

ModernMen

2019 HOLIDAY CONCERT

The Gift of Love

BLESSED ARE THE SONGS
WHICH OFFER
THE WHOLE WORLD
THE GIFT OF LOVE.

DEC 6 AT 7 PM
DEC 7 AT 7 PM
DEC 8 AT 3 PM
PALM SPRINGS
CULTURAL CENTER



ModernMen
Coachella Valley Men's Chorus



DR. STAN HILL
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

KURT JORDAN
PRINCIPAL ACCOMPANIST

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WELCOME!



Welcome back to Modern Men's seventh season Holiday Concert! On behalf of the chorus and the Board of Directors, I want to thank you for your continued support of Modern Men.

When this chorus was formed in 2013, our singular focus was to be an inclusive men's chorus dedicated to musical excellence. Since our humble beginning, Modern Men has evolved and grown into a 100-member chorus with the mission to promote harmony through outstanding performances, as we entertain and empower our audiences, and embrace diversity through community outreach.

It is only with the generous support of our audiences, donors, and volunteers, that we are able to bring you some of the finest men's music in the desert. We are honored to share with you this holiday season, *The Gift of Love*.

Dan Kelley McBride

Board President, Modern Men



Modern Men is a proud member of GALA Choruses. GALA Choruses was incorporated in 1983 and leads the GLBT choral movement by cultivating the artistic development of 10,000 singers from more than 180 member choruses located throughout North America, Europe, South America, Africa and Australia.

Welcome! And thank you for joining us for this exciting concert. The men have been hard at work, putting together this very special performance which emphasizes the treasure that love is in our lives. All kinds of love. And to you, our beloved audience, who have supported us in ever increasing numbers, we hope that you feel the love we have for each of you.

This is a very special season for Modern Men as we are in preparation for our summer visit to the GALA (Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses) International Festival in Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 4-8, 2020. We will premiere a very special new commission titled **MOMENTum** right here at the Palm Springs Cultural Center (Camelot Theater) on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 17, 18 & 19, 2020 by the renowned composer Robert Seeley (you can hear some of Robert's wonderful music in this performance) with lyrics chosen from the writings of his partner, Robert Espindola (1952-2016). This masterwork with feature a string quartet, oboe, piano and of course, the resounding voices of Modern Men. Tickets are available now at modernmen.org.

We surveyed the men of the chorus to determine what themes they wanted to express in this new work. Then we went through over 200 writings that the poet and author, Robert Espindola, left after he passed in 2016. What has been created is a very moving, celebratory, jubilant, and utterly goose-bump-inducing oratorio that will inspire, energize and motivate our community to continue the **MOMENTum** that has been growing since the early 60s.

Our concerts, our ability to perform, and our creation of new works and commissions, all become possible because of you. You are "why we sing" and why we will continue to sing, hoping to bring you joy and elation and all the happiness you can stand.

Dr. Stan Hill
Artistic Director
Modern Men: Coachella Valley Men's Chorus

Dr. Stan Hill ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Kurt Jordan PRINCIPAL ACCOMPANIST

TENOR 1

Andy Barborak
Jay Baumgartner
Bruce Chartier
Simeon Den
Michael DeVito#
Mark Fearnow
Joel Fleisher
David Gonzalez#
Ric Heath
Austin Othman
Adam Ramirez
Dan Tempas
Paul Trombley**

TENOR 2

Rick Beanes
Matt Burkholz
Christian Clark
Mark Cohen#
Richard Elander#
Andrew Estrin
Ken Forney
Scotty Hindman
Jerry Hips
John Hueste
Paris Kessinger#
Danny Kopelson
Mitchell Laks
Sal Lanza
Randy W. Lerner*
Michael Paul Malfavón
Dan Kelley McBride
Mel McElree
Michael McKeehen
Michael Mendelow
Michael Mikolasek
Jerald Miller
Ken Peek+

Amarin (Niki) Ratanarat
Steve Rockwell
Armand J. Rouleau
Andy Rusch
Thomas Soule
Rob Thomas
Vince Urbani
Sherman Wood#

BARITONE

David Allison
Curtis Anderson
Brent Apt
Allan Arnaboldi#
Thomas-John Batok*
Frank C. Cacciola
Keith M. Cornell
Tom DeRemer
David Doris
Mark Duebner
Larry Dunlop
Jonathan Fast
Douglas Foss#
Donald Gardenier
Peter Gordon
Jefferson Hills
Ron McManigal#
Charles Mercer
Cary Monette
Scott R.S. Palermo
David Palus
Mike Scacco
Robert Seeley#
Paul Stewart Sherman#
Tom Spencer
Paul H. Stein
Nicholas Tancredi
J. Stegar Thompson
Raul Ramiro Valenzuela
David Vianello
John W. Wirtanen#
Mark Ziemann+

BASS

Mark Austin#
Steve Carson
Alan Denny
Eduardo Fresquez, Jr.
Jeff House
Antonio Jackman*
Dwight Joyner
Peter B. Kostrobala
Paul Kowal
Edward LeBlanc
Robert Litvak
Joel Mugge
Stephen Owens
Stephen Perkins
G. Carl Scherzer, III
Dan Smith
Dan Spencer
Bruce Stout
Richard Street
Chris Winslow+
Douglas Wong
Dana Wood#
Burton York#

+ Section Leader
* Section Administrator
Leave of Absence



Dr. Stan Hill ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Since joining Modern Men as Artistic Director in August, 2016, and in his 50th year in 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* and *The Kushner Trilogy*. 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 groups throughout the Coachella Valley including: the Cathedral High School Chamber Singers, The Arrangement, College of the Desert and Songshine, a non-profit organization that teaches speech therapy through music for people with Parkinson's Disease and stroke. Most recently Kurt has become the Principal Accompanist for A Cabbello, Modern Men, The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert and Desert Outreach Synagogue. Kurt has also recently completed composing a 12-movement piano cycle based on the 12 houses of astrology, which premiered on May 11, 2019.



Tom McGillis SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER

Tom began as sign language interpreter for Modern Men in 2017. Before moving to the beautiful desert of Palm Springs, Tom served in the same capacity for the New York City Gay Men's Chorus for 28 years. His other artistic credits include *Forever Plaid* for the Papermill Playhouse, *Christmas Revels* at Symphony Space and several productions with Very Special Theater Company and George Street Playhouse. Tom has voice interpreted signed productions including *Progress* at the Hudson guild and Handstone

Productions' *Anna and Danilo*. He studied artistic interpretation at the Julliard School. He is a dedicated advocate for individuals with disabilities, heading up efforts for access under the Americans with Disabilities Act in employment, education and the arts, and has served on several advisory boards. He is presented workshops for GALA Choruses addressing interpreting issues for Choral performances. Tom is enjoying his new life in Palm Springs with his husband Donald Gardenier.



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 of Palm Springs. He has been the producer for Modern Men since 2016.

PLEASE SUPPORT US

OPPORTUNITIES TO BECOME A MODERN MEN DONOR

As you, our beloved audience, know, ticket sales provide only part of the income necessary to run a thriving and productive organization. Several of you have asked “What can I do?” Here are a few specific ways you might consider helping us defray some of the costs and help us live up to our mission statement: “dedicated to musical excellence while creating harmony through diversity.”

1. Underwriting the cost of a singing member’s dues. Our singers pay \$60 per concert or \$120 for the entire year. Some guys simply cannot afford this. Your gift would insure their participation.
2. Insuring our musical presentations are of the highest quality. The use of professional musicians to accompany our singers is often hindered by not being able to afford them. A typical musician such as a percussionist, oboist, synthesizer player, or any single performer costs \$600 for one rehearsal and two performances.
3. Venue acquisition in the Coachella is a challenge for all of our valley’s performing groups. Often we need to schedule months in advance and place sizable deposits. A gift that guarantees a place at one of our performance venues would help with our cash-flow and allow for advanced planning and production values. Typically, venues are running between \$4,000 and \$10,000 with a 50% deposit required. Were your gift of any or all of this expense to be offered, we would be able to schedule venues far in advance.
4. Getting the word out about our exciting concerts is something that is directly tied to our budget. Promotional materials such as posters, flyers, business cards and postcards, are a \$3,000 line-item in our budget. By helping us with this expense, we could expand our marketing to a broader audience and thereby generate funds to produce more and varied productions.
5. As we are the Coachella Valley Men’s Chorus, we take our mission statement seriously and want to bring our message of affirmation, inclusion, inspiration and support to the entire Coachella Valley. But “run-outs” (performances at venues other than our regularly schedule concert venues) are expensive and often times cost-prohibitive. A typical “run-out” to a convalescent facility, senior home, or rehabilitation center can cost upwards of \$1,500 when you factor the cost of a piano, sound equipment and all the other components of a performance. Underwriting a “run-out” could bring our message and our wonderful singers to new and more diverse audiences.
6. We like to look nice for you. Our standard attire is a tuxedo. Tragically, we have had members unable to join our choir simply because they could not afford a tux. A full tux can cost up to \$200. This gift would insure a singing member’s participation.

**Donations can be made online at www.modernmen.org or by mail:
Modern Men, 611 S. Palm Canyon Dr., Suite 7058, Palm Springs, CA 92264**

Modern Men is a 501(c)(3) organization as defined by the US Internal Revenue Code.



PRODUCTION STAFF

Producer	Ron Wheeler
Sound Design	Doug Phillips, Mark Austin
Lighting Design	Peter B. Kostrobala
Projections Design	Mark Duebner Design
Choreographer	J. Stegar Thompson
Costumes	J. Stegar Thompson
Marketing	Mark Fearnow
Graphic Design/Program	Mark Duebner Design
House Manager	Jason Pecache
ASL Interpreter	Tom McGillis

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Marshall Brown	Eva Milman
Rich Fluechtling	Chris O'Meara
Joaquin Galeano	Otis Ortega
Gary Hawthorne	Jason Pecache
Jessay Martin	

OUR MISSION

Modern Men: Coachella Valley Men’s Chorus promotes harmony through outstanding performances as we entertain and empower our audiences and embrace diversity through community outreach.

**MODERN MEN thanks all of our donors and supporters.
Without you we cannot do what we do.**

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Vance Reger
Chuck Wilhelm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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Jane Voigts, Pastor; Erin Forgét-Wells, Church Secretary

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THE GIFT OF LOVE

ACT ONE

Christmas Comes Again _____ David Maddux

There Shall a Star from *Christus* _____ Felix Mendelssohn/adapted Bruce Trinkley

*Angels from Brave Souls & Dreamers*_Music by Robert Seeley, Lyrics by Robert Espindola
Jay Baumgartner, soloist (Friday & Sunday)
Paul Trombley, soloist (Saturday)

Open Your Heart at Christmas _____ James Granville Eakin III
Austin Othman, soloist (Friday)
Amarin (Niki) Ratanarat, soloist (Saturday)
Rob Thomas, soloist (Sunday)

Music of Hanukkah _____ arr. Anne Albritton

The Three Kings ___ Music by Healey Willan, Lyrics by Laurence Housman/arr. J. Running

The Prodigal from *Exile* _____ Music by Robert Seeley, Lyrics by Robert Espindola

Silent Night _____ Franz Gruber after J.S. Bach/arr. Eric Lane Barnes

This Little Babe from *A Ceremony of Carols*_Music by Benjamin Britten, Text by R. Southwell

INTERMISSION

AUDITIONS **Modern Men**
COACHELLA VALLEY MEN'S CHORUS

OPEN REHEARSAL/AUDITIONS
Monday, January 6, 2020 | 6:30 to 9:30 pm
Auditions at end of rehearsal.

AUDITIONS
Saturday, January 11, 2020 | 10 am
United Methodist Church of Palm Springs, 1555 E. Alejo Road
[Visit modernmen.org for more information](http://modernmen.org)

ACT TWO

Hallelujah Chorus from *Messiah* _____ G. F. Handel

*A Musicological Journey Through the Twelve Days of Christmas*_Music by Craig Courtney

1. 6th Century Rome
2. 15th Century France
3. 16th Century Italy
4. 17th Century Italy
5. 18th Century Germany
6. 18th Century Austria
7. 19th Century France
8. 19th Century Germany
9. 19th Century Austria
10. 19th Century Italy
11. 19th Century Russia
12. 19th Century United States

Night of Silence/Silent Night _____ Daniel Kantor/Franz Gruber

The Bells _____ Frank Ahrold

If Music Be The Food of Love ___ Music by David C. Dickau, Text by Henry Heveningham

Love's Gift (A Short Choral Fantasy) _____ Music by Roger Ames, Lyrics by James Agee

Flight Song _____ Kim André Arnesen

Kay Thompson's Jingle Bells _____ James Pierpont/arr. Kay Thompson & Johnny Mandel
Mark Ziemann, soloist

Why We Sing _____ Greg Gilpin



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ANGELS

To our families.
Dan and Tom Spencer

MUSIC OF HANUKKAH

I would like to dedicate this song to Mark Cohen wishing him and our friends and family a Happy Hanukkah.
Charlie

THE PRODIGAL

To my sons Daniel and Matthew, wherever you are, hear this song.
Dad

SILENT NIGHT

For all those we love who have gone before us and no longer have a voice.

HALLELUJAH CHORUS

To Leslie and Bob Roberson, my sister and brother-in-law, whose shared love and sense of fun have long made my world a happier place.
Richard

NIGHT OF SILENCE/SILENT NIGHT

Dedicated to all those dear friends and loved ones we lost too early along the way. Your voices will never be forgotten.
Chris and Mike

IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE

TJB: For 35 years your eyes, your look, your words declare that you are music everywhere.
Love, WTS

LOVE'S GIFT

WTS: Your love is "safe strong healing". It has been your gift to me for 35 years. I love you.
TJB

FLIGHT SONG

"...music's fierce compassion flows from you".
To the men of Modern Men who give my soul its song.
Dr. Stan Hill

Words and Music by Greg Gilpin

A sound of hope, A sound of peace,
A sound that celebrates and speaks what we believe,
A sound of love, A sound so strong.
It's amazing what is given when we share a song.

(Chorus)

This is why we sing, Why we lift our voice,
Why we stand as one in harmony.
This is why we sing. Why we lift our voice.
Take my hand and sing with me.

Soothe a soul, Mend a heart,
Bring together lives that have been torn apart.
Share the joy, Find a friend.
It's a never-ending gift that circles back again.

(Chorus)

Music builds a bridge, It can tear down a wall!
Music is a language that can speak to one and all!

(Chorus)



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HOLIDAY CONCERT 2019

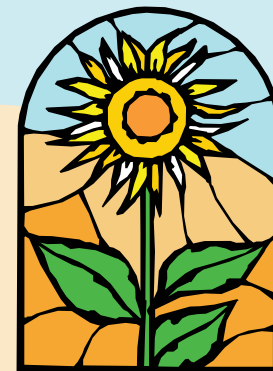
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DEAN McDOWELL | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 14 | 7 PM

TICKETS \$30
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Clearly Now"*

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 a modern family
holiday

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December 20 at 7:00p.m.
December 21 at 7:00p.m.
December 22 at 3:00p.m.

SEASON TICKETS NOW ON SALE:
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PSGMC.com
 Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization.

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2020 SPRING CONCERT

MOMENTUM

DR. STAN HILL
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

KURT JORDAN
PRINCIPAL ACCOMPANIST

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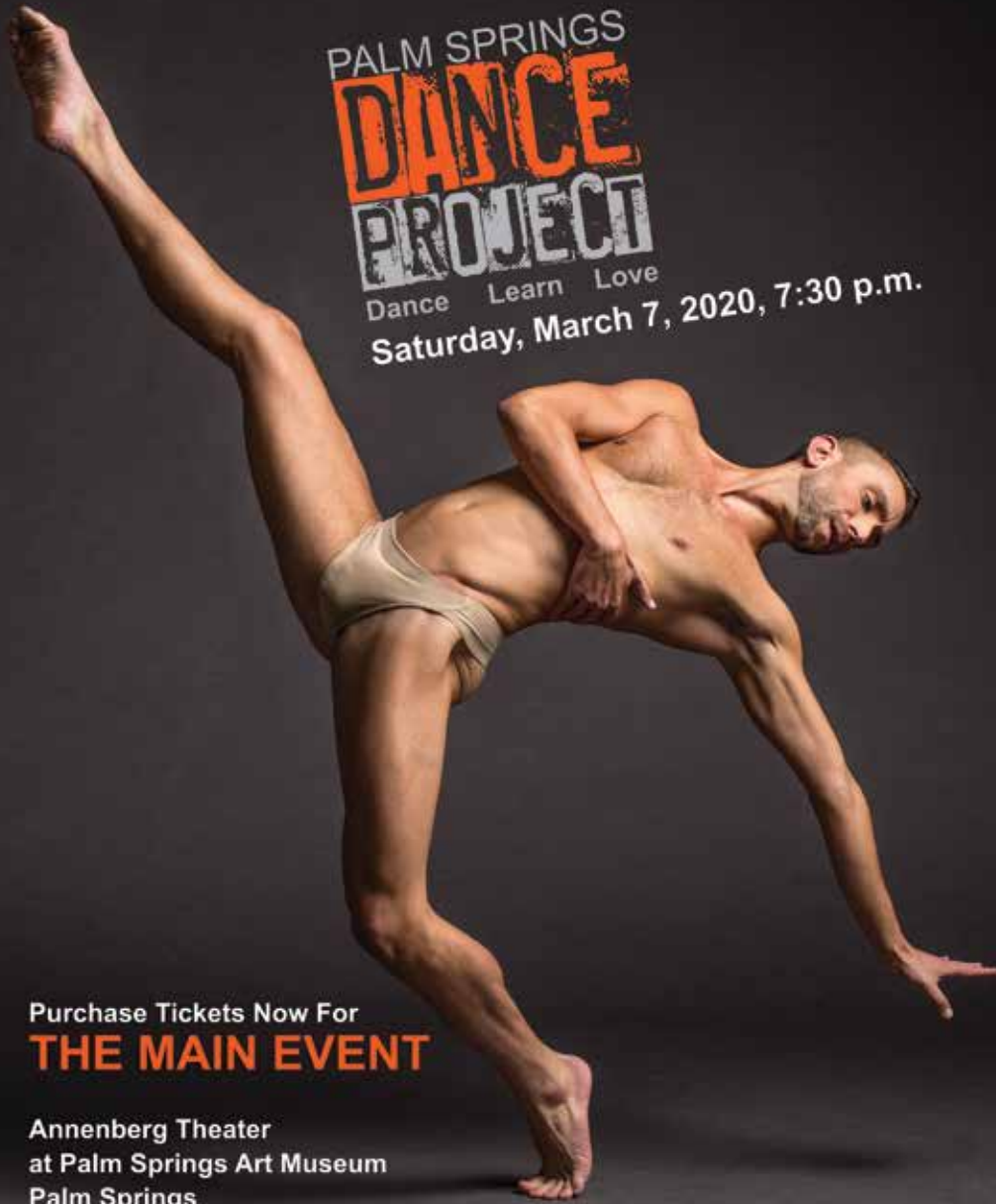
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