



RICHARD COLE - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

NORTH COAST MEN'S CHORUS

WE BELONG

MALTZ PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2026

7:30 PM

.....

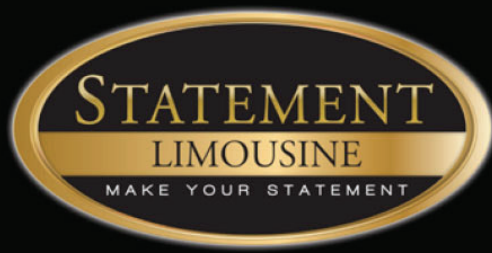
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-  Sensitivity **Training** (Safe Space) for business owners, health care providers and educators.
-  **Lake County Pride Guide:** An annual booklet featuring LGBTQ - friendly Lake County businesses. The Lake County Pride Guide is distributed throughout Lake County.
-  Monthly **Support Groups:** TRANS-Support Lake County, Pride Youth, Tran-Parent, Gaymers Lake County, and LGBT Support Group.
-  A **Physical Safe Place** for those to gather, find resources pertaining to the LGBTQ+ community in Lake County, utilize our cyber center, and to thrive.
-  To be an **Advocate** for the LGBTQ+ community in Lake County through the LGBTQ Practicum for Leaders, and working to change local laws.

📍 One Victoria Place, # 260, Painesville, OH 44077

✉ info@lgbtlakecounty.org ☎ 440-296-9443 @ [lgbtlakecounty](https://www.lgbtlakecounty.org)



RICHARD COLE - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR NORTH COAST MEN'S CHORUS

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

Since returning to rehearsal in 2021, NCMC has continued to base its health precautions on current guidance from the CDC and expert sources on vocal music for the safety of our staff and singers. All staff, volunteers, and guests are expected to follow the policies and procedures of our performance venues before, during, and after our concerts.

LATE SEATING

In deference to the comfort and listening pleasure of the audience in the auditorium, late arriving patrons are asked to wait quietly until the first convenient break in the program, when ushers will help you to your seats. These seating breaks are at the discretion of the House Manager.

WHEELCHAIR & ADA SEATING

Designated seating is available for wheelchairs and physically challenged audience members. Please instruct ushers if additional aid is needed for entering or leaving the auditorium.

PAGERS, CELL PHONES AND OTHER DEVICES

All electronic and mechanical devices including pagers, cellular telephones, and wristwatch alarms should be silenced while in the auditorium. If you are a physician on-call, please see the House Manager to make appropriate arrangements. If you find you are near a member of the audience who is not conforming to this practice, please notify an usher immediately.

HEARING AIDS AND OTHER HEALTH ASSISTIVE DEVICES

For the comfort of those around you, please reduce the volume on hearing aids and other devices that may produce noise that would distract from the program

PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOGRAPHY, AND RECORDING

At all times cameras and recording devices should not be used during the performance. For the safety of guests and performers, photography and videography are strictly prohibited except with the expressed written permission of the North Coast Men's Chorus.

LIGHTING EFFECTS

Patrons are advised that a variety of lighting effects (including strobe) may be used in our performances.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY

Contact an usher or member of the house staff if you require medical assistance. Emergency exits are clearly marked throughout the building. Ushers and house staff will provide instructions in the event of an emergency.



RICHARD COLE - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR NORTH COAST MEN'S CHORUS

NCMC VISION STATEMENT

Many voices, singing as one, the North Coast Men's Chorus will be an integral and valued member of the Northeast Ohio Arts Community through the music we sing, the pride we feel, and the people we cherish.

NCMC MISSION STATEMENT

The North Coast Men's Chorus presents high quality musical entertainment for diverse audiences; promotes a positive influence within and beyond the gay community; and provides a supportive environment for its members and participants.

NCMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Shawn Belt, President
Sofi Vaattovaara, Vice-President
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Ángel Placeres
Savage
Adam Stobinski
Nathan Wright

Richard Cole, Artistic Director & Interim Executive Director
Andrew Zupcsan, Business Manager



*The **North Coast Men's Chorus** is a wonderful combination of moving parts, all working in harmony to achieve the concert you are enjoying tonight!*

*Have you thought about joining our team?
Could you contribute your talents to help continue this important work?*

We are looking for volunteers at every level from Board and Committee Members to our front of house and event staff, all vital to making this amazing organization "sing"!

Won't you consider joining us?

(216) 556-0590

info@ncmchorus.org



RICHARD COLE - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
 NORTH COAST MEN'S CHORUS

GRANTORS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS



LEGACY DONORS

The North Coast Men's Chorus is deeply grateful to the following individuals for their lasting impact on NCMC through their estates.

Ruth T. Bowman
 John Gardner & Ralph Slaw

Anna Greenfield
 Lynn Tomaszewski

DONORS

Thank you to all the individuals and organizations that have contributed to keeping NCMC strong during our 38th Season.

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These acknowledgments are for donations received between June 1, 2025 and June 1, 2026. We sincerely regret any possible omissions. The North Coast Men's Chorus is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law. If you wish to become a contributor, please make your check payable to NCMC and mail to PO Box 770664, Cleveland, OH 44107-0664 or contact us at 216.556.0590 or giving@ncmchorus.org



RICHARD COLE - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR NORTH COAST MEN'S CHORUS

DONORS

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In Honor of Mary Powers

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Root-Kelly

David Root

In Honor of Sam's 30th

Eric & Michelle Draper, Rauno, Seth,
Steph, Gabe, Charlie, CC, Macy,
Oliver-James and Liisu

In Memory of Steven Sterlekar

Marlene Sterlekar

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M Major

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Clement · Floyd Fike · Jim Greenfield ·
Joseph Hollings · Tom Ligman ·
Paulette & Lois · Susanne Sande

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BELONG

[bih-lawng, -long] **verb**



Definition *to be valued as you are; to not have your existence or pronouns be a topic of debate*

Synonyms

STRONGEST

acceptance

chosen family

community

harmony

inclusion

MHCUCC

STRONG

becoming

choir rehearsal

Open & Affirming

WEAK

conformity

following the crowd

masking

Antonyms

conversion

exclusion

judgment

"love the sinner..."

Example

At MHCUCC, "you belong" isn't just a slogan. It's our practice.



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RICHARD COLE - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

NORTH COAST MEN'S CHORUS

WE BELONG

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Richard Cole

PRINCIPAL ACCOMPANIST
Robert Day

COASTLINER ACCOMPANIST
Michael Czubaj

CHOREOGRAPHER
Gregory Daniels



RICHARD COLE - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

NORTH COAST MEN'S CHORUS

THE CHORUS

Richard Cole, Artistic Director

Robert Day, Principal Accompanist
Gregory Daniels, Choreographer

Brad Speck, Production Manager
Doug Braun, ASL Interpreter

First Tenors

Shawn Belt (29)
Patrick Carpenter (33)
Chris Chambers (2)
Bryan K. Fetty (67)
Ricky Kaszar (3)
Jared Gadowski Littleton (5)
Harry Layton Lesmana (4)
Drew Maestas (3)

Ángel Placeres (21)

David Root (6)

Sofi Vaattovaara (9)
Ross Williams (9)
Danny Zhorniak (1)

Second Tenors

Philip Alberhasky (34)
Ryan Benson (10)
JT Buck (4)
Angel Carrero (2)
L.P. Coladangelo (10)
Sam Draper (11)
Naveen Dravid (1)
Daniel Evans (6)
Fallon Forbush (5)
Dennis Gregory (3)
Nate Harper (4)
JP Harrison (2)
Richard Hunn (3)
Karl Kimpo (21)
Charles Kwon (4)

Barry Lien (43)

Mike Majer (18)
Mark P. Malloy (77)
Earl Melvin (21)
Matty Noonan (2)
Chuck Nusbaum (10)
Stuart Oakes (28)
Callum Orr (24)

Donald Pedley (69)
Savage (6)
Dan Senger (16)
C.J. Smith (7)
Adam Stobinski (25)
Bruce Tillberg (81)
David Tomlinson (2)
Eric Unhold (56)
Ben Ure (3)

Baritones

Stephen Adley (48)
Clay Anderson (18)
Steve Barnhart (10)
Brandon L. Bauer (8)
Peter Bobkowski (5)
Brandon Michael Bowman (33)
Chandler Brandetsas (1)
Kevyn Breedon (5)
Anthony Brey (3)
Donald Butchko (33)
Leonard Carle (21)
Clint Condon (54)
Tim Denis
Jayce Devers (3)
Thomas Dlugopolsky (22)
Spencer Eaves (6)
Don Ferencz (94)
David Greene (47)
Howard M Gregory II (17)
Ray Hamlin Jr (59)
Brian Hopkins (6)
Ben Johns (5)
Evan Joseph (3)
Tom Leber (55)
Kevin Meehan (61)
John Miceli (4)
Steve Miller (50)
Marcus Morrison (3)

Patrick Mooney (1)
Todd Narvin (54)
Jeromy Nget (1)
Joe Richvalsky (27)
Kenneth Rutski (2)
Rob Schultz (15)
Guy Thellian (5)
Bob Walker (4)
Jonathan Williams (23)
Patrick Wilson (7)
Michael D. Zaverton (69)

Basses

Bill Beighley (16)
Justin Bollinger (5)
Ron Esker (3)
Tom Fortuna (72)
Glenn R. Gast (57)
Daniel J Hill (9)
Ian Kilpatrick (11)
Donald King (96)
Brandon Krapes (15)
Jeffrey Lamkin (34)
Thomas Lentz (42)
Keith A Madden (3)
Ben Matsumoto (13)
Jacob Nash (14)
Mark Palumbo (8)
Steven Pastor (61)
Mike Roberts (2)
Tristan Sánchez (1)
Derek Sheridan (5)
Dan Shroyer (6)
Yash Sondhi (2)
Wade Tolleson (103)
Randy Webb (21)
Andy Zupcsan (59)

(#): number of concerts performed
Section Leaders indicated in **bold**

WE BELONG

A Beautiful Thing Medley

Tribute to Mama Cass
Arranged by Ralph Raymond Hays

Hooray for Love

Words and Music by Harold Arlen and Leo Robin
Arranged by Chad Weirick

When He Sees Me

from Waitress: The Musical
Words and Music by Sara Bareilles

Angel Carrero, soloist

Bad Romance

Words and Music by Stefani Germanotta and
Nadir Khayat
Arranged by Charles Beale

Bubbles Up

Words and Music by Jimmy Buffett and Will
Kimbrough

Clint Condon and Randy Webb, soloists

The Times They Are A-Changin'

Words and Music by Bob Dylan
Arranged by Adam Podd

The Coastliners

I'll Make a Man Out of You

from Mulan
Music by Matthew Wilder
Lyrics by David Zippel
Arranged by Timothy Accurso

Count on Me

Words and Music by Peter Hernandez, Philip
Lawrence, and Ari Levine
Arranged by Spencer Zembrodt

In This Very Room

Words and Music by Ron Harris and Carol Harris

Patrick Mooney, soloist

'Til We Reach That Day

from Ragtime
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens
Music by Stephen Flaherty

Derek Sheridan, soloist

INTERMISSION

THE BAND

Principal Accompanist: Robert Day
Synth: Michael Czubaj

Bass: Adam Tully
Percussion: Tim Hampton

WE BELONG

We Go Together

from Grease
Words and Music by Jim Jacobs and Warren
Casey

Ray of Light

Words and Music by Madonna Ciccone, William
Orbit, Christine Leach, Clive Muldoon, and Dave
Curtis
Arrangement by Dave Volpe

Let's Do It

Words and Music by Cole Porter
Arranged by Chanticleer
Transcription and Accompaniment by Ralph
Raymond Hays

The Coastliners

Lavender

Kevyn Breedon

Kevyn Breedon, soloist

All I Know So Far

Words and Music by Alecia Moore, Benj Pasek,
and Justin Paul
Arranged by Ash

Keep Holding On

Words and Music by Lukasz Gottwald and Avril
Lavigne
Arranged by Steve Milloy

The Coastliners

Let Me Listen

Music by Dan Forrest
Text by Charles Anthony Silvestri

Ohio

from In Pieces
Music and Lyrics by Joey Contreras

Mike Majer, soloist

Together Again

Words and Music by Janet Jackson, James Harris
III, Terry Lewis, and Rene Elizondo Jr.
Arranged by Chad Weirick

Home

from The Wiz
Music and Lyrics by Charlie Smalls
Arranged by Aki.k

Adrian Lesmana, soloist

Light

from Next to Normal
Lyrics by Brian Yorkey
Music by Tom Kitt
Arranged and adapted by Neal Richardson

Marcus Morrison, soloist

WE BELONG

DANCERS

Gregory Daniels—Choreographer

We Go Together

Patrick Carpenter
Angel Carrero
Ben Johns

Mike Majer
Chuck Nusbaum
Ángel Placeres

Joe Richvalsky
Jonathan Williams

Bad Romance

Ben Johns
Chuck Nusbaum
Ángel Placeres

Joe Richvalsky
Eric Unhold
Jonathan Williams

Patrick Carpenter -
Swing

Together Again

Ben Johns
Chuck Nusbaum
Ángel Placeres

Joe Richvalsky
Eric Unhold
Jonathan Williams

Patrick Carpenter -
Swing

I'll Make a Man Out of You

L.P. Coladangelo
Derek Sheridan

Charles Kwon
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Spencer Eaves

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RICHARD COLE - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR NORTH COAST MEN'S CHORUS

BIOGRAPHIES

Richard Cole (Artistic Director/Interim Executive Director) is thrilled to be conducting the Chorus for their 38th Season with concerts filled with all the thrills, chills and laughs you've come to expect. After joining the chorus as a singer in 1989, Rich quickly became involved by serving on the Board for several years. Rich was tapped as the Chorus' interim director for the second half of the 1997-98 season before accepting the permanent position. In addition to the full chorus, Rich also directs The Coastliners, NCMC's small ensemble. In 2014, Rich served as chair of the Gay Games Choral and Band committee, arranging for performances at the Opening Ceremonies and concerts with participants from around the world.

A 1981 graduate of Bowling Green State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in music education, he frequently arranges and/or transcribes pieces of music for the Chorus. Rich worked for Xerox for 23 years managing a proprietary software platform. Although the Xerox career is over, Rich is using those business skills as the interim Executive Director for NCMC. Between working, rehearsing, transcribing, arranging, scheduling, and computing, Rich finds time to enjoy a good martini with his partner, Bryan. Not bad for a boy from Fremont, Ohio!

Robert Day (Principal Accompanist) is in his 26th season as Principal Accompanist of the North Coast Men's Chorus, having begun his tenure in the June 2000 concert. He has been the accompanist for over two-thirds of the Chorus' 38 seasons, including all its Cleveland concerts, all of the chorus' "Hearts on Fire" and "Mardi Gras" benefits, has traveled with the chorus to seven GALA festivals, and is the accompanist on all five of the NCMC's CDs. A native Clevelander, Bob holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Otterbein University, and a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance from The Ohio State University. In 2005, he retired from 30 years of public school teaching, those last 19 years as Choral Director at Willoughby South High School. And in 2023 he retired from 37 years as Organist at the The Church of the Saviour in Cleveland Heights. He previously has been either music director or accompanist for several area community theaters, and has been one of the staff accompanists for Playhouse Square's summer Broadway Camp for high school students. He is still a huge baseball fan, and enjoys spending the rest of his spare time with partner Scott.

Gregory Daniels (Choreographer) has been the head of the Dance Program at Baldwin Wallace University for 15 years. As a professional dancer, Greg has performed in regional theaters from coast to coast, in national and international tours of Broadway shows and, for nine years in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular in NYC. He teaches master classes across the country. His choreographic credits include *Anything Goes*, starring Tony Award nominated Dee Hoty; the world premiere of a new musical, *My Own Song* (Flatrock Playhouse, NC), starring Clint Holmes; and *Putting it Together* (Syracuse Stage), starring Tony Award winners Lillias White and Chuck Cooper. Other shows, to name a few, include *Cabaret*, *Les Miserables*, *The Secret Garden* and *Forever Plaid* (Idaho Shakespeare Festival and Great Lakes Theater), *Dreamgirls* and *Smokey Joe's Café* (Cain Park), and the regional premiere of *Spring Awakening*, *Carrie: the musical* and *Once* (Beck Center for the Arts). Greg also had the rare honor of creating an original number for the World Famous Rockettes at New York's famed Radio City Music Hall for the Commerce Bank WOW Awards. For Baldwin Wallace University, he has choreographed such shows as *Rent*, *La Bohème*, *Lizzie: The Musical*, *Follies*, *A Chorus Line*, the academic premiere of *Kinky Boots* and the first academic production of *Spring Awakening* that streamed around the world, including an encore weekend because of the demand. Awards include 2012 and 2014 Cleveland Critics Circle Award for Best Choreographer for the regional premiere of *Spring Awakening* and *Carrie*, and 2012 and 2014 Broadwayworld.com Cleveland Award for Best Choreography for *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *Carrie* and *Les Miserables*. He is a member of Actors' Equity Association and Stage Directors and Choreographers Union. Please visit gregorydaniels.net



RICHARD COLE - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR NORTH COAST MEN'S CHORUS

BIOGRAPHIES

Michael Czubaj (Coastliners Accompanist) born in Amherst, New York and raised in Eastlake, Ohio started his music journey at age 2 with piano lessons. After moving to Ohio, he took lessons from various teachers until he started at Cleveland Institute of Music in the Conservatory Prep Program in high school. Upon graduation, he attended Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music where he obtained his Bachelors of Music Education. Post graduation he has continued his musical journey by accompanying various schools around the area as well as large ensembles state wide; including the 2022 OMEA All State Choir directed by Dr. Jo-Michael Sheibe from the University of Southern California. He has also music directed various Drama programs and companies in Northeast Ohio. During his time music directing, he has received Dazzle Nominations and Awards for his students orchestras.

Outside accompanying, he has played with countless artists around the eastern part of the country, including world renowned artists such as Buddy Guy, Victor Wainwright, Bob Margolin, Christone "Kingfish" Ingram, and Sean Carney. He now works as an HVAC technician and installer at Steve's Air Conditioning and Heating while still accompanying churches and starting his own piano and voice studio. This is his second year accompanying the North Coast Men's Chorus Coastliners, and he is so grateful for the opportunity to make music with such an amazing ensemble!

Brad Speck (Production Manager) holds a BA in Theater and Dance with a minor in Music from Ohio University. Some of his vast production and design credits include: Phoenix Theatre, Glendale Community College, South Mountain Community College, National Dance Authority, Kalliope Stage, and Lyric Opera Cleveland. In his spare time he plays in the Cleveland Pride Band, Cleveland's LGBT+ concert and marching band. He supports his arts habit by selling real estate and has starred in four episodes of the hit HGTV show HOUSE HUNTERS.

AJ Stokes (Sound Designer) founder and President of Stokes Sound and Video, Inc, is proud to have worked with the North Coast Men's Chorus for over 25 seasons. Providing both sound and video production for more than 50 years, AJ has worked with the Cleveland Orchestra, the Cleveland Guardians, the City of Akron, Akron Public Schools, and the Canton Symphony.

Doug Braun (ASL Interpreter) has been part of the NCMC since its beginning. Braun graduated from Oberlin College and received his sign language training at Cleveland State University. Braun earned his Master's Degree in Social Work in 1991. He provides in-home counseling for Cleveland elders. A ham radio operator for twenty years, he volunteers with the Amateur Radio Emergency Services.



RICHARD COLE - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
NORTH COAST MEN'S CHORUS

WHO'S WHO

Production:

Artistic Director: Richard Cole
Production Manager: Brad Speck
Production Stage Manager: Diana White
Assistant Stage Manager: Dillon Wertz
Lighting Designer: Brad Speck
Sound Design: A.J. Stokes & Stokes Sound
International, Inc.
Choreographer: Gregory Daniels
Principal Accompanist: Robert Day
Coastliners Accompanist: Michael Czubaj
ASL Interpreters: Doug Braun, Scott Merk
Wardrobe: Bryan K. Fetty, Savage

Support Staff & Volunteers:

Interim Executive Director: Richard Cole
Business Manager: Andrew Zupcsan
Administrative/Volunteers: Daniel Evans,
Sherry Thaler
Graphic Design: Ray Jasinski & Linear Creative
eNotes Newsletter Editor: Bryan K. Fetty
Concert Program Designer: Andrew Zupcsan
Music Librarian: Wade Tolleson
Photography: Jim Greenfield, Jacob Sudnick

THE COASTLINERS

Richard Cole, Director

Michael Czubaj, Accompanist

Patrick Carpenter
Don Ferencz
Bryan K. Fetty
Brandon Krapes
Jeffrey Lamkin
Mark P. Malloy
Chuck Nusbaum

Don Pedley
Ángel Placeres
Bruce Tillberg
Cody Tudor*
Randy Webb
Jonathan Williams

*Not performing in this concert



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RICHARD COLE - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
NORTH COAST MEN'S CHORUS

Why These Songs Belong

WE BELONG is a celebration of our community in all of its facets! Here are the stories behind the lyrics of some of the songs you'll hear tonight and why we chose them for this concert.

I'll Make a Man out of You

Disney's Mulan

This song was recommended by a Trans member of our community.

"When I first came out, I didn't know where my journey would go or how to be a man. At the time, YouTube was where we documented our transition, and that song was used often. It was empowering, and reminded us that we were the ones to choose what kind of man we were - not just toxic masculinity, but the "feminine" part we could bring."

This song and the movie *Mulan* have long been an anthem and sounding board for people in the LGBTQ+ community because of the themes of survival through concealment, fear of being discovered, finding out who you truly are, and finding acceptance.

This song, while empowering for many, can be a conflicting experience for people as well, as it focuses on rigid ideas of masculinity. Transition is a deeply personal experience that cannot be defined or neatly summed up by any single pop song, but continuing conversations around these themes helps our community move toward greater inclusivity and celebration of all its members.

Let Me Listen

Dan Forrest

Members of our Chorus heard this song for the first time at a conference in Columbus in a performance by PRISM, an LGBTQ+ chorus from Detroit. The quiet but clear theme of Listening was immediately impactful. From the composer: "Written as a statement of support for, and allyship with, our Black brothers and sisters (as well as all people of color). Too often, in any aspect of life, we explain away other people's experiences instead of seeking to understand experiences that differ from our own; we're so busy talking about our own viewpoints that we fail to listen to the voices we most need to hear. I asked Tony Silvestri to write a text called *let me listen* that could function as a personal statement from me to people I need to listen to - especially to my friends of color. This the text that resulted- words that speak powerfully for any situation where we need to listen to those who have been marginalized or mistreated, not heard or believed."

Together Again

Janet Jackson

Written by Janet Jackson in the late 90's, *Together Again* was inspired by the loss of friends who died from AIDS. Although powerful on its own, that inspiration is set against the backdrop of a bright, euphoric dance track. This seeming dissonance of lyrical and musical themes transforms this song into a celebration of life; imagining reunion, memories, and love that continues long after death. So much of the Queer experience often takes place on dance floors, in clubs, during parties - *Together Again* grants us an opportunity to dance, celebrate, and party in the midst of our grief and pain. Jackson has long supported AIDS awareness and related charitable efforts..

Our Chorus has members ranging in age from the 20's to the 80's, with many members born after the early years of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s and 90s. Songs like *Together Again* that celebrate, memorialize, and remind us of our Queer history are vital to keeping our community connected to those who have lived/danced/sung/died before our time.

Not everyone that is part of our NCMC family is on stage today
We Love our Volunteers!



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- + Make new friends
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Info: nemchorus.org/volunteers/

Thank You to our Season 38 Volunteers

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Kay Brabander	Mark Malloy
Ted Daisher	Kim Melville
Daniel Evans	Todd Narvin
Bryan Fetty	Kandi Robbins
Sean Gilbow	Ron Shaffer
Jocelyn Johnson	CJ Smith
Carolyn Keagler	Sherry Thaler
Karl Kimpo	Sofi Vaattovaara
Helen Kopp	Bob Zombar
Brandon Krapes	



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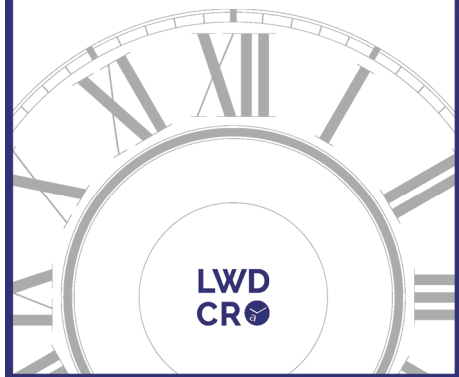
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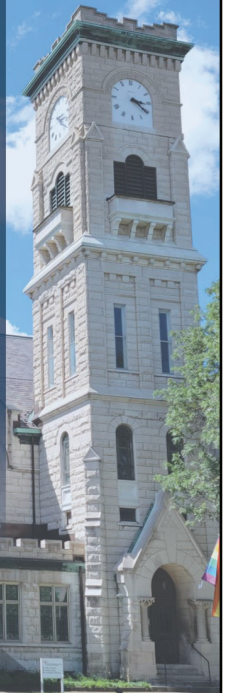
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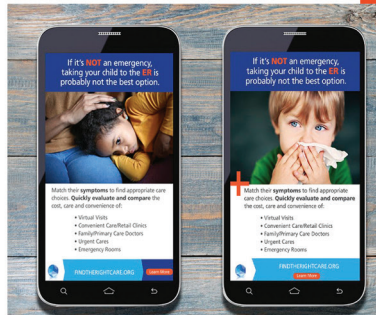
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RICHARD COLE • ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
NORTH COAST MEN'S CHORUS

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