolds has commissioned more than 20 major pieces and hundreds of arrangements in his career. The Boston Globe describes his conducting as "expert and idiomatic."

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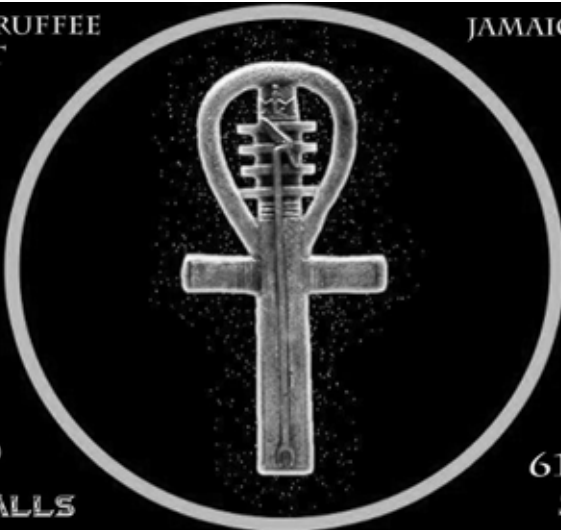


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Photo: Michael Willer



We tell our stories through music. Sometimes the music is serious, sometimes festive and sometimes it's just a good time from tunes we all know and love! Much of the pop music you hear today could be the soundtrack to your life — and yet as 175 gay men perform it the words and songs will have another meaning. That's what we do — we use the power and joy of music to tell the stories of our lives.

We create musical experiences to inspire change, build community, and celebrate difference. Your support makes our important work possible. Talk to your friends about us. Bring them to a chorus event. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram. Like us on Facebook. Download our app. Make sure you are on the mailing list and the email list. Audition. And, of course, donations are always welcome. Individual contributions fill the gap between corporate giving and ticket sales, which constitute less than half of BGMC's income.

We are able to make an impact in the community thanks to the talents of hundreds of singers and volunteers. We especially thank our foundation and corporate sponsors for their ongoing support: Bank of America, JetBlue, and IVF New England. We especially welcome BNY Mellon as sponsors for this concert.

Thank you for being part of the BGMC family!

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Craig'.

Craig Coogan, Executive Director

Craig Coogan joined the BGMC as Executive Director in October 2012. He is an expert in developing strategies and programs to help GLBTA and other nonprofit organizations achieve their operational and artistic goals. Craig brings experience in both the for-profit and non-profit arenas. He previously served as Executive Director for One Voice Mixed Chorus in St. Paul, Minnesota, and was a founding board member and treasurer for ten years of the acclaimed Women's choral group Vox Femina Los Angeles. A graduate of Syracuse University, he has produced independent films, award-winning documentaries, and acclaimed original plays.



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CHAD WEIRICK, Principal Accompanist & Assistant Music Director

A native of Rockford, Illinois, Chad graduated high school at the age of 15 and moved to New York City. There, he became the organist for Radio City Music Hall and rehearsal pianist for the Rockettes, a position that earned him a listing in *Ripley's Believe It Or Not!* as the youngest musician to ever work full time on Broadway. He also was the pianist for various Broadway shows including *A Chorus Line*, *Shenandoah*

and *The Act*. Subsequently he moved to Boston to attend the New England Conservatory of Music, where he received a Masters Degree in Composition under Malcolm Peyton. He also worked as music director for Marriott's Great America theme park in Gurnee, Illinois.

Chad's numerous choral arrangements have been performed and recorded not only by the BGMC, but many other choruses nationally and internationally. Currently he works in the choral department of Wellesley High School and is the Minister of Music at the First Congregational Church in Hanover, Massachusetts. In addition to his music credits, he is most proud of being a registered black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Chad thanks his partner David Slaga for his support, friendship and love.

Chad has been the Principal Accompanist & Assistant Music Director since 1993 and serves Assistant Choral Director and Accompanist at Wellesley High School.



LEWANA CLARK, American Sign Language Interpreter

LeWana Clark has a unique style of interpreting that incorporates not only the lyrics that are sung but also the tone and musical qualities of the melody. Since becoming nationally certified as an ASL/English Interpreter in 1979, she continues to provide ASL communication services for deaf, hard of hearing, and non-deaf consumers in Boston, across the Commonwealth, nationally and internationally.

Although she spends most of her time working in court or in other legal settings, she's also qualified to interpret in medical, mental health, governmental, educational and theatrical/performing arts settings.

Lewana has been the American Sign Language Interpreter for the BGMC since 1989.

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MICHELLE CHASSÉ, Stage Director & Choreographer

Michelle Chassé trained with the Boston Ballet School and Maestro Vincenzo Celli and was on scholarship at the School of American Ballet. She graduated *cum laude* with a B.F.A. in dance from The Boston Conservatory, where she was the first recipient of the prestigious Ruth Sandholm Ambrose Award and later received the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. She has both studied and performed with ballet, concert dance, and Broadway legends from around the world. Chassé has choreographed numerous productions for the esteemed musical theater program at The Boston Conservatory, including *Candide*, *Kismet* and *The Wild Party*, for which she received critical acclaim within Boston and New York ranks. She received a 2014 ArtsImpulse Best Musical nomination for her direction of The Boston Conservatory's *On the Town* and was awarded Best Choreography for the same production. Her work on *Le Cabaret Grimm*, featured in the 2012 New York Musical Theatre Festival, earned her an Honorable Mention at that festival's awards ceremony, and that same year her piece, *Red Smoke Rises*, was performed by Boston's Urbanity Dance Company at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. Her continued choreography and stage direction for such internationally acclaimed ensembles as the Boston Pops Orchestra and the Boston Gay Men's Chorus have received numerous accolades from audiences and critics alike.



NICK ADAMS can currently be seen as Keith on season two of the award winning hit webseries, *Go-Go Boy Interrupted*. Mr Adams was the final actor to star as Fiyero in the First National Touring production of *Wicked*. He is best known for originating and starring as Adam/Felicia in the Tony winning Broadway musical *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* (Winner 2 Broadway Audience Choice Awards, American Theater Hall of Fame honoree, Astaire Award nom.) Broadway: *A Chorus Line* (Larry), *Guys*

and Dolls, *Chicago* (Mary Sunshine standby), *La Cage Aux Folles*, *The Pirate Queen*. TV/Film: *Sex and the City 2*, *An Englishman in New York*, *Smash*, *As the World Turns*, *Guiding Light*, *Dancing with the Stars*, *The Kennedy Center Honors*, *Thanksgiving Day Parade*, *Best Time Ever*, and multiple telecasts of *The Tony Awards*. Mr Adams has instructed several master classes nationwide, has served on the guest faculty of The Boston Conservatory Musical Theatre Dance Intensive as well as The Broadway Dreams Foundation, and is regarded as a Capezio Dance Athlete. BFA Boston Conservatory. nicholasadams.com | [@thenickadams](https://www.instagram.com/thenickadams)

What Pop means to me

My older brother, with Downs Syndrome, Autism, being mute and a boatload of other issues, was my best friend and I his protector. My parents, doing the best they could with what God and the Irish Catholic Church gave them and also the gift of Seagrams 7 and 7, it was a world of duck and cover. A tortured school environment, beaten up and bullied daily. Every day I had to go a different route home to evade my classmates.

I was a silent boy with his ear pressed to the floor of the bedroom listening to the pans fly in the kitchen below and the muffled angry voices many a night. I dreaded school where students were cruel, I dreaded home. No matter what I did I couldn't make anyone happy.

On top of that I knew I was different.

David, you could see the difference and people judged instantly. Mostly poorly.

Mine was inside. I just KNEW I thought and felt differently than everyone else. I prayed every night to God for the ability to not be different.

I was so sad.

I had failed.

I tried desperately to think of a way to end my life. The problem was I didn't want to upset my mom by finding a bloody mess and didn't want to feel pain during the process. As smart a kid as I was I couldn't figure out that complex problem. It's a good thing.

I altered my pleas to God and asked him to just kill me in my sleep, and started sleeping on my back, arms crossed, so if I died in my sleep, it would make it easier for the funeral home to lay me out. To this day I rarely move in sleep and the bed looks as if it is not slept in...it unnerves the boys du jour.

My release for all my sadness and horrors was to "lip-sync for my life". My sound tracks were all my sister's albums. The ones I was drawn to were the sad ones, so I could cry and emoté.

Albums of choice, Diana Ross in Mahogany, The Who's Tommy and Melissa Manchester's Don't Cry Out Loud. I didn't get all the words or the deeper meanings but the minor chords literally struck a chord in my soul and allowed me to live another day.

Melissa, Diana and Tommy were what got me through each day of a not so good childhood.

I still don't fit in to a lot of places and situations, but music helps soothe.

What the power of music can do.

—Baritone Singer

Music saved my life. From a very young age I knew I was different. I was bullied throughout elementary, middle, and high school. I remember coming home from school and locking myself in my room and just crying. I couldn't understand why being different had to be so hard. I used to line up my stuffed animals and Barbie dolls, turn on my karaoke machine, and lose myself in the music. I began to idolize artists who were bold and unique, took risks and broke boundaries. Some of my biggest inspirations came from the 90s – The Spice Girls, Christina Aguilera, Garbage, Lil Kim, Marilyn Manson, Missy Elliott, TLC. Many of these artists not only broke boundaries, but they sent messages. They sent messages to an insecure adolescent boy and made him realize that the world was a lot bigger than the small, cookie cutter town he was in. It made him realize one day he'd escape. It made him realize he wasn't as alone as he thought. And that in the end he'd survive.

— Peter Roy



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The Boston Gay Men's Chorus 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 recordings, television, and internet broadcasts. CBS-WBZ recently named The Boston Gay Men's Chorus one of the "top 5" choruses in the city of Boston. In June 2015 BGMC became the first GLBT chorus to tour the Middle East. bgmc.org

PURPOSE

To inspire

MISSION

The Boston Gay Men's Chorus creates musical experiences to inspire change, build community and celebrate difference.

CORE VALUES

- We're a family with a tradition of excellence
- We provide a safe and welcoming community to be ourselves
- We make music that makes us and our audiences proud
- We operate with integrity
- We genuinely care for each other; bringing out the best of each other - we are at our best as a group
- We change hearts and minds through our presence and our music
- We are from diverse backgrounds but have a shared passion for music
- We choose to give our time and talents - giving back more than we get
- We have fun!

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Fred Small's lullaby and BGMC's anthem *Everything Possible* states "you can be anybody you want to be." Brian Griffin (who for most has been the main contact at the Chorus since 2006) is embarking on his next adventure and tendered his resignation to the BGMC.

The Chorus has been a large part of his life since he joined as a singer at the age of 19 and the Chorus has benefitted tremendously from Brian's loyalty, service and dedication. We miss him and wish him well.

"...and the only measure of your words and your deeds will be the love you leave behind when you're done." Brian leaves us with a lot of love. Thank you Brian!

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Michelle Chassé, *Stage Director and Choreographer*

Chad Weirick, *Principal Accompanist and*

Assistant Music Director

Michael Ambroszewski, *Percussion*

Mark Pucci, *Bass*

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Home

2012

Greg Holden, Drew Pearson

The 5th Dimension

Aquarius/Let the Sun Shine In

1967

Galt MacDermot, Music

James Rado, Jerome Ragni Lyrics

Nicolas Everage, soloist

Beatles

I Want To Hold Your Hand

1963-1971

John Lennon & Paul McCartney,

Arr. Kevin Robison

Let It Be

John Lennon & Paul McCartney, Arr. Kevin Robison

Imagine

John Lennon, Arr. Kevin Robison, Additional Lyrics Lady Gaga

Fred Isom, Marcel D'Anjou, Matthew Hughes, John Strumwasser, soloists

Nina Simone, Michael Bublé

Feeling Good

1964

Anthony Newley, Leslie Bricuss

Nick Adams, soloist

Queen

Crazy Little Thing Called Love

1979

Freddie Mercury, Arr. Kathleen McGuire

ABBA

I Have A Dream

Benny Andersson & Bjorn Ulvacus, Arr. David Maddux

Fred Isom, Marcel D'Anjou, Matthew Hughes, John Strumwasser, soloists

Mamma Mia

Benny Andersson & Bjorn Ulvacus, Arr. David Maddux

Barry Manilow

Weekend in New England

1976

Randy Edelman, Arr. Chad Weirick

Bridge over Troubled Water

Paul Simon

Paul Simon, Arr. Kirby Shaw

James Lesui, soloist

Melissa Manchester

Don't Cry Out Loud

1976

Peter Allen, Music; Carol Bayer Sager, Lyrics

Arr. Chad Weirick

Peter Allen

I Go To Rio

1976

Peter Allen

Nick Adams, soloist

INTERMISSION

Culture Club		1983
Church of the Poison Mind	Roy Hay, Boy George, Mikey Craig and Jon Moss, Arr. Chad Weirick	
	<i>Izzy Berdan, Nick Adams, soloists</i>	
Carly Simon		1988
Let the River Run	Carly Simon, Arr. Chad Weirick	
4 Non Blonds		1991
What's Up?	Linda Perry, Arr. Chad Weirick	
Boyz II Men		1992-1994
I'll Make Love To You	Kenneth Brian Edmonds, Arr. Chad Weirick	
End of the Road	Kenneth Brian Edmonds, Antoino Reid, Baryl Simmons, Arr. Chad Weirick	
Britney Spears		2004
Toxic	Cathy Dennis, Christian Karlsson, Pontus Winnberg, Henrik Jonback <i>Nick Adams, soloist</i>	
Lady Gaga		2008
Poker Face	Stephani Germanotta & Nardi Khayat, Arr. Robert T. Boaz <i>Sean Crookes, soloist</i>	
Christina Aguilera		2002
Beautiful	Linda Perry <i>Michael Barber, Benjamin Zavisza, James Patrick Lobo, Curtis Creekmore, soloists</i>	
Adele		2011-2015
Rumour Has It/Someone Like You	Adele Adkins, Ryan Tedder, & Daniel Wilson Arr. Pakk Hui	
Hello	Adele Adkins & Greg Kurstin, Arr. Pakk Hui <i>Thomas L. Collins, III, soloist</i>	
OneRepublic		2014
I Lived	Ryan Tedder & Noel Zancanella, Arr. Chad Weirick	

POPular Dancers

Izzy Bordan	Raheem Lee
Tyler Brewer	Michael Lombo, Dance Captain
Bill Casey	Keith March Mistler
Kyle Crand	Christopher Murray

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- 20 years of the Harbor Islands National & State Parks
- 300 years of Boston Light history on Little Brewster

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Sunday, May 21, 2017

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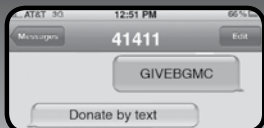
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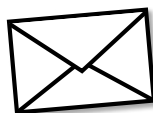
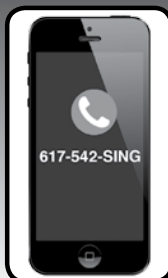
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Chorus

Tenor 1

Jay Baer
Michael Barber
Andy Chau
Bryan Clark
Scott Desrosiers
Nicholas Everage
Courtney Furnot
John Paul Horn
Fred Isom
Peter Kokoszka
Paul Laskorski
Michael Lombo
Brian Murphy
Christopher Murray
Tien Nguyen
Christopher Nuss
Michael Nuss
Benjamin J. Peavey
L. Dean Pender
Jake Pitochelli
Jeremy Proulx
Eric Rezsnyak*
Harold Rudolph
Anand Sitaram*
Tyler Wansley

Tenor 2

Jonathan Bardwell
Franck Baudry
Keith Bell
Michael Cabrera
Bill Casey
William Cattey
Thomas J. Choinski
Paul Consoli
Jason L. Courtney
Sean Crookes
Guy R. Croteau†
Marcel D'Anjou
Lucas De BuenosAires
Alverson de Souza
Guy DeAngelis
Earl E. Dimaculangan
Kongxiang Duan
Joseph Feinstein

Jim Freiman-Polli
Johnny Gall
Garrett Garborcauskas
Steven Goecke
Alex Kapitan
Paul Joseph Keaney
Michael J. Leclerc*
Jackson Lee
Raheem Lee
Edward J. LeMay
Christopher Ludwig
Kilian Melloy
Luke T. Murphy
Joel Nosek
Dan O'Shea
Victor Ramos
Tim Rogers
Peter Roy
Kevin Schattenkirk
Thomas Sheehan, III
Bill Spera
Douglas St. Lawrence
David Stockton
David F. Story
Stephen Trumble
George Whiting

Baritone

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What Pop means to me

Three years ago my twin brother Brian suddenly passed from a heart attack at the age of 41. He left behind two beautiful children, a long term lover, and a family reeling from such an unexpected loss. A year later the band "One Republic" released the song I Lived. The lyrics immediately spoke to me as a prayer to my brother; I hope his love hurt so bad, I hope that all his days were spent, that they all added up, and that when his sun went down, he was able to raise his cup and say "he lived."

He did own every second. He pursued what he loved and what made him happy: music. He was an accomplished singer and trombonist in high school and went on to be a teacher of music. He eventually left teaching for his other passion; to sail. Although he made some poor decisions and struggled along the way, he lived. He did it all.

The song I Lived also became a blueprint of sorts for my own life that took on a paradigm shift. With my own mortality staring me in the face, I live life more full and love more intently. I no longer have patience for things that aren't working. I left my lover, quit my job, and moved back to Boston. I'm pursuing my passions, that happen to be the same as my twin's; music and sailing. I joined the chorus and got a summer job teaching sailing.

We all should take this song as a reminder to live life more fully, to tell those that we love that we do. Carpe Diem, seize the day, take the bull by the horns. Like the song says; take that jump, stay when everyone runs, fall in love, give it all you have, own every second, and raise your cup!

— Bruce Cramer

Growing up in a small town in Connecticut with no role models except Paul Lynde and Liberace on TV I felt lost and alone.

And then MTV came on! There were so many gay or androgynous people like Boy George, erasure, George Michael and Wham! I remember loving George Michael's highlights and admired it so much that I painted the side of my blonde head with Kiwi shoe polish to make my hair look like a really had dark hair with blonde highlights. I ruined a couple pillowcases!

And then to come to Boston with the gay nightclubs like the 1270, chaps and alternative clubs like spit/DV8. I finally felt like I fit in and found my tribe. I could listen to alternative music and dress goth and yet didn't feel like the oddball out anymore.

— Tim Dreher

POST CARD.

ADDRESS

In 1970 I was feel overwhelmed — adjusting to a new high school, struggling with social pressure and sexual identity, managing a heavy academic course load, and dealing with my older brother going off to college. One night I couldn't get to sleep and decided to turn on my transistor radio. When I heard 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' for the first time I immediately felt a deep sense of calmness. Listening to Art Garfunkel's voice, I somehow knew that things would get better. Over the last 46 years, when times get rough, this song has comforted me more than any other pop song of my generation.

— Michael Appell

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Ready to move from the shower to the stage? BGMC membership is by audition and prior choral singing experience and elementary music reading skill is helpful but not required. Auditions maintain a relaxed atmosphere and is a lot of fun. It includes singing a familiar song, sight singing, an assessment of musical skills, and an informational interview. No prepared piece is necessary. Go to bgmc.org to sign up for the September auditions.

In addition to concerts, the BGMC produces great and fun events that provide additional funds for the organization. Visit bgmc.org for more information.

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Sunday, December 19, 2016 at 8 pm

New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall

CABARET

Friday, February 17, 2017 at 8 pm

Saturday, February 18, 2017 at 5 pm
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Sunday, February at 3 pm (VIP)
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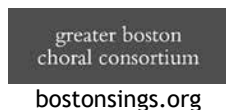
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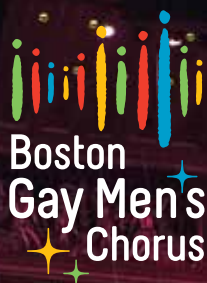
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