

# TOGETHER Again!



## **A Joint Concert With Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus & Rainbow Women's Chorus!**

**June 17, 18, at 8pm & June 19, at 3pm  
Christ The Good Shepherd Church, San Jose, CA**



**Shawn Reifschneider**  
Artistic Director



**Ruth Huber, Betsy Wagner**  
Artistic Directors

## **Ruth Huber, Co-Artistic Director, Composer-in-Residence**



Ruth Huber was instrumental in founding both RWC and Tapestry Singers (the Austin Women's Chorus). She holds three music degrees, including a Master of Music in Composition from the San Francisco Conservatory, and has studied conducting at San Jose State University. Her compositions and songs have won awards from the American Choral Directors Association, the San Francisco ArtSong Competition, and the Austin Music Umbrella Songwriters Competition, and she receives commissions from choral groups around the country. A certified member of Music Teachers National Association, she teaches piano, serves as musician for the Metropolitan Community Church, and resides in San Jose with her wife, Brenda Meng, and an assortment of adorable cats.

## **Betsy Wagner, Co-Artistic Director, Choralographer**



Betsy Wagner has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education with a dual major in voice and piano from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, LA. She has been teaching music to students in grades K-12 since 1978. Since coming to the Bay Area in 1990, she has built an award-winning choir program at Morrill Middle School in San Jose. Betsy has been singing with Rainbow Women's Chorus since 1997 and has been co-director since 2000. She creates the choralography for RWC performances and, in the fall of 2003, helped found RWC's small ensemble, Vocal InFusion. According to her mom, her natural musical ability showed up at the early age of two, when she played "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" by ear on her toy piano.

## **Kathy Disney, Accompanist**



Kathy Disney, accompanist, has a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from San Jose State University. She teaches general music to students in grades K-3 at Eaton and Collins Elementary Schools and serves as director for the children's choir and substitute pianist/organist at St. Jude's Episcopal Church in Cupertino. She is a member of MENC (National Association for Music Education), and AOSA (American Orff Schulwerk Association), with a Level II certification in the Orff Schulwerk. She is currently completing the requirements for the California single subject teaching credential in music.

## *Rainbow Women's Chorus*

14938 Camden Ave, Suite 61  
San Jose, CA 95124

(408) 603-9367

[www.rainbowwomen.org](http://www.rainbowwomen.org)



## Shawn Reifschneider, Artistic Director



Shawn made his debut directing SVGMC in June 2010. He has been conducting choral ensembles and teaching voice since 1993. In 2000 he began teaching choral music in the San Mateo Union High School District, currently teaching at both San Mateo and Burlingame High Schools. He has directed vocals for many high school musicals over the years. Shawn currently holds the Music Director position for the Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo. He has also been guest conductor for choral festivals and adjudicator for the American Choral Directors Association Western Division 2010 High School Honor Choir. Shawn earned his Bachelor of Science degree from California State University in Hayward, double majoring in Vocal Performance and Business Administration. He went on to pursue further study in Music and Worship, earning his Master of Divinity degree at Oregon's Western Seminary

## Doug McGrath, Accompanist



Doug McGrath was born to country-and-western parents. That he fell in love with classical and choral music may lend argument to nature versus nurture, but that's a story for a different time. Born in Colorado and growing up on a farm in western Kansas, he was drawn to piano at an early age, but didn't start lessons until the ripe old age of 13. Since moving to California and adapting to color, he's accompanied the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus, the Rainbow Women's Chorus, Opus Q, and Colla Voce. Software engineering supports his musical habit, and when not at the piano or playing geek, he can be found underwater with the Northern California Rainbow Divers. He serves as webmaster for Colla Voce, is single, and lives on the San Francisco peninsula.



### *Dear Patrons and Supporters of SVGMC*

Would you like to support the Chorus and have some fun? Please consider joining Friends of SVGMC, the booster club for the South Bay's premiere gay men's chorus. This wonderful club values the contribution of the chorus to the GLBTQ community and beyond. Together, we will work to further the impact and exposure of SVGMC. Our vision is to fund the dreams of the ensemble, including attendance at GALA Festival 2012 in Denver, while providing a lively and fun social opportunity for friends and supporters of the Chorus.

To request more information, email [friends@svgmc.org](mailto:friends@svgmc.org)



## **RWC Mission**

The Rainbow Women's Chorus works together to develop musical excellence in an atmosphere of mutual support and respect. We perform publicly for the entertainment, education and cultural enrichment of our audiences and community. We sing to enhance the esteem of all women, to celebrate diversity, to promote peace and freedom, and to touch people's hearts and lives.

## **Our Story**

Rainbow Women's Chorus is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation governed by the Action Circle, a group of women dedicated to realizing the organization's mission. Chorus members began singing together in 1996, presenting concerts in venues such as Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Le Petit Trianon Theatre, Triton Museum, and for Festival 2000, the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. The chorus also performs at church services, diversity celebrations, awards ceremonies, community meetings and private events.

Rainbow Women's Chorus is a member of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses and was the proud cohosts, with SVGMC, of GALA's Festival 2000 here in San Jose—ten days and over 5000 singers. RWC has since participated in GALA Festivals in 2004 (Montreal) and 2008 (Miami). In February 2006, members of RWC sang with a dozen other choruses at a benefit at Carnegie Hall in NYC, Timothy Selig conducting. In July 2010, members of RWC attended the Sister Singers Women's Choral Festival in Chicago.

## **Support the Arts**

Keep the Arts alive! Please support Rainbow Women's Chorus, Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus, Arts Council Silicon Valley, and other arts organizations with your generous donations. Visit [www.rainbowwomen.org](http://www.rainbowwomen.org), [www.svgmc.org](http://www.svgmc.org), and [www.ACSV.org](http://www.ACSV.org) for more information.



## **SVGMC Mission Statement**

The mission of the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus is to inspire our diverse community through musical excellence and collective pride.

### **Vision**

Transforming our global community through song.

### **Values**

We will always:

- Value the contributions of singers and non-singers to the organization
- Support continual improvement of our singers through individual practice, committed participation, and regular attendance
- Support sound organizational structure that includes fiscal solvency, open communication, and strong leadership
- Promote acceptance, justice, and equality for all in the community
- Reflect the diversity of our community through our music and membership without endorsing specific beliefs or views
- Provide a safe haven and fellowship for our members
- Perform with openness, visibility, and pride

### **Our History**

The Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus (SVGMC) was originally called the Liedermann Gay Men's Chorus of San Jose. A group of ten men formed the chorus on June 29, 1983. The chorus sang its first full-length performance under the direction of Robert B. Welton on June 16, 1984 as part of San Jose's Gay Pride Celebration.

### **The chorus' Artistic Directors have included:**

Robert Welton (1983-1984)

Buddy Symes (1994-2003)

Jim Clarke (1984-1986)

Daniel Hughes (2003-2008)

Dan Jepson (1986-1988)

D. Asa Stern (Interim Director, 2009)

Lynne McLaughlin (1988-1994)

Jonathan P. Ulrich (2009-2010)

The chorus has made numerous appearances in Silicon Valley as well as the GALA Festivals in 1989, 1992, 1996, 2000 (co-host), 2004 and 2008.

## RWC Singers

### Sopranos

Gloria Perkins  
Jan Blossom  
Karen Parker  
Marjorie Pearson  
PJ Turnham  
Ruth Huber\*  
Sari Van Otegham

### Altos

Betsy Wagner\*  
Donna Hazel  
Eileen Hamper  
Joanna De Sa  
Judy Kupfer  
Kim Wallace  
Laurie Pepin  
Laurie Willis  
Marnie Singer  
Sally Cooperrider

\* *Artistic Directors*

## SVGMC Singers

### Tenor 1

Kevin Brownstein†  
Eric Chong  
Jason Hough  
Jim Jimerson  
Alex Maldonado  
Lucio Ortiz†  
Ray Tovar†

### Baritone

Phil Boyer  
Leonard Cowan  
Stephen Crocker  
Dan England†  
Pete Levin  
Bill Weaver  
Mike White  
Peter Whitney

† *Outburst member*

### Tenor 2

Len Chandler  
Leo Chen  
Michael Dacoco†  
Dio Dandoy  
Simon Lau†  
Greg Melton  
Steve Narvasa  
John Prigeon

### Bass

Daniel Carlentine  
Dave Decot†  
Ken Gielow  
Ken Goldman  
Rey Lambatin  
Jamie Mumau†  
Theo Olson  
Charles Ryan  
Steve Weirauch

## Come sing with us!



Please check us out at [www.svgmc.org](http://www.svgmc.org) and send an email to [recruiting@svgmc.org](mailto:recruiting@svgmc.org) if you or someone you know is interested.

## The Fifth Section

The names that follow are of former members of the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus who have died. Over the years, each of them contributed in their own ways to the growth and success of our chorus, and for that, we honor their memories.

Bob Welton (Founder of SVGMC)

Michael Bryan

Mark Chapa

Jim Clarke

Peter Conroy

Will Cunningham

Marty Kirkland

Jeffrey Gentry

Larry Giordano

Ira Greene

Steve Merten

Raymond Rivera

Jerry White

Bob Stockman

Ben Threatt

Bob Yanas

## Concert Production Team

Bill McFarland	Kathy Cordova
Danni Mestaz	Kim Daniel
Don Jolly	Kim Wallace
Eileen Hamper	Laurie Pepin
Eric Chong	Laurie Willis
Eric Lipanovich	Lisa Cummings
Heather Hartter	Sari Van Otegham
Jason Hough	Tim Bair
Joan Byron	William Martin

## RWC Action Circle

(Board of Directors)

Kim Wallace, *President*  
Margaret Lindberg, *Vice President*  
Eileen Hamper, *Treasurer*  
Laurie Willis, *Secretary*  
Danni Mestaz, *At Large*  
Kim Daniel, *At Large*  
Donna Hazel, *At Large*  
Sari Van Otegham, *Advisor*

## RWC Support Staff

Booking: Jan Blossom  
Database: Marnie Singer  
Fundraising and Grants: Margaret Lindberg, Eileen Hamper, Donna Hazel  
Membership: Laurie Pepin  
Music Librarian: Gloria Perkins  
Tax Returns: Sally Cooperrider  
Wardrobe Mistress: Jan Blossom  
Bookkeeper\*: Stephanie Hancock  
Web manager\*: Greg Elmensdorp  
\* *Paid staff*

## SVGMC Support Staff

Kathy Cordova, General Manager  
Don Jolly, Bookkeeper  
George Liao, Webmaster  
Greg Melton, Marketing Director  
Charles Ryan, IT Support

## SVGMC Board Members

Stephen Crocker, President  
David Lang, Vice President  
Dan England, Secretary  
Don Jolly, Treasurer  
Richard Hall, At Large  
Bob McIntosh, At Large

## SVGMC Artistic Advisory Committee

Jason Hough  
Doug McGrath  
Greg Melton



In Loving Memory of  
**David Olin Melton**

Papa, I know you can hear me.  
Now it's time for you to watch me fly.

Your best little boy,  
Gregory William Melton

## A Message from our Artistic Directors

Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus was instrumental in founding Rainbow Women's Chorus in 1996, a bond forged even stronger by co-hosting GALA Festival 2000 in San Jose, and we have maintained a family connection ever since. But all families can drift apart, and unbelievably, we haven't sung together since June of 2004. So it is with great joy and a feeling of homecoming that we present "Together, Again!" The music we are singing reflects that joy, from the light-hearted "Together, Wherever We Go" to the stirring strains of "Stand Together."

For RWC, this concert tops off a season of collaboration, beginning with a benefit for Next Door Solutions in February, followed by participation in "Fanfare for Tradeswomen" with the Community Women's Orchestra in March. Our set features iconic songs from Shania Twain, *Glee*, and *Les Miz*, a passionate Tango, and a barbershop tribute to Fishing.

Wherever two or three are gathered together, drama ensues. So the SVGMC concert set looks at different approaches to what it means to be together. Whether it's proudly proclaiming our inner "Drama Queen" or working together to "Seize the Day" for equality. Or maybe it's how we see our way through a complicated relationship or how we might be exposed in a surprising way. And yet through it all, we are supporting each other over the troubled waters of life's journey.

It has been a privilege to work together. In our joint rehearsals, we have laughed, clapped, danced and raised our voices, kindling and renewing friendships. We have created a whole village and a sense of wholeness in our hearts, embodying Rumi's immortal words "The most living moment comes when those who love each other meet each other's eyes." We hope you all, every one, will share the joy.

*Ruth Huber      Betsy Wagner      Shawn Reifschneider*

Rainbow Women's Chorus thanks our granting organizations, Arts Council Silicon Valley and Horizons Foundation, for their continuing support.

We couldn't do this without their help.

**THANKS!**



**horizons foundation**

# A Message from the Presidents

Dear Friends of RWC and SVGMC:

Welcome to our joint concert, “Together Again.” We know you’ll enjoy this collaborative effort featuring the talents of both Choruses. It’s been about seven years since we’ve officially sung together, and in the words of many of our singers and audience, “It’s about time!” However, just in case any of you are concerned, none of us has aged one bit. :>)

We are pleased to thank our Artistic Directors—Ruth Huber and Betsy Wagner of RWC, and Shawn Reifschneider of SVGMC—for their contributions and of time and effort working together to develop this outstanding program. All are talented musicians and exceptional individuals. We are also very fortunate to have Kathy Disney and Doug McGrath as our accompanists. Just wait until you hear them perform together on one of our joint numbers! In addition, we would like to express our gratitude to SVGMC’s General Manager Kathy Cordova, for working above and beyond to efficiently supervise our concert and business operations. A special thank you goes to Eileen Hamper for designing this program for our joint concert. Thanks, also, to the many others who have made this concert possible.

We would also like to express our appreciation to Pastor Bea Chun and Christ the Good Shepherd Church. Both Pastor Bea and the Church are good friends and supporters of both RWC and SVGMC. They generously provide this beautiful church as a performance and rehearsal venue at an affordable cost.

After the show this evening, please complete an audience survey, even if you have done so previously. The survey provides important feedback about this performance as well as demographic information required for our grant applications. Return your completed survey to the reception table in the Fellowship hall and you will receive a free raffle ticket for a special drawing. We will also have raffle tickets for sale in the Fellowship hall—the top prize awarded at each concert will be an iPad 2. Buying raffle tickets not only provides you a chance to win great prizes but to support RWC and SVGMC as well. Also, be sure to purchase some delicious “rainbow” chocolates to commemorate the kickoff of summer, the pride season, or whatever occasion you can come up with, and know that proceeds will benefit both Choruses. Furthermore, please join us in the Fellowship hall for our reception after the concert where refreshments will be served.

Finally, thank you for attending this and previous performances of RWC and SVGMC. We appreciate your support not only in terms of buying tickets, but in volunteering, making donations and helping develop our organizations. Without you, none of this would be possible.

Sincerely,

*Kim Wallace*  
President,  
Rainbow Women’s Chorus

*Stephen Crocker*  
President,  
Silicon Valley Gay Men’s Chorus

# TOGETHER Again!

## **Together Wherever We Go** [SVGMC and RWC]

Words by Stephen Sondheim, music by Jule Styne, arranged by Jay Althouse

## **Fishing (With the Lesbians)** [RWC]

Words by Loraine Edwards and Ruth Huber, music by Ruth Huber

## **Tango** [RWC]

Words and music by Ken Berg

## **I Dreamed a Dream (from the musical “Les Misérables”)** [RWC]

Words by Alain Boublil, Jean-Marc Natel and Herbert Kretzmer,  
music by Claude-Michel Schönberg, arranged by Ed Lojeski

Solo: Karen Parker

## **Somebody to Love** [RWC]

Words and music by Freddie Mercury

Soloists: PJ Turnhan and Joanna De Sa

## **Man! I Feel Like a Woman** [RWC]

Words and music by Shania Twain and R. J. Lange, arranged by Roger Emerson

## **Build Me Up Buttercup** [Outburst]

Words and music by Mike d’Abo and Tony Macaulay, arranged by Galt Johnson

## **The Most Living Moment** [SVGMC and RWC]

Music by David Childs, translated by Coleman Barks from words by Sufi poet Rumi



## **Intermission**

Enjoy refreshments provided by the singers, their friends and family. Coffeecake has been generously donated by Hobee’s Restaurants. We also have some wonderful and interesting items for sale in the lobby—“I’m BiSectional” T-shirts, gourmet rainbow chocolates, CDs—think of Fathers Day and Pride gifts.

## Set 2

### **Ritmo** [SVGMC and RWC]

Words and music by Dan Davison

### **Drama Queen** [SVGMC]

Words and music by Eric Lane Barnes

Soloists: Theo Olson and Alex Maldonado

### **Seize the Day (from Walt Disney's musical "Newsies")** [SVGMC]

Words by Jack Feldman, music by Alan Menken, arranged by Roger Emerson

### **Sometimes When We Touch** [SVGMC]

Words by Dan Hill, music by Barry Mann, arranged by Mark Riese

### **Two, Too Wet** [SVGMC]

"Splish Splash" words and music by Bobby Darrin and Jean Murray

"Sea Cruise" words and music by Huey Smith.

Arranged by Jay Althouse

### **Pirate Song** [SVGMC]

Words and music by Tim Y. Jones

### **Bridge Over Troubled Water** [SVGMC]

Words and music by Paul Simon, arranged by Kirby Shaw

Solos: Simon Lau and Kevin Brownstein

### **Who We Are** [SVGMC and RWC]

Words and music by Ruth Huber

### **It Takes a Village** [SVGMC and RWC]

Words and music by Joan Szymko

Solos: Gloria Perkins, Lucio Ortiz, Antonio Mena and Ray Tovar

### **Stand Together** [SVGMC and RWC]

Words and music by Jim Papoulis



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## Additional Performance Credits

Piano accompanists: Kathy Disney and Doug McGrath      Bass: Jennifer Kambeitz

Percussion: Roddy Galli and Reece Disney      Choreography: Jason Hough and Betsy Wagner

## Program Notes

### **Together Wherever We Go**

Our concert opens with this upbeat Broadway classic from the musical, *Gypsy*, which expresses our delight at the opportunity to share the stage once again.

### **Fishing (with the Lesbians)**

Commissioned by Chicago's Artemis Singers, "Fishing (With the Lesbians)" is dedicated to the memory of one of its founding members, Michaeline Chvatal, who succumbed to breast cancer in 2008. "Mikey," as she was known to her many friends, was a tireless volunteer and participant in many community arts organizations. An avid member of Artemis' small barbershop ensemble, "Queertette," she also loved to dance, play poker and volleyball, and yes, go fishing...with the Lesbians.

### **Tango**

Solfège is a system for naming musical notes that dates back to the eleventh century. Most people will recognize the basic solfège syllables from *The Sound of Music*'s "Do-Re-Mi." Singers often use the syllables when learning to read music. The words to "Tango" are all in solfège, adding an educational component to this Argentinian-flavored dance melody.

### **I Dreamed a Dream**

From the Broadway musical *Les Misérables*, "I Dreamed a Dream" is a haunting lament, sung by the anguished, dying and impoverished Fantine, who thinks back to happier days and wonders at all that has gone wrong in her life. Susan Boyle's 2009 recording became a huge hit, especially in Ireland and Britain.

### **Somebody to Love**

The rock ballad "Somebody to Love" was first recorded by Queen on their 1976 album, *A Day at the Races*. Influenced by

Aretha Franklin, the song has a gospel feel and speaks of love and faith. The song became popular again after appearing on an episode of television's *GLEE* in 2009. We bring you the *GLEE* arrangement featuring solo voices with the whole chorus singing backup.

### **Man! I Feel Like a Woman**

Shania Twain's performance of the sassy "Man! I Feel Like a Woman" won her a Grammy in 2000. It also helped her secure a contract with cosmetics company Revlon, which used the tune in TV ads featuring Twain. The song has also been performed by others, including Carrie Underwood and Britney Spears.

### **Build Me Up Buttercup**

"Build Me Up Buttercup" was released by The Foundations with Colin Young singing the lead vocals in 1968. The song has been re-recorded many times, and has been featured in a number of movies. This version was arranged by longtime SVGMC friend Galt Johnson.

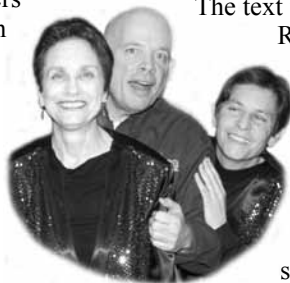
### **The Most Living Moment**

The text for this piece is from a poem by Rumi, a thirteenth-century Persian Islamic writer and mystic. The poem begins: "The most living moment comes when those who love each other meet each other's eyes" and continues by describing the depths of a loving relationship that contains both scolding and laughter. The lush musical setting is by contemporary composer David N. Childs.

### **Ritmo**

"Ritmo" is an energetic and complex piece for choir, two pianists, and hand percussion. The Spanish text translates as:

*"Rhythm. Clap your hands to the rhythm. Capably. Clap your hands to the rhythm. Sing in joyful chorus with love and hope. We will sing in rhythm. We will sing in chorus. We will sing in rhythm. Lift your voices (all the voices.) Life your heart*



*with musical instruments. We will sing of freedom and love. Make harmony. Let's go sing and play. All voices, all people – capably, with all voices, with instruments, with hope and with rhythm. Clap your hands to the rhythm. Clap your hands with all the people, with all voices, with happiness, and with joy. We will sing with joy, with love and hope. We will sing of peace. We will sing of love. We will sing with happiness and with joy. Rhythm. ”*

### **Drama Queen**

Composer Eric Lane Barnes is Assistant Artistic Director of Seattle Men's Chorus, the largest men's chorus in the country. In "Drama Queen", the chorus bewails everything that has happened since the moment of birth. Perhaps our rendition will spark a glimmer of recognition for the drama queens we know and love.

### **Seize the Day**

"Seize the Day" is from *Newsties*, Walt Disney's 1992 film musical, loosely based on the true story of the New York newspaper boy strike of 1899. The uplifting part of this tale focuses on a group of young newspaper sellers who decide to take a stand. SVGMC singers have personally embraced it, some hear in it the current struggle for marriage equality, some about the problem of bullying in our society, and some the struggle for the right to just gather together as gay men.

### **Sometimes When We Touch**

"Sometimes When We Touch" was a hit single for lyricist Dan Hill in 1978. Since then it has been recorded by many popular singers, and took hold internationally. It speaks to honesty, fear, and intimacy.

### **Two, Too Wet**

This wet and wonderful piece is a medley of two water-related rock and roll hits: "Splish Splash" and "Sea Cruise."

### **Pirate Song**

This song premiered April 2006 by the University of Colorado Golden Buffalo Men's Chorus: "because sometimes you just need to say 'Arrrr'."

### **Bridge over Troubled Water**

"Bridge over Troubled Water" is the title song of Simon & Garfunkel's album of the same name, released in 1970. It held the #1 spot on the Billboard charts for six weeks. It inspires us to be there for one another as we encourage each other never to give up in our life's journey.

### **Who We Are**

"Who We Are" was inspired by a talk given by Buddhist meditation teacher, Tara Brach. She described how we develop false identities that mask our natural beauty and wholeness, and explored how we can transcend these illusions to glimpse the "presence and love that is peering through." Originally a solo song, this arrangement of "Who We Are" was written by Ruth Huber for the Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church Choir.



### **It Takes a Village**

Composer Joan Szymko based this song on the West African saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." The piece consists of several very different parts layered upon one another, all working together to make the whole, to create the joyful spirit that arises in celebration of the growth of a child.

### **Stand Together**

Composer Jim Papoulis wrote this piece at a Choral Music Experience conference in 2005. He notes that song expresses the spirit of the event: "striving together towards a goal; encouragement for the individual and the group; exploration of unique inner strengths that make the whole more viable, more vibrant." The Celtic flavor was inspired by singer Noirin ni Riain.

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Richard Huffine

Andrew Irish

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