

HOLIDAY CONCERT 2022

STARS A GALAXY of SONG

DR. STAN HILL ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
KURT JORDAN PRINCIPAL ACCOMPANIST

DECEMBER 10 AT 7 PM
DECEMBER 11 AT 3 PM
PALM SPRINGS CULTURAL CENTER



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Men

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Welcome!



Welcome back to Modern Men's Holiday Concert! On behalf of the Chorus and the Board of Directors, I want to thank you for your continued support of Modern Men. This year our theme is *Stars: A Galaxy of Song*, which showcases a variety of works with astral connections.

We welcome you, we thank you and we are grateful that you are here, whether it is your first Modern Men concert or you have been to every single performance. We enjoy bringing you all types of music, and perhaps some music you have never heard before. We hope that this concert puts you in a holiday mood to celebrate with your chosen family.

As the Chorus' new President, I appreciate the opportunity to connect with each one of you and show our appreciation. After all, without your support and wonderful applause, we would be singing in an empty room – and that's no fun! You truly are the "Stars" that allow us to shine.

Dennis Chase

Board President, Modern Men

P.S. In case you're wondering why I'm wearing a holiday *Jeopardy!* sweater, I was a two-day Champion in 2021. It's one of the most exciting moments of the last few years.



OUR MISSION

Modern Men: Coachella Valley Men's Chorus promotes harmony through outstanding performances, entertains and empowers our audiences, and embraces diversity through community outreach.

I love "themed" concerts – performances where the repertoire is informed by and uses imagery from a single idea. Our presentation today is based on the theme "Stars." Yes, the Holidays reference stars many times in many ways. But in exploring this theme, I was delighted to discover how many different and unique ways that various composers and lyricists have employed the term. I hope you enjoy the myriad reflections on our heavenly sparklers.

But I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to express the chorus' and my sincere appreciation for your ongoing support of Modern Men. Whether through your purchase of a ticket to attend our concerts, your outstanding generosity in supporting this wonderful group of men or helping our organization to emerge from the Pandemic financially sound and ready to sing. Thank you to each and every one of you!

And lastly, a teaser... Barry Manilow has been a decades-long influencer in so many ways – by creating many of our favorite songs – and also with his incredible philanthropy and support of music in schools. In April of 2023, we will pay tribute to this monumental musician and humanitarian by presenting **MANILOW! Music That Makes the Whole World Sing**. You'll leave the theater humming all your favorite Barry songs and reliving that special moment when you first heard them.

And now, we are pleased to present **Stars: A Galaxy of Song** and wish for each of you a joyous and wonderful Holiday Season.

Dr. Stan Hill

Artistic Director

Modern Men: Coachella Valley Men's Chorus

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Dr. Stan Hill ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Kurt Jordan PRINCIPAL ACCOMPANIST

TENOR 1

Jay Baumgartner#
Daniel Catalon
Heath Richard#
Jim Kingslan
Mike Lukschu
Rich Meyers#
Van L. Neel
Adam Ramirez
Dan Tempas
Daniel Walthall
Justin Wicker

TENOR 2

Stephane Brochet
Larry Bye
Chris Cochran
Richard Elander*
Gabe Evaristo
Ken Forney#
Gregg Glaviano#
David Hubbard
Stephen Jaeger
Danny Kopelson#
Mitchell Laks#
Sal Lanza#
Randy W. Lerner
Mel McElree
Johnnie G. McKinley#
Ken Peek
Amarin (Niki) Ratanarat
Michael Richerson
Armand J. Rouleau#

BARITONE

Curtis Anderson#
Allan Arnaboldi
Alexei Barnes
Frank C. Cacciola
Bill Ciffairy
Keith M. Cornell
Tom DeRemer
Mark Duebner
Larry Dunlop
Donald Gardenier#
Jim Gnaster
Ian Hartzel-Russell
Charles Herbert
Jerry Hipps#
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Raul Ramiro Valenzuela

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Dennis Chase
John Corr*
Wade Cox
Alan Denny#
Scott Ellinwood#
Eduardo Fresquez, Jr.
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Leave of Absence

Biographies



Dr. Stan Hill ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Since joining Modern Men as Artistic Director in August, 2016, and in his 53rd year conducting, Dr. Stan Hill brings to Coachella Valley audiences his witty, humanistic and iconoclastic approach to choral music and conducting. Well known in choral circles nationally, Stan served for 11 years as Artistic Director of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and then for 12 years as Artistic Director of

Minnesota's Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus before moving to Palm Springs in 2012. A dynamic conductor, arranger, clinician and vocal coach, Stan's career spans the entire spectrum of elementary, secondary, university, church and community choruses. He has conducted every configuration of vocal ensemble and chorus with every combination of instrumentation from small ensembles to full symphony orchestras. Dr. Hill has commissioned and premiered some of the most successful music in the gay men's chorus repertoire, including *NakedMan*, *Exile*, *ExtrABBAganza*, *Misbehavin'!*, *Metamorphosis*, *Through a Glass*, *Darkly*, *The Kushner Trilogy* and *MOMENTum*. Modern Men just released their first in-studio recording for our CD of that new commission, *MOMENTum*. He has produced 13 CDs, several videos, and has written countless arrangements for men's choruses. In 2012, Hill was honored with GALA Choruses' highest accolade: The Lifetime Achievement Award. In July 2016 Stan conducted the 20th Anniversary performance of *NakedMan* with over 350 singers and full orchestra for the Opening Blockbuster Concert of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA) conference in Denver. In October 2016 Stan was honored by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus with the title Conductor Laureate for the work he did to make SFGMC the extraordinary ensemble it is today, and for his tireless efforts for the chorus and community during the worst days of the AIDS pandemic. A native of Southern California, Stan earned his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees, both in conducting, from California State University, Fullerton, where he studied under noted choral directors Harold Decker and David Thorsen. He earned his PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, completing his dissertation on Laryngeal Physiology. He is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and the American Choral Directors Association.



Kurt Jordan PRINCIPAL ACCOMPANIST

Kurt developed an intense interest in learning the piano after having seen *The Phantom of the Opera* with his parents at age 10. He studied under the guidance of Joann Algier throughout middle and high school, during which time he discovered a love of music using multiple pianos. This passion was further explored at Azusa Pacific University while studying with Dr. Robert Sage. Kurt performed several recitals of material he arranged for two and three pianos, the recordings of which have received radio play in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Boston, Austin and Beirut. In 2009,

Kurt had the honor of performing the West Coast premiere of Alvin Curran's 7.5 hour long piano song cycle, *Inner Cities 1-13*, as well as the U.S. premiere of movement 14 at *Burning Man* in 2013. Kurt graduated from Azusa Pacific University in 2010 with a BA in Music Theory and Composition. He is involved as accompanist for many musical organizations throughout the Coachella Valley including: Met to Broadway, the Cathedral City High School Chamber Singers, College of the Desert and Green Room Theatre. Kurt is the Principal Accompanist for Modern Men and Desert Outreach Synagogue. Kurt has also composed several large-scale works for piano solo, a song cycle for piano and soprano and most recently, a piano sonata.



Tom McGillis SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER

This season is Tom's fifth as the American Sign Language interpreter for Modern Men and is a freelance interpreter working throughout the Coachella Valley. Tom was the sign language interpreter for the New York City Gay Men's Chorus from 1988 until 2016. His other interpreting credits include *The Rocky Horror Show* and *Those Musclebound Cowboys of Snake Pit Gulch*, both at the Desert Rose Playhouse, *Forever Plaid* at the Paper Mill Playhouse (Millburn, NJ), *The Christmas Revels* at Symphony Space in New York City, and several productions with the Very Special Arts Theater Company and at the George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick, NJ. Tom has also voice interpreted signed performances, including *Progress* at the Hudson Guild Theater in New York City and Handstone Productions' *Anna and Danilo*. He is a graduate of the New York Society for the Deaf's interpreter training program and studied artistic interpreting at the Juilliard School in New York City. Tom has served on advisory boards and panels to help increase access, particularly in employment and the arts. He has presented workshops for the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA) on issues in interpreting choral performances. Tom also has had a long career in human resources, serving most recently as Vice President, HR for an international marketing research company. He moved to Palm Springs from New York in 2016 with chorus member Donald Gardenier, his husband of 32 years.



Ron Wheeler PRODUCER

Ron has been involved in singing, acting and production since he was a child. He started in the world of theater as a child in productions for Junior University in San Bernardino performing in *The Wizard of Oz* and *Pinocchio*. As a teenager he became involved with San Bernardino Civic Light Opera learning from professionals in the back of the house as well as front of house. As an adult he has played many leading roles such as Harry Roat in *Wait Until Dark*, Garry Lejeune in *Noises Off*, Jed in *Fifth of July*, Charlie Brown in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, Mayor Shinn in *The Music Man*, the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz*, Angie in *Gypsy* as well as credits for choreography and direction in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Gypsy*. Ron was previously the producer for the Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus as well as Harmonic Voices. He has been the producer for Modern Men since 2016.



Michelle Fiore GUEST VOCALIST

Award-winning Soprano, Michelle Fiore, is the Desert Theater League's "Best Supporting Actress in a Cabaret" award recipient for her role as Carlotta in *Phantom of the Opera*. She is the 2018 Audience Favorite and Second Place winner at McCallum's Open Call Talent Project. She sings with many chamber groups throughout the Coachella Valley, including the newly formed from Met to Broadway, and in several churches as well as Desert Outreach Synagogue. She is the soloist for Palm Desert Christian Science church. Ms. Fiore has several solo projects in the works including a French chansons concert in the Spring 2023. Ms. Fiore worked on her Artist Diploma at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and completed her Masters degree at the Manhattan School of Music. She received her Bachelor's from Virginia Commonwealth University. She has performed the role of Lisaveta in *A Month in the Country* and La Fee in *Cendrillon*, The Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute*, Soeur Constance in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, and Beatriz in *Christopher Columbus*. Ms. Fiore is a Special Education Teacher and Orthopedic Impairment Teacher at Katherine Finchy Elementary where she uses her music as a tool to teach students with disabilities.

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MOMENTUM

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MOMENTum
Music by Robert Seeley and Lyrics based on the
writings of Robert Espindola (1952-2016)
Together We Rise (6:01)
Anything Is Possible (5:20)
Sing Me A Day (3:21)
Company of Friends (2:14)
Unforgotten (4:52)
Love Once Came Along (5:20)
We Are One Voice (5:21)

BONUS TRACKS
If Music Be the Food of Love (4:38)
Love's Gift (3:15)
Flight Song (3:34)
Let the Music Play (3:16)

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Ticket sales provide only a fraction of the income necessary to keep our beloved organization running. Our major expenses include staff salaries, hiring musicians, securing venues, marketing, and member expenses, such as tuxedos for those members who may not be able to afford a new suit.

Your generosity through a tax-deductible donation would help us "keep the lights" on! Please consider making a donation. You can use the QR code below or go to www.modernmen.org/support-us.

Donations can also be made by mail:
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Your generosity is what helps us promote harmony through outstanding performances, entertaining and empowering our audiences, and embracing diversity through our community outreach.



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Best of luck and continued success! Jerry & Steve

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Rehearsal Accompanist	Kurt Jordan
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Sound Design	Props AV
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Spotlight Operator	Donald Garndenier
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Acknowledgements

The kindness and generosity of so many make the success of **MODERN MEN** possible. Our sincere appreciation to:

United Methodist Church of Palm Springs
Jane Voigts, Pastor; Pamela Hill, Office + Campus Coordinator

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Executive Director: Michael C. Green
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Desert Winds Freedom Band for the use of their stage platforms.

Butch Zein, ASL coach

Tom Batok and Tom Skok for storing our Online Auction items in their home for six-plus months and for their assistance with the auction.

Mitch Laks for securing and managing our all-day rehearsals at the Four Seasons Clubhouse in Palm Springs.

Rick James for copying the rehearsal CDs.

Peter Luiz for lending us the vests and hats for our lobby personnel.

Rod Wood, photographer

A special thank you for this Holiday Concert goes out to Jerald Miller and Richard Phillips, from the Modern Men Board of Directors and the Chorus Membership. They have not only been generous with their support of Modern Men, but have consistently found ways to promote and invigorate the Chorus this entire season. They have truly made the Chorus a better experience for both members and concertgoers, and we thank them for their innovative ideas and their energy.



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Holiday Concert 2022

STARS A GALAXY of SONG

ACT ONE

It's the Holiday Season _____ Kay Thompson

Stars I Shall Find _____ David C. Dickau

Spirit of the Season from *The Polar Express* _____ Alan Silvestri

The Prayer _____ Music by David Foster, Lyrics by Carole Bayer Sager

Night of Silence/Silent Night _____ Daniel Kantor/Franz Gruber
Bill Ciffairy, featured ASL interpreter

Lunar Lullaby _____ Music by Jacob Narverud, Lyrics by Kathleen Nicely

Jesu Bambino _____ Pietro Yon
Michelle Fiore, soprano

Follow Your Star _____ Arranged by Robert Seeley
Soloists: Jim Gnaster (Saturday), Chris Cochran (Sunday)

INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

Our Stockings _____ Arranged by Robert Seeley

You Are My Star _____ Robert Seeley

Somewhere Out There _____ Barry Mann, Cynthia Weil & James Horner

Sure on this Shining Night _____ Morton Lauridsen

To Where You Are _____ Richard Marx and Linda Thompson

Starlelujah Chorus _____ Adapted by SK Hill

A Broadway/Hollywood Christmas _____ Arranged by Wayne Love

Sing a Christmas Carol by David Maddox

That's What I'd Like for Christmas from *Pickwick*

Music by Cyril Ornadel, Lyrics by Leslie Bricusse

Lovers on Christmas Eve from *I Love My Wife*

Music by Cy Coleman, Lyrics by Michael Stewart

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas from *Meet Me in St. Louis*

Music & Lyrics by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane

*It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas/Pine Cones and Holly
Berries* from *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York* by Meredith Willson

Silver Bells from *The Lemon-drop Kid*

Music & Lyrics by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans

Christmas Child from *Irma la Douce*

Music by Marguerite Monno, Lyrics by Alexandre Breffort

We Need a Little Christmas from *Mame* by Jerry Herman

Soloist: Michelle Fiore, soprano

Why We Sing _____ Greg Gilpin

Song Dedications

IT'S THE HOLIDAY SEASON

*For Unto Us a Son is Born
Unto Us A Son Is Given
And His Name Shall Be Called
Wonderful Counselor
The Prince Of Peace!
A Joyous Christmas and Happy Holidays to
the beauty of Modern Men and their Song!*
– Carl Stevens & Tommy Steenson

STARS I SHALL FIND

*A nuestra brillante estrella, Consuela Enríquez,
amada esposa, madre y abuela. ¡Gracias
por tu amor guía! ¡Y feliz cumpleaños, John;
¡Te amamos!”*
– Dr. E. David Jansing

SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

*This song is dedicated to our three grandkids—
Dani, Brady, and Ellie—who make every day
a holiday when visiting their Papa and Papi.
Oh, how they make our hearts sing!*
– Larry Bye

THE PRAYER

*In loving memory of Jimmy White, who is
my eternal light. I will always remember my
Chorus Little Brother, and my dearest friend.*
– Craig Gotfried

NIGHT OF SILENCE/SILENT NIGHT

In Memorium.
– Peter B. Kostrobala

LUNAR LULLABY

*In remembrance of my fellow first tenors of
the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC:
Rob Wonneberger, Rob Rexroth and Jim Moore.*
– Van L. Neel

FOLLOW YOUR STAR

To Tom DeRemer, my very own shining star!
– Richard Street

OUR STOCKINGS

*I dedicate this song to my amazing husband
Steve and sister-in-law Susanna. Their parents
tore up and threw away their parent cards
on account of Steve being gay and Susanna's
daughter, their granddaughter, being lesbian.
Through the betrayal of their parents and
not being welcomed home, they have made
new families and created loving relationships.
I am so proud of them for overcoming
narrow-minded prejudice and helping
others to do the same.*
– Richard Elander

YOU ARE MY STAR

*To the men of Modern Men, whose songs
inspire my soul, You Are My Star!*
– Dr. Stan Hill

*To the sender of the single red hibiscus flower
in my desert hedge when I moved here –
knowing MY star will always be with me.*
– Jack Alexander

SOMEWHERE OUT THERE

Richard, YOU are my someone out there.
– Tom DeRemer

SURE ON THIS SHINING NIGHT

Drew, thanks for the amazing journey! XO
– Bill Ciffairy

TO WHERE YOU ARE

*To Barry, you were one of my greatest mentors.
You will be missed!*
– Dr. E. David Jansing

STARLELUJAH CHORUS

*Robert, I know you would have enjoyed this
song. I can imagine the smile on your face.
Rest in peace.*
– Bill Ciffairy

WHY WE SING

*In memory of John & Elizabeth Carson,
Roseanne & Robert Carson.*
– Steve Carson

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**If only the brightest of stars
shone in the sky,
It would remain dark**

**If only the purest of notes
were sung,
There would be no harmony**

**May these songs proclaim
we are all stars on this earth.**

**Because even the stars
we cannot see,
glimmer.**

**Thank you Modern Men
for showing the sky.**

Tom DeRemer

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Monday, January 9, 2023
 Open rehearsal for *MANILOW! SONGS THAT MAKE THE WHOLE WORLD SING*
 6:30 - 8 pm | A read-through of some of the music from the Spring Concert
 8 pm | New member auditions

AUDITIONS
Saturday, January 14, 2023
 11 am - Noon | New member auditions

LOCATION FOR BOTH
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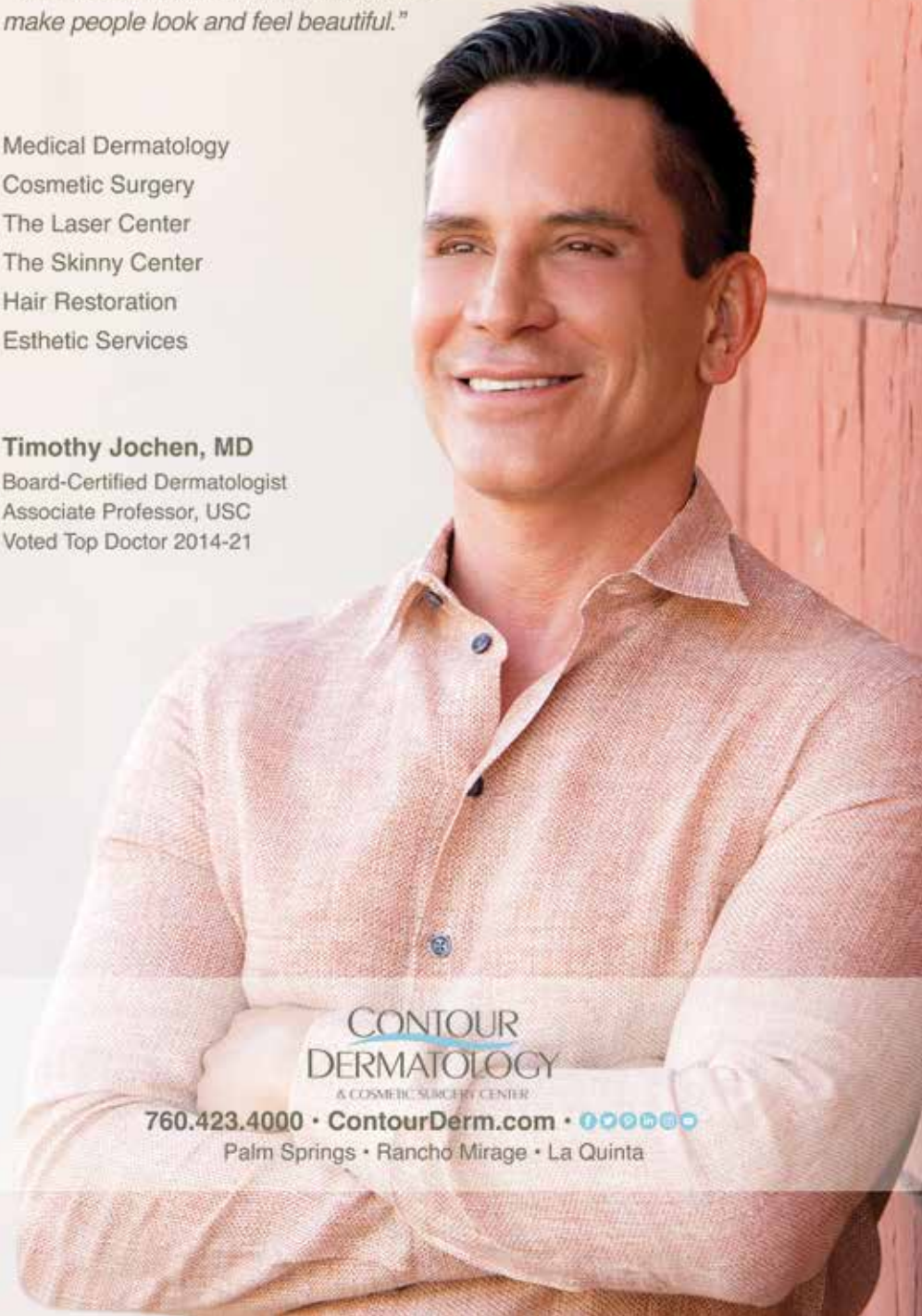
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A photograph of the Porsche Palm Springs dealership building at sunset. The building is a modern, curved structure with a metallic finish and large glass windows. The sky is filled with vibrant orange, red, and purple clouds. A palm tree is visible on the left side of the frame. The word "PORSCHE" is visible on the building's facade.

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