and James Morehead, Artistic Director

present

DIRECTOR/MUSICAL DIRECTOR JAMES MOREHEAD
LIGHTING DESIGNER ERIK S. BARRY  SOUND DESIGNER JOSH PRISCHING

CHOREOGRAPHERS
SHAWN HUNT, NICO JOSHUA NEPOMUCENO, DAVID SPOOR-HARVEY

PRODUCTION MANAGER GEOFF BLEEPER MUDD
DANCE CAPTAIN CHRIS CHEN

May 18, 2018
Athenaeum Theatre, Chicago

May 19, 2018
North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie

May 20, 2018
Beverly Arts Center, Chicago

PRESENTING SPONSORS
LETTER FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Step right up and enjoy the Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus version of the Circus!!! Prepare to be mesmerized by the glorious tones of the voices of the chorus as we take you on our own journey through the big top. Our ringmaster will guide you along the way.

We will be joined by a group of professional circus performers who will add their special talents to our musical presentation. Ray Gunn will twirl around his cube. Aerial Emery will whip her hoops into shape. Sally Marvel will swallow some swords, and Molly Plunk will tip that tightrope for you all tonight!

Apart from the hysterical double entendre of this show title, the abundance of circus music in the musical theater canon and popular music tradition is extreme. While compiling repertoire for this show, I focused on the redeeming qualities of the circus. While the circus historically has ostracized, pillaged and taken advantage of the ‘other’ in our society, CGMC is taking a very different twist. In true alignment with our mission, we aim to give voice to the voiceless and give everyone a safe space in our circus. Our ringmaster will tie this up very neatly for us all at the end of the show.

A special thanks to my artistic collaborators and confidants: Cody, Mark, Lili-Anne, Meghan, Ashlee, VOX3, Kevin, my production team and performance committee, and everyone who has inspired me along the way.

Lastly, don’t forget to enjoy the lobby popcorn smells, balloon animals and photo cutout. Feel free to take a picture with a new or long-term friend and post on social media. May your childhood dreams come true tonight as you enjoy UNDER THE BIG TOP!

Yours Truly,

James Morehead
Artistic Director

CGMC is a proud member of GALA Choruses, the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, an international organization.

CGMC is supported in part by a City Arts 2 grant from the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs.
ABOUT THE CHORUS

With more than 150 singing members, backed by a small army of volunteers, the CGMC family covers a diverse cross-section of the Chicago metropolitan area. Under the visionary guidance and inspired direction of Artistic Director, James J. Morehead, CGMC delivers a distinctive brand of entertainment that keeps our audience coming back again and again. Our members log thousands of hours annually to accomplish an ambitious schedule of concert performances, benefits and charitable appearances.

We Entertain and Enlighten

CGMC delivers a unique entertainment experience found nowhere else in the city. We produce professional-quality shows that combine the best elements of musical theater, cabaret and traditional choral performance. But only CGMC can add that special “twist of gaiety” that can make each show fun, moving and memorable.

We Inspire Change

CGMC serves as ambassadors and provides a positive image to countless thousands every year. Sometimes the message to take action can be delivered more effectively through song than through speech.

We Build Community

CGMC is a safe haven from discrimination and judgment. As part of a larger community, when asked to help, CGMC heeds the call. We have sung at the Auditorium Theater honoring the victims of Sept. 11. We sing at smaller memorial services honoring local community leaders and for our own members. We’re humbled to realize that CGMC’s presence can bring comfort and healing to those around us.

For more information, to join our mailing list or to find out how you can support Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus, visit cgmc.org.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Ring Master................................................................. Sean Mallory.......................... (Athenaeum)
 Aaron Kornick.................................................. (Skokie)
 Fred Kaminski........................ (Beverly)

Bearded Lady................................................................ Reggio Owens
 Siamese Twins..................................................... Michael McGraw and Zackary Ruesler .... (Athenaeum)
 Rick Aiello and Christian Castillo ..................... (Skokie)
 Jon Adams and Jon Chaikin ............................... (Beverly)

Lion Tamer............................................................... Terry Wittenberg ........ (Athenaeum)
 Michael Kirby ...................................................... (Skokie)
 Steve Rodgers ..................................................... (Beverly)

Tom Thumb ............................................................... Cole Headrick

Parade Soloists ..................................................... Chris Baer and Michael Elder ...... (Athenaeum)
 John Gordon and Michael Jones ....................... (Skokie)
 Billy Vitucci and Micah McCain ..................... (Beverly)

This Is Me Soloist .................................................. Alexis Rangel .... (Athenaeum)
 Michael Spiering .................................................. (Skokie)
 Kenneth Jones .................................................... (Beverly)

Reptile Person........................................................ Leslie Star
 Elegant Geek......................................................... Jim Hennessey

Flea Circus Director ............................................ Brandon Davidson

Trapeze Artists ........................................................ Brandon Davidson, Jim Hennessey,
 Joseph Martz, Robert McBlain, Leslie Star

Band Instruments .................................................. Gary Paaren (Flute), Nick Conner (Clarinet),
 Reggie Owens (Alto Sax), Leonard Edwards (Tenor Sax),
 Greg Marquis (Trumpet), Eric Beatty (Trumpet), Robert McBlain (Horn).

Special Appearances by:
 Ray Gunn, Andrew Holst, Sally Marvel (Friday and Sunday),
 Queerella (Saturday), Molly Plunk and Aerial Emery.

THE BAND

Bass................................................................. Mark Berls
 Drums ................................................................. John Agno
 Piano ................................................................. Ken McMullen

ASL INTERPRETERS

STUDENTS
 Cory O’Brien, Kat Abood, Scarlett Young, Anni Pape, Sara Helsel, Katelyn Clayton, Megan
 Tarpinian, Megan Pozywio, Ashlyn Backe, Gina Meyer,
 Alithea Tashey, Jillian Wesley, Katelyn Mandel

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UNDER THE BIG TOP

ACT ONE

Welcome...........................................................................................................................................Christina Aguilera, Linda Perry, Mark Ronson and Paul III
Arr. by James Morehead

Choreography by Shawn Hunt

Razzle Dazzle from Chicago.................................................................John Kander (b. 1927-)
Choreography by David Spoor-Harvey

There Is a Sucker Born Ev’ry Minute from Barnum.....................Cy Coleman (1929-2004)
Soloists: Sean Mallory (Friday), Aaron Kornick (Saturday), Fred Kaminski (Sunday)

Spinning .................................................................................................James Morehead (b. 1980-)
Featured Performer: Aerial Emery

Entry of the Gladiators .................................................................Julius Fučík (1872-1916)
Arr. by J. Morehead

Featured Performer: Brandon Davidson
Come Look at the Freaks from Side Show ............................................. Henry Krieger (b. 1945-)

She’s Always a Woman to Me ........................................................................... Billy Joel (b. 1949-)
Arr. by Carol Canning
Soloist: Reggie Owens

Bend Me, Shape Me ................................................................. Laurence “Larry” Weiss (b. 1941-)
Scott English (b. 1943-)
Arr. by J. Morehead
Featured Performer: Molly Plunk

Who Will Love Me As I Am? from Side Show .......................................................... H. Krieger
Soloists: Michael McGraw and Zackary Ruesler (Friday),
Rick Aiello and Christian Castillo (Saturday), Jon Adams and Jon Chaikin (Sunday)

Bigger Isn't Better from Barnum ........................................................................ C. Coleman
Soloist: Cole Headrick
Dancers: Alan Bringman, John Bui, Silas Chester, Coz Costello, Omar Gonzalez,
Jarrel Montgomery, Sup Suh, Khara Williams.
Choreography by Shawn Hunt

Circus ........................................................................................................ Lukasz Gottwald (b. 1973-)
Claude Kelly (b. 1980-)
Benjamin Levin (b. 1988-)
Arr. by J. Morehead
Featured Performer: Ray Gunn
Dancers: Alan Bringman, Silas Chester, Coz Costello, Omar Gonzalez,
Jarrel Montgomery, Sup Suh.
Choreography by Shawn Hunt

INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

Before the Parade Passes By from Hello Dolly! ....................................................... Jerry Herman (b. 1931-)
Soloists: Chris Baer and Michael Elder (Friday), John Gordon and Michael Jones (Saturday),
Micah McCain and Billy Vitucci (Sunday)
Dancers: David Biele, Alan Bringman, Silas Chester, Coz Costello, Kenneth Jones, Zaq Lambert,
Octavio Lara, Owen Maggio, Greg Marquis, Richard Marshall McKinney, Jarrel Montgomery,
Todd Paulson, Alexis Rangel, Elio Reyes, Tim Ryan, Sup Suh.
Choreography by Nico Joshua Nepomuceno
“Dedicated to Gary Chichester, long time LGBT activist and
recent winner of the Jon-Henri Damski Award” - William L. Pry

Circus Band (1894) ......................................................................................... Charles Ives (1874-1954)
Arr. by J. Morehead
Tightrope ......................................................................................................................... Nathaniel Irvin III, Charles Joseph II, Antwan “Big Boi” Patton, Janelle Robinson
Arr. by J. Morehead

*Featured Performer: Molly Plunk*

Lion Tamer from Magic Show ................................................ Stephen Schwartz (b.1948–)
Soloists: Terry Wittenberg (Friday), Michael Kirby (Saturday), Steve Rodgers (Sunday)

Mean Ole Lion from The Wiz .............................................................. Charlie Smalls (1943–1987)
Soloists: Jack Ballard (Friday), Khara Williams (Saturday and Sunday)
Choreography by Nico Joshua Nepomuceno

Mack the Knife from The Threepenny Opera (1928) ...................... Kurt Weill (1900–1950)
Arr. by J. Morehead

*Featured Performer: Sally Marvel (Friday and Sunday), Queerella (Saturday)*

The Flying Trapeze (1868) ........................................................................ George Leybourne (1842–1884)
Arr. J. Morehead

*Featured Performers: Brandon Davidson, Jim Hennessey, Joseph Martz, Robert McBlain, Leslie Star.*

This is Me from The Greatest Showman ................................................ Benj Pasek (b. 1985–)
Justin Paul (b. 1985–)
Arr. by Mac Huff

*Featured Performers: Andrew Holst (Friday and Saturday), Ray Gunn (Sunday)*
Soloists: Alexis Rangel (Friday), Michael Spiering (Saturday), Kenneth Jones (Sunday)

Join the Circus from Barnum ................................................................. C. Coleman
Arr. by J. Morehead

Choreography by David Spoor-Harvey*

**SPECIAL THANKS**

Michael Reed, Roosevelt University, Cody Reynolds, Josh Prisching, CJ Speakman, Reed Rigging, and Tom Couch.

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- Robert Conrad
- Coz Costello
- Greg Dart
- Will Donahue
- Nate Errett
- Steven Fishman
- Omar Gonzalez
- John Gordon
- Andy Greene
- Brad Held
- Paul Hughes
- Josh Kelley
- Luke Kinney
- Aaron Kornick
- David Long
- Ara Lotfijou
- Zach West
- Kenneth Barker*
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- Jimmy Byrne*
- Craig Dannenbrink*
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David Spoor-Harvey*
Peter Zukowski*

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Ronald Bayer
Tim Bullard
Andrew J. Clemmer
Jordan Daley
Brandon Davidson
Leonard Edwards
Michael Elder
Jonathan Fitzpatrick
Jim Hennessey
Shawn Hunt
Michael Kirby
Bradley Lambie
Reuben Lewy
David Litchfield
Paul Lorensen
Joseph Martz
Robert McClain
Vic Motherwell
Larry Olson
Gary Paaren
Rich Park
Todd Paulson
Jon Putnam
Zackary Ruesler
Gary Scanlon
Carl Stumpf
Kevin Swerdlow
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Oliver Hayes
Chase Hegon
Vincent Henthorn
Bob Hogge
Michael Jones
Kenneth Jones
Mitchell Kraemer
Octavio Lara
Justin Lens
Roberto López
Adam Loredo
Sean Mallory
Greg Marquis
Jim Martin
Michael McGraw
Donny Middlebrook
Juan Montano
Reggie Owens
Tom Payne
Lucas Ripley
Grady Schroeder
Darryl Service
Michael Sheets
Leslie Star
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Marco Vianello
Billy Vitucci
Khara Williams
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Nick Conner
Brian Dove
Brandon Geary
Cole Headrick
Fred Kaminski
Zaq Lambert
David C. Lee
Micah McCain
Richard Marshall McKinney
Jarrel Montgomery
Chris Perchatsch
Sup Suh
Michael J. Anderson*
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Ryan Fisher*
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Douglas Leader*
Benjamin Lee*
Peyton Lynch*
Mark Sherman*
Ari Smolen*

TENOR 2

Jon Adams
Rick Aiello
Chris Baer
Eric Beatty
David Biele
Chris Blasone
Alan Bringman
John-Michael Brooks
Jon Chaikin
Chris Chen
Silas Chester
Michael J. Curran
Duncan Dam

*Denotes Leave of Absence
BIOGRAPHIES

James Morehead, Artistic Director
James is thrilled to finish his third season with CGMC. He is also co-Artistic Director for VOX3, www.vox3.org, and Music Director at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Evanston, Illinois. He primarily has worked as a coach, accompanist and music director for the Theater Conservatory of Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, where he has also served as Adjunct Professor of Music Theory/History and German Diction. James received his MM in Piano Performance and Music Theory from Roosevelt University and his BM from Duquesne University. As a Music Director, James has worked on See What I Wanna See in the Steppenwolf Garage series 2013 and has also done The WIZ (Jeff Nominated: Music Direction), Jerry Springer- the Opera, bare (Jeff Nominated: Music Direction), Passing Strange (Jeff Nominated: Music Direction), Dessa Rose (Jeff Nominated: Music Direction), AIDA, Trouble in Tahiti, The Rainbow Connection, the Mikado, The Impresario, Barber of Seville, The Old Maid and the Thief, Two Gentlemen of Verona, Sondheim in the Park, The Wandering Scholar, The Bear, The Way We War, Copacabana, Cupid and Psyche, and Promises, Promises among many others. Classically, James has performed at the Ravinia, Auditorium Theater, Chicago Cultural Center, Rockefeller Chapel, Chicago’s Gospel Fest 2012, and Harold Washington Theater among many others. He has collaborated and performed with the Juliuni Ensemble, the Grande Prairie Choral Arts Singers, Anaphora, Lyric Opera Kids and ChiArts, and multiple times on WFMT. He has also appeared as a featured pianist at 54 Below in NYC, the Green Mill, Mary’s Attic, the Tavern, Gentry on Halsted, Spin Nightclub, Davenport’s, the 410 Club, the Spot and the Casino.

Grace Chan, Acting Executive Director
Grace brings deep and broad management experience across multiple industries.

She has directed development activities at Indo-American Center and at Common Cause Illinois. She also held senior level positions in business operations at SOS Children’s Villages, Chinese American Service League, LaSalle Bank, and Illinois Department of Employment Security. Earlier in her career, she held several roles in academic and student affairs at The University of Chicago. A long-time board member of the Illinois ACLU, Grace is currently the Illinois representative to the ACLU’s National Board. She is also active with many other community and civic organizations. She currently sits on the Leadership Greater Chicago’s Fellows Association Board and is an appointed member to the State of Illinois Asian American Employment Plan Advisory Board. Grace has been a singer and pianist since a young age and has participated in numerous choirs. She has also served on the board of Pegasus Theater and Chicago Chorale. Grace and her husband Tom McKibben have four young adult and teenage children.

Kevin Corbett, Operations Manager
Kevin Corbett is excited to be a part of the CGMC staff! Kevin’s background is in theatre administration and audience services. In Chicago, he worked for The Music Conservatory at Roosevelt University as a Concert Coordinator and for TimeLine Theatre Company and American Theater Company. Kevin holds an MA in Performance Practices and Research from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. In London, Kevin was part of the FOH Team at the Donmar Warehouse and worked in several West End theatres.

Erik Barry, Lighting Designer
Erik has been recognized as a multiple Jeff award nominee for his work in Lighting design. His works has been seen at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, The
Harris Theatre, Carnegie Hall, and many more. He holds an MFA from University of Wisconsin - Madison. Special thanks go to Joshua, Michael Reed, Sara, Karen and Iris. He dedicates this and every performance to the memory of Mom and Dad. He also honors the incredible legacy of Tori Reed. www.eriksbarry.com

Josh Prisching, Sound Designer
Josh Prisching is pleased to be working with CGMC again! After graduating he wanted to pursue his combined passions of theater and film and landed his first gig as the sound engineer for a small film called “Love, Blood, Kryptonite” and recently was the light board technician for the ABC network series “Betrayal”. In his theater life he has designed for Chicago Folks Operetta, Proud Kate Theater Project, Open Door Repertory, Momenta Dance Academy, Proviso High School, Transcendences Dance Studios, Greenhouse theater, Underscore theatre, and Julian Middle School.

Geoff Bleeker, Production Manager
Geoff is a freelance director and production manager. In Chicago, he served as the Producing Director for Bailiwick Chicago, production managing three full seasons including Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, See What I Wanna See, Mahal, Dessa Rose, and Carrie: The Musical. He served as Asst. Director on Bailiwick Chicago’s production of The Wild Party. He most recently directed Once Upon A Mattress for the Wilmette Park District at the Wallace Bowl. Big thanks to Jimmy for the opportunity!

Shawn Hunt, Choreographer
Shawn Hunt is extremely proud and excited to be choreographing for Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus. Originally from South Bend, Indiana, Hunt came to Chicago to attend Columbia College of Chicago, from which he received a Bachelor’s degree in Musical Theatre Performance. He is currently studying dance at various Chicago studios and looks forward to future projects with a Latin Contemporary company.

Nico Joshua Nepomuceno,
Choreographer
Nico holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Musical Theatre with the class of 2010 from North Central College (go Cardinals!) in Naperville, Illinois. Past dance/stage credits include Pippin, Cats, The King and I, Singin’ in the Rain, Thoroughly Modern Millie, West Side Story, and The Wiz. Hailing from Bolingbrook, IL he has been proudly singing with the chorus since the spring 2012 show, That 80s Show. Now an active member of the chorus, Nico also serves as the current Chair of the Performance Committee. Huge thank you to Jimmy Morehead for his support and collaboration, all of the shows dancers for their time and talents, and Nate for his never ending encouragement and love.

David Spoor-Harvey, Choreographer
David has been singing and dancing professionally since he was 16. Throughout high school and college, he spent his summers performing at Six Flags and King’s Island theme parks in Ohio. He then spent several years on board four ships for Carnival Cruise Lines, where he worked as a Production Singer, and where he also conceived and choreographed his own cabaret act. Then he relocated to Las Vegas, where he performed at MGM Grand Hotel and Casino. While in Vegas, he also worked as a guest choreographer for various local jazz and hip-hop dance troupes. Following his years in Las Vegas, David returned to Ohio to complete his education, during which time he directed and choreographed seasonal shows at Six Flags Ohio. He also taught jazz and hip-hop at several dance studios in the Cleveland area.
The **Legacy Circle** of the Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus is a group of unique individuals, through their visionary philanthropy, have made a commitment to ensure the future of the Chorus’ mission by remembering the Chorus in their estate plans.

### FOUNDING MEMBERS

- Marty Brown
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- Merry Mary +
- Rick Marzec
- Greg Marquis
- Bruce Messick
- Tom Myles
- Matthew Wertman +

*Individuals who include CGMC in their estate plans through our 35th Anniversary Season will qualify as a Founding Member of the Legacy Circle.*

*+Deceased*

Planned giving is a present decision to make a future gift to leave money or other assets to the Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus. From gifts of cash, to proceeds from bequests and trusts, there are many giving options that allow you to plan your gift during your lifetime and beyond. We can assist you with your charitable intentions so you don’t have to make those decisions alone. We can also give you information about planned giving techniques that will include the Chorus in your estate plans.

If you are interested in making an estate gift or would like additional information, please contact Grace Chan, Acting Executive Director, at gracechan@cgmc.org for a confidential discussion regarding your options and wishes.
Step onto the risers and become a part of Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus – a community of artists, volunteer members, donors and music lovers who have joined together to support Chicago’s Most Colorful Chorus, a voice of the LGBT community since 1983.

Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus gratefully acknowledges the generous annual gifts of the following individuals, foundations and corporations. For more information about the ways you can support CGMC, including Planned Giving options, visit our website at www.cgmc.org, or contact our Executive Director at execdirector@cgmc.org or 773-296-0541.

Donors listed for individual contributions received 1/1/17 through 5/1/18. CGMC’s fiscal year runs 7/1 through 6/30. Recognizing our supporters is important to us; if you believe there is an error or omission, please contact us immediately at operations@cgmc.org.

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- **Acting Executive Director**: Grace Chan
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- **Grant Writer**: Rose Olea
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- **Bookkeeper**: Cliff Ruemmler

## Artistic Staff
- **Artistic Director**: James Morehead
- **Accompanist**: Ken McMullen

## Production Staff for Under The Big Top
- **Production Manager**: Geoffrey Bleeker Muudd
- **Lighting Designer**: Erik S. Barry
- **Sound Designer**: Josh Prisching
Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus honors the memory of past members, donors, and volunteers.

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Bryce Henry  Kevin Heffernan  Bob Lesh  Frank Purtee
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In addition to their many talents and their endless enthusiasm, Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus members are also required to contribute financially to the success of the organization – through annual dues and miscellaneous costs associated with weekend rehearsal retreats and traveling performances. Fortunately, CGMC members who are not able to meet these financial obligations can earn scholarships through the memorial fund left by Larry Burke, a longtime member and dear friend of the chorus who died in February 2005. Through Larry’s generosity, every CGMC member has the opportunity to enjoy all the benefits and experiences the Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus has to offer.
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IN CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PATRONS

- Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.

- Please turn off your cell phones and refrain from using them during the show. They are distracting to the performers and your fellow audience members.

- Assisted listening headsets are available in both North Shore Center theatres. A valid driver’s license, state ID or major credit card will be requested. A T-coil amplification system is installed in the Northlight Theatre for those that have a compatible hearing aid. Please see the house manager for assistance.

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