MODERN MEN SPRING CONCERT 2018



Rocket Man



DR. STAN HILL | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR HARMONIC VOICES | SPECIAL GUEST

SATURDAY, APRIL 21 AT 7 PM SUNDAY, APRIL 22 AT 3 PM

ANNENBERG THEATER

PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM | 101 N MUSEUM DRIVE, PALM SPRINGS

www.modernmen.org

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Welcome to Season Five's Spring Concert presented by Modern Men, Coachella Valley Men's Chorus. We are honored to have you join us once again for a remarkable event featuring the music of the world famous "Rocket Man," Elton John.

After our holiday show won rave reviews by many of you, Artistic Director Dr. Stan Hill decided to take us in a completely different direction to showcase our

musical diversity. At this performance we explore the music many of us grew up listening to, when our radio was our best friend. From start to finish, we hope you enjoy listening to the music as much as we enjoy performing for you.

We may not be *Pinball Wizards*, or *Tiny Dancers*, but we're going to give you our best *Crocodile Rock*, as we take take a trip along *Yellow Brick Road* to give you what you all came for - *Your Song*.

So fasten your seat belts and get ready to blast off with Elton and Modern Men, as we bring you... *Rocket Man!*

Dan Kelley McBride President, Modern Men



PRODUCTION STAFF

ProducerRon WheeSound DesignRick MasseLighting DesignRon WheeChoreographerSteve ValdCostume AssistantJ. Stegar TProduction AssistantsTom BatokVolunteer CoordinatorTom SkokHouse ManagerTom SkokASL InterpreterTom McGil

Ron Wheeler Rick Massei and Mark Austin Ron Wheeler Steve Valdez J. Stegar Thompson Tom Batok and Tom Skok Tom Skok Tom Skok Tom McGillis

ModernMen Coachella Valley Men's Chorus

SPECIAL GUESTS

Dr. Stan Hill, Artistic Director Kurt Jordan, Principal Accompanist

TENOR 1

Jay Baumgartner[^] Simeon Den Paris Kessinger Sal Lanza Tom Mayer Jay Parks[^] Jim Rasch[^] Rod Rasch[^] Chris Rebman[^] Dan Tempas Rob Thomas Paul Trombley^{*} Daniel Walthal[^]

TENOR 2

Mark Cohen Richard Elander Allen Hill^ Charles L. Huff^ Randy W. Lerner+ Dan Kelley McBride Timm McBride^ Lynn McCasland^ Mel McElree Ken Peek* Armand Rouleau^ Thomas Soule Bruce Edward Stout Vince Urbani

BARITONE

David Allison Curtis Anderson Allan Arnaboldi Tom Batok+ Steve Caldwell^ Tom DeRemer^ Mark Duebner Douglas Foss

Peter Gordon Jefferson Hills Dwight Joyner[^] **Charles Mercer** Carv Monette Michael Nelissen[^] Kenny Owens Scott R. S. Palermo Rov Pitluk[^] Amarin (Niki) Ratanarat Michael Scacco Tom Spencer Paul H. Stein J. Stegar Thompson Raul Ramiro Valenzuela John W Wirtanen Mark 7iemann*

BASS

Mark Austin* Steve Batten Lvle Boatman[^] Brian Cho[^] Alan Denny Eduardo Fresquez J. Gary Hawthorne[^] Robert Hazelton[^] Jeff House Antonio Jackman+ Paul Kowal Joel Mugge Stephen Owens Vance Reger[^] Dan Spencer **Richard Street^** Ron Wheeler Chuck Wilhelm[^] Douglas Wong Dana Wood Burton York[^]

GUEST MUSICIANS

GUITAR

Doug Phillips

BASS

Mikael Jacobson

DRUMS

Dennis Burke

SYNTHESIZER Gary Holt

* Section Leader +Section Administrator

[^]Leave of Absence

Mark Austin, Artistic Director Kurt Jordan, Accompanist

TENOR 1TENOR 2Andy BarborakAndrewBruce ChartierStevenAllan JensenRob ThJim RaschMark W

TENOR 2BARITONEAndrew BirdKen PeekSteven NashRobert SeeleyRob ThomasJ. Stegar ThompsonMark WilsonRaul Ramiro Valenzuela

BASS

Paul Kowal Stephen Owens Ron Wheeler Burton York

Harmonic Voices is a vocal ensemble of 16 men's voices, dedicated to musical excellence.

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BIOGRAPHIES



Dr. Stan Hill | Artistic Director

Now in his second season as Artistic Director of Modern Men, 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 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 conference in Denver. In October 2016 Stan was honored by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus 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 crisis.

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. 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. In 2013, Kurt became the accompanist for two small groups within the Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus, and is also the accompanist for Modern Men. Most recently, he has been involved as the accompanist for Songshine, a non-profit organization that teaches speech therapy through music for people with Parkinson's Disease and stroke, as well as working at College of the Desert as an accompanist.



Tom McGillis | Sign Language Interpreter

Tom McGillis is thrilled to be joining Modern Men as sign language interpreter this season! Tom recently moved to the beautiful desert from NYC where he was the sign language interpreter for the NYC Gay Men's chorus since 1988. His other artistic signing credits included *Forever Plaid* at the Papermill Playhouse, *Christmas Revels* at Symphony Space, and several productions with Very Special Arts Theatre

Company and the George Street Playhouse. Mr. McGillis has voice-interpreted signed productions including *Progress* at Hudson Guild Theatre and Handstone Productions' *Anna and Danilo*. He studied artistic interpretation at The Juilliard 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 business advisory boards. He has 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.



Mark Austin | Artistic Director | Vocal Harmonics

Originally hailing from Portland Maine, Mark Austin holds a BE in Music Education from the University of Maine, a M. Mus. from New England Conservatory in Choral Conducting, and did doctoral level study in voice and choral conducting at the Eastman School of Music. He has performed as a singer or conductor with several sacred and secular music ensembles over the years. Mark taught music at the

Elementary, Secondary and Post-Secondary level, was formerly Director of Choral Music at Providence College, and has been a regular guest lecturer at Stanford University, University of California, Eastman School of Music and Cornell University.

Mark has also been a pipe-organ builder/restorer for the past 22 years and still works as a consultant in that industry. He is currently a professional conductor/ singer, serving as Artistic Director for Harmonic Voices, as the bass section leader with Modern Men, and sings bass in the choir and chamber singers at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Palm Desert. He also is a regular guest teacher in music for several public and private school systems in the Coachella Valley. Mark lives with his husband, Patrick, and their Westie, Maxx, in Cathedral City.

THANK YOU!

FROM THE PODIUM

On March 3, 2018, the chorus held its Dinners and Silent Auction Fundraiser. We raised almost \$9,000 for the benefit of the chorus. Thank you to the following individuals and businesses for their donations of time and auction items to make it a success.

David Allison Allan Arnaboldi Aspen Mills Bakery & Bread Company Dan Kelley McBride & Timm McBride Mark Austin **Azul Palm Springs** Bear Wear Blue Coyote Restaurant Bongo Johnny's Patio Bar & Grille Bontá Restaurant Marconi Calindas Mark Cohen & Charlie Mercer **Curt Miller Artscapes Desert AIDS Project Desert Rose Playhouse Desert Winds Freedom Band** Dezart Performs Mark Duebner Elmer's Restaurant Evzin Palm Springs Galleria Marconi Palm Springs Peter Gordon HeadsUp Hair Designs Dr. Stan Hill Tim Hohmeier & Chuck Diodosio Jeff House Hunters Nightclub Jensen's Fine Foods Le Basil Level One Professional Home Maintenance

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Music is music. I have always been quietly amused that people have tried (in vain?) to categorize music into "likes and dislikes." When, in fact, music is all the same. Granted, individuals might be tempted to express their preference toward specific periods, styles, and genres, but the fact remains that music is simply a complex configuration of frequencies that are combined to produce a specific sound.

Take, for instance, Procol Haram's A Whiter Shade of Pale, which is a 1960s interpretation of Johann Sebastian Bach's Air on G String, which was also used by Bach in Ich steh mit einem Fuß im Grabe (BWV 156), and O Mensch bewein dein' Sünde groß (BWV 622). The simplistic reason for this is that the musical scale only has thirteen notes, and the various configurations of those notes is, unavoidably, going to produce similarities in melodies. In fact the majority of all forms of music including, but not limited to baroque, classical, romantic, pop, rock, disco, etc. often use fewer than five chords to support those melodies.

And so we come to the music of Elton John. That which makes music lasting and memorable has as much to do with the hormonal chaos of our teen years. when the music was first heard; the musicological structure of the harmony and rhythm in sync with our heart's beat. This is why we can love Un bel di vedramo from Puccini's Madama Butterfly just as much as we love Laura Branigan's Ti Amo written 80 years later. It is equally a mistake to categorize the music of a given artist into a single style or form. One simply cannot put Crocodile Rock in the same category as the exquisitely moving and heartachingly poignant The Last Song, both by Elton John.

So tonight, the singers and guests of Modern Men: Coachella Valley Men's Chorus bring you the vast spectrum of the music of Elton John. Some toe-tapping, others defying to remain in your seats, while others like Sorry Seems to be the Hardest Word and The Last Song while, you may not remember when you first heard them, you will never forget how you felt when they first moved you.

So from our Holiday Concert Joy and Peace during which we performed such classics as Leonard Bernstein's Adonai (in Hebrew!) and the melody-rich Gloria! by Randol Bass, we now will strive to rush to the other side of the spectrum and off such delights as The Bitch is Back and Rocket Man! It's all about versatility.

Thank you so very much for your attendance at our concerts, for your support of our mission and for you generosity in insuring that music, in all of its myriad forms, lives and thrives in the Coachella Valley.

Dr. Stan Hill Artistic Director

Modern Men: Coachella Valley Men's Chorus



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.



THE MUSIC OF ELTON JOHN

MODERN MEN

MODERN MEN	
Benny and the Jets	_Elton John & Bernie Taupin
<i>The Bitch Is Back</i> Dan Tempas, soloist	
Candle in the Wind	_Elton John & Bernie Taupin
<i>Circle of Life</i> from <i>The Lion King</i> Mark Duebner, solois	
HARMONIC VOICES	
Daniel	
MODERN MEN Goodbye Yellow Brick Road Paul Trombley, solois	
Your Song Ken Peek (Saturday) Scott R. S. Palern	
<i>Honky Cat</i> Jay Anderson, Gary Bollard, Sid Foutz, Leslie Kolla	
<i>Crocodile Rock</i> Amarin (Niki) Ratanarat, s	
INTERMISSION	

CIRCLE OF LIFE

This is dedicated to The Tempo Players, a community theatre in the western suburbs of Chicago. I was a part of this talented and dedicated group for over three decades and I miss these creative, generous people. We first performed this song in the mid-90s and it brings back great memories. LION KING! **Mark Duebner**

YOUR SONG

WTS: "How wonderful life is while you're in the world" – perfect lyrics for how I feel about you. Your love and support have been unwavering and I love you for that. Happy 70th Birthday. **TJB**

MODERN MEN

My Strongest Suit from Aida_____Elton John & Tim Rice

Pinball Wizard_____Pete Townshend

Paul Kowal, soloist

Rocket Man_____Elton John & Bernie Taupin Vince Urbani, soloist

HARMONIC VOICES

Electricity from *Billy Elliot*_____Elton John & Lee Hall J. Stegar Thompson, soloist

MODERN MEN

Someone Saved My Life Tonight_____Elton John & Bernie Taupin

Sorry Seems to be the Hardest Word_____Elton John & Bernie Taupin Tom Mayer (Saturday) | Raul Ramiro Valenzuela (Sunday), soloist

Last Song_____Elton John & Bernie Taupin Richard Elander (Saturday) Ken Peek (Sunday), soloist

Don't Go Breaking My Heart_____Elton John & Bernie Taupin

_Elton John & Bernie Taupin

I'm Still Standing Philadelphia Freedom

Mark Ziemann, soloist

Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me

HONKY CAT

Finale

For Dr. Stan Hill. To paraphrase a line from a Jack Nicholson movie... "You make me want to be a better singer." Thank you for your passion and dedication to Modern Men. A Grateful Modern Man

PINBALL WIZARD

For Kurt Jordan. Thank you for sharing your talent and humanity with us. You are a musician without peer. You are our Piano Wizard. **A Fan**

DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART

Timm McBride – "Right from the start, I gave you my heart. You put the light in my life, you put the spark to the flame. I've got your heart in my sights." Thank you for always supporting me! **Dan Kelley McBride**

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OPPORTUNITIES TO BECOME A MODERN MEN ANGEL

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: "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."

\$60 or \$120 - Underwriting the cost of a singing member's dues. Your gift would ensure their participation.

\$200 - We like to look nice for you. Our standard attire is a tuxedo. This gift would ensure a singing member's participation.

\$600 - Ensuring our musical presentations are of the highest quality. The use of professional musicians to accompany our singers is often hindered by the expense.

\$1,500 - 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.

\$3,000 - Getting the word out about our exciting concerts is something that is directly tied to 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.

\$4,000 - \$10,000 - Venue acquisition in the Coachella Valley is a challenge for all of our Valley's performing groups. Typically, venues are running between \$4,000 and \$10,000 with a 50% deposit required. Your gift of any or all of this expense would allow us to schedule appropriate venues far in advance.

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



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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.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

Tim Hohmeier and Chuck Diodosio - for the use of their lovely home Tom Batok and Tom Skok - for putting together our amazing fundraiser Michael Scacco - poster distributor extraordinaire Ron Wheeler - the most overworked and underpaid producer in the world Douglas Wong - for his care and nurturing of the membership Mark Austin - for lugging the keyboard all over the Coachella Valley Kurt Jordan - the greatest accompanist ever Kenny Owens - Concert brand design Mark Duebner Design - for the program design Marguee Theater - for the use of their facilities for our rehearsals The Modern Men Board of Directors - for their dedication to the chorus Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus - for the use of their risers Desert Winds Freedom Band & Dean McDowell - for the saxophone players Douglas Wong, Paris Kessinger, Niki Ratanarat - Dance captains Paris Kessinger - for providing the tent for outdoor events Scott Palermo - for his connections with community organizations Danny Torres and crew at the Annenberg Theater - for their professionalism Douglas Kaye - for donating the stools on stage Mark Cohen - Editor of the Modern Times Gary Hawthorne - for maintaining our Chorus Connection Charlie Mercer - for all he does John Wright at St. Margaret's - for helping with our Holiday concert there

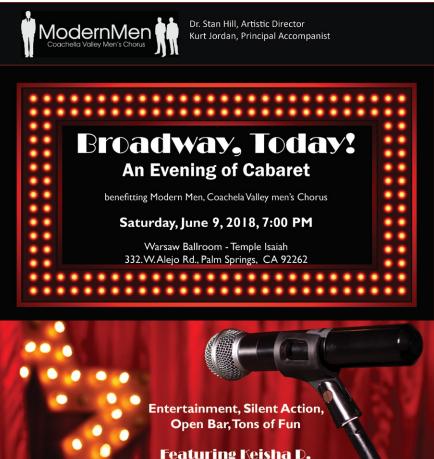
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