



SAN DIEGO WOMEN'S CHORUS ANNUAL PRIDE CONCERT

UNSHAKEABLE



THURSDAY, JULY 17 - 2025

University Christian Church



SAN DIEGO
PRIDE

An Official
San Diego Pride
Event

SDWC.ORG

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SAN DIEGO
WOMEN'S CHORUS
EST 1987

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GALA
CHORUSES



ARTISTIC TEAM



Kathleen Hansen | Artistic Director

Kathleen Hansen leads with passion, precision, and a deep commitment to community and inclusion. A respected conductor, educator, and vocal coach, Kathleen has directed the chorus since 2014, helping it grow artistically and organizationally. She also serves as Master Director of the San Diego Chorus of Sweet Adelines International, GALA 411 Artistic Advisor, and Sweet Adelines International Faculty. Kathleen holds degrees in music education and conducting from San Diego State University and is currently pursuing her Doctorate of Musical Arts at Boston University. A sought-after clinician and mentor, she is also the creator of *Vocal Warmups with Kathleen*, a vocal warm-up app and YouTube channel. Her work reflects her belief in the transformative power of music-making and group singing. In June 2025, she conducted members from San Diego Women's Chorus at Carnegie Hall.



Calieanne Grossheim Assistant to the Artistic Director

A Florida native, Calieanne Grossheim's lifelong love of singing led her to earn degrees in vocal performance and choral conducting. Since moving to Southern California in 2021, Calieanne has become an active member of San Diego's vibrant choral community. She serves as the Assistant Director of the San Diego Women's Chorus and sings with San Diego's premiere professional choral ensemble, SACRA/PROFANA.

She was recently appointed the Assistant Director of Worship Ministry at The Village Church, where she works with singers of all ages. Recent solo engagements include soprano soloist for *Handel's Messiah* with La Jolla Symphony and Chorus and Village Community Chorale, and soprano soloist for *Bernstein's Chichester Psalms* and *Mendelssohn's Hear My Prayer*, also with Village Community Chorale.

Her husband, Colton, is active duty Navy and they love spending time outdoors with their two rambunctious children, Dilly and Jude.



Tim McKnight | Accompanist

Tim, a professional musician and educator, originally hails from the Midwest where he received his Bachelors in Music Education and his Masters in Accompanying and Vocal Coaching from the University of Illinois @ Urbana-Champaign. He now lives in San Diego where he is a private piano teacher, choral director, accompanist, vocal coach and music director.

Tim has been honored to be the accompanist for San Diego Women's Chorus since 2022. In addition to his work with SDWC, Tim is the Artistic Director of San Diego's *Encore Vocal Ensemble*, a position he has held since 2012. He is also in his 21st year as the Director of Music at Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Escondido.

Tim has been a part-time faculty/staff member at University of San Diego, San Diego State University and Mira Costa College. He has received three *National Youth Arts Awards* for Outstanding Music Direction.

PRODUCTION

ARTISTIC TEAM

Artistic Director
Kathleen Hansen

**Assistant to the
Artistic Director**
Calieanne Grossheim

Accompanist
Tim McKnight

PRODUCTION COMMITTEE

Shelly McMorrow
Margaret TapiaFleck
Lisa An
Cathy Burgess
Cortney Cloud
Kari Evenson
Kris Larsen
Vicky MacKenzie
Adriana Mulla-Carrillo
Alexia Palladino
Harumi Parnell
Emily Whitney

AUDIO-VISUAL TEAM

Lesley Brogan
Elizabeth Halbo
LilyAnn Halbo
Judy Medina
Rajitha Narreddy
Carrie Schneider
Emma Shea
Margaret TapiaFleck
Elle Winsett

CHOREOGRAPHY

Anna Massey

CONCERT SUPPORT

Marketing
Kim Jenks

Graphic Design
Photography
Eric Carroll

ASL Interpreter
Carla Warnock

MUSICIANS

Piano
Tim McKnight

Drums
Laurel Grinnell

Bass Guitar
Andrew McRory

Violin
Yening Tan

Violin
Harumi Parnell

SUPPORTERS

Maestro

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Suzi Reagan-Harlow
Steven Townsend
Glenn Ward

Fortissimo

Randy Clark
Carolyn Forte
Michelle Kirby
Tom Maddox
Bill Norcross
Amanda Smith
Patricia Stepanek

Crescendo

Timothy Brouillette
Cynthia Carson
Karen Kaufman
Dawn Levy McMorro
Sue Reynolds
Louise Titlow

Forte

Peggy Best
Justin Biermann
Penelope & Michael Bolger
Ellen Brown
Lisette Cauchon
Timothy Deuel
Terese Farnen
Barbara Gilman
Melissa Hansen
Karen Hesley
Judith Jamison
Diane Montondo
Barbara Morton
Carrie Schneider
Tracy Stone
Emily Stout
Barbara Vick
Pat Wilson
Giovanna Zerbi

Marcato

Liz Bean
Ellen Bevier
Vanessa Ferrantelli
Carol Moorefield
Christine Pistek

SPONSORSHIP

We greatly appreciate all of our guests, sponsors, volunteers, and in-kind donors. If you have questions about ways you can support SDWC, email

Trish Stepanek or **Linda Ullrich** at fundraising@sdwc.org or visit www.sdwc.org/donate.



*The San Diego Women's Chorus is a 501(c)(3)
non-profit organization Tax ID 33-0683961*

CHORUS MEMBERS

Soprano 1

Autumn Askew^^
Laurel Bernstein**~
Ellen Brown
Cortney Cloud^
Angelica Eclar
Lauren Gripenstraw+
Charley Sparkle Lapomardo^
Patricia Law#~
Jacque Lawrence
Alden Maynor~
Emily Park
Jillian Parramore^
Carol Reagan-Harlow
Madeline Sheppard-Marvin^^
Scarlett Solano^+
Meredith Watt^+
Emily Whitney

Soprano 2

Sam Alberts^^
Lisa An^^
Michele Botz^^
Jessi Estrin
Kari Evenson
Ness Ferrantelli^^
Carolyn Forte^
Jess Foster~+
Ananda Gray-Stewart+
LilyAnn Halbo^^+
Juliet Howard#~
Eleanor Hughes^
Shelly McMorrow^^
Diane Montondo^
Adriana Mulla-Carrillo~
Katie Nelson^
Courtney Ocheltree^
Harumi Parnell**^^
Jane Peterson
Malloree Philhower
Hannah Schmidt~
Anjali Vaidya
Pat Wilson
Elle Winsett^

Alto 1

San San Blain
Cathy Burgess^
Lisette Cauchon~
Vickie Cottle
Karen Kaufman
Carolyn Kimmel
Suzanna Krivulskaya
Christine Lindgren+
Vicky MacKenzie^^
Jenny Mai
Joelee Pasztor^^
Carin Scheinin^^
Emma Shea
Janani Siva-Guldner^^
Amanda Smith*^+
Colleen Smith
Grace Smith
Jen White

Alto 2

Anna Banana Berger-Graham~
Jenn Boaz^
Lesley Brogan
Preethi Chaudhari
Luisa de Jesus
Marley Erdman^+
Elizabeth Halbo^^+
Rae Henderson-Gray~
Mary Klann^
Kara Kuvakas^
Kris Larsen
Anna Massey
Judy Medina^
Rajitha Narreddy#^^+
Alexia Palladino^
Carrie Schneider**~
Jacks Sears
Amanda Stennick^^
Hannah Street#~
Margaret TapiaFleck
Ann Yenne^^

Current Non-Singing/ Leave of Absence Members

Kelly DeMello
Judith Jamison
Michelle Kirby
Dawn McMorrow
Jenn Palmer
Kate Perkins
Polly Ryan
Mele Sato
June Smiley
Jessica Voytek

* Section Leader

Section Manager

~ On Children Ensemble

+ Seasons of Love Ensemble

^ What Was I Made For Ensemble

WANT TO SING WITH US?



Each year SDWC produces three major concerts - in fall, spring, and summer - and two smaller cabaret nights, as well as performing at multiple community events throughout San Diego County. We sing music from a wide variety of musical styles, including contemporary choral, pop, Broadway, and standard choral repertoire. We focus on singing music from the women's, feminist, and LGBTQ+ choral movements, seeking out high quality and meaningful music from queer composers, showcasing music by and for women, and highlighting music that represents our mission to encourage creativity, celebrate diversity, and inspire social action. To buy tickets to any of our concerts or cabaret nights, visit www.sdw.org.

Volunteer With Us - We encourage anyone to join our diverse, social justice-minded community as non-singing volunteers and board members.

Connect With Us - If you are interested in singing or serving as a volunteer, please contact membership@sdwc.org. If you are interested in having us sing at your event, please contact community@sdwc.org.

Sing With Us - While our lesbian roots are fundamental to the identity and legacy of SDWC, we welcome women, gender non-conforming, non-binary, and transgender individuals who sing in the Soprano/Alto (treble) range. We provide a safe, welcoming space for singers of all ages to come together where their voices will be honored and heard. The only requirements are the ability to match pitch to piano, hold one's part in a group, and dedication to our mission.

Through musical expression, the San Diego Women's Chorus encourages creativity, celebrates diversity, and inspires social action.

Visit www.sdw.org/join-sdw or email membership@sdwc.org



UNSHAKEABLE



ACT ONE

Singing for Our Lives

Words and Music by Holly Near

Water Fountain

*Words and Music by Nathaniel Brenner
and Merrill Garbus
Arranged by Kristopher Fulton*

On the Mountain

*Traditional Ukranian Song
Arranged by Donald Patriquin*

What Was I Made For

*Words and Music by Billie Eilish
O'Connell and Finneas O'Connell
Arranged by Andy Beck*

Soloists: Courtney Ocheltree,
Charley Sparkle Lapomardo

Seasons of Love (from Rent)

*Words and Music by Jonathan Larson
Arranged by Roger Emerson*

I Am Willing

*Words and Music by Holly Near
Arranged by Steve Milloy*
Soloists: Charley Sparkle Lapomardo,
Elizabeth Halbo, Eleanor Hughes,
Rae Henderson-Gray

Banned Together

Words and Music by Pax Ressler

ACT TWO

Fire

Words and Music by Katerina Gimon

The Village

*Words and Music by Andrew Pearson,
Andrew Jackson and Stephen Wrabel
Arranged by Ash*

On Children

*Words by Kahlil Gibran
Music by Ysaïe M. Barnwell*

Not Ready to Make Nice

*Words and Music by Emily Robison,
Martie Maguire, Natalie Maines
and Dan Wilson
Arranged by Chad Weirick*

Standing Stone

*Words and Music by
Melanie DeMore*

Pink Pony Club

*Words and Music by Daniel Nigro
and Kayleigh Rose Amstutz
Arranged by Mike Bierschenk*

THANK YOU

Intermission

PROGRAM NOTES

Holly Near wrote ***Singing for Our Lives*** after hearing the news of the assassination of San Francisco City Supervisor Harvey Milk, a champion of gay rights. She and a friend were driving to the city to be part of the vigil that was taking place, and while driving, Near began humming the notes that would become the song. By the time they arrived in San Francisco, she had written two verses. The song grew and morphed, becoming an LGBTQ+ anthem that still resonates today.

Water Fountain explores themes of societal infrastructure decay and anxiety over the lack of resources, particularly drinkable water, through a childlike, yet dark, lens. According to Mother Jones, the song was inspired by a walk around Lake Merritt in Oakland, where Merrill Garbus noticed a poorly maintained water fountain and began contemplating the consequences of neglecting public works. This piece brings together a fusion of musical styles, and has been described as a sonic collage that weaves together the social, political and personal strands of our time. With a vibrant mix of afrobeat, indie pop, and avant-garde, this tUnE-yArDs' song speaks to environmental decay, economic disparities, and a thirst for change.

On The Mountain is a beautiful and compelling traditional Ukrainian love song that became the focus of an unusual joint fund-raising project, SING FOR UKRAINE!!! between earthsongs Choral Music and arranger Donald Patriquin. In early 2022, the invasion of Ukraine was gaining in intensity and most of the world was reeling in sheer shock. Patriquin was inspired to arrange this song. Instead of payment, he asked that the choral director who requested the piece make a payment to a credible organization that was responding to the situation in Ukraine. It grew to a non-profit collaboration with earthsongs that still supports the effort today.

Billie Eilish's song ***What Was I Made For*** plays at the end of the Barbie movie, a stark contrast to the rest of its upbeat soundtrack. As it plays, Barbie transforms from doll to woman, experiencing a wide range of human emotions for the first time. Eilish has shared that the character's anxieties about losing her innocence and facing uncertainty echo her own struggles about finding her purpose in life.

Seasons of Love is perhaps the most iconic song from the musical Rent. It reminds us that in a world bound by the rigid schedules of clocks and calendars, we can also measure our lives by abstract concepts like experiences and love – counting the qualitative over the quantifiable.

Holly Near sang ***I Am Willing*** at a rally outside the White House in May 2006. Cindy Sheehan and numerous groups including Gold Star Families for Peace, AfterDowningStreet, Democracy Rising, Code Pink, and Traprock Peace Center, brought a petition to the gates of the White House. The petition called on the Bush administration to not attack Iran; it was signed by over 40,000 people.

Banned Together by trans composer Pax Ressler urges everyone to stand up for the beliefs and rights that others are trying to suppress – to band together against the banned.

Katerina Gimon's ***Fire*** comes from a set of choral works titled Elements. The energetic music incorporates body percussion, colorful timbres, and unique vocal calls to embody the sound and feeling of fire.

When Wrabel first wrote his stirring song ***The Village***, he didn't intend to share the track with anyone beyond the two trans fans who'd inspired it by telling him their story. At their insistence, he did release the track, and it's since taken on a life of its own. Since its debut in 2017, it has become

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PROGRAM NOTES

Continued from Previous

an anthem for the LGBTQ+ community. Between YouTube and TikTok, a growing number of young queer people are finding the track and resonating with its hopeful message, and the knowledge they are not alone in their journeys.

On Children sets music to poetry from *The Prophet* (1932), a book by Lebanese-American author Kahlil Gibran. The original gospel-hymn version was recorded by Sweet Honey in the Rock in the 1980s. The poem contemplates parenthood and how future generations are shaped.

Not Ready to Make Nice is a country-pop power ballad released by The Chicks in response to the brutal criticism and backlash the band faced after expressing opposition to the war in Iraq. In the song, The Chicks refuse to apologize for their past and shed light on the ways that society weaponizes hate to vilify those that go against the status quo.

In a world filled with chaos and uncertainty, Melanie DeMore's ***Standing Stone*** is a pillar of strength and a call to support each other. Its words are simple: I will be your standing stone; I will stand by you.

Chappell Roan was inspired to write ***Pink Pony Club*** after visiting the Abbey, a gay bar in West Hollywood. Having grown up in a small town in Missouri, she stated that "visiting the bar was the first time I could truly be myself and not be judged." It was eye-opening and changed her outlook and direction. She was particularly enthralled by the go-go dancers and brought her experience to life in this campy pop song.

SAVE THE DATES

Our Next Cabaret

Sept 13, 2025

"Still Here, Still Queer"

Vision: Center for Spiritual Learning

Fall 2025

Weekend of Nov. 21-23

Venue to be Announced

Spring 2026

Weekend of April 18-19

The Joan at Liberty Station

Summer 2026

July Pride Week

Venue to be Announced

Fall 2026

A Pauli Murray Commission

Weekend of Nov 7-8

The Joan at Liberty Station



www.sdwc.org

Help Us *Rise* to the Occasion

The San Diego Women's Chorus is growing, and so are our needs. As we settle into our new performance home at ***The Joan and Irwin Jacobs Performing Arts Center***, we're excited to continue creating unforgettable musical moments with you.

To meet the demands of this beautiful new venue and support our expanding chorus, we are launching a campaign to raise **\$40,000 for new risers** - a critical investment in our future performances.

Help us kick off the campaign today!

All donations made today will go towards our new risers! Your support helps us sing stronger, stand taller, and shine brighter.

Make a contribution



Scan the QR code

or visit: www.sdwc.org/donate

Thank you for helping us elevate our sound and our stage.

