



## SILICON VALLEY GAY MEN'S CHORUS

72 North Fifth Street, Suite 16, San Jose, California 95112 • www.svgmc.org

*"Transforming and Uniting Our Global Community through Song!"*

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May 19, 2009

Dear Friend of SVGMC,

My name is Jamie Mumau. I sing in the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus, and I serve on its board of directors. And I'd like to tell you my story.

I graduated from Oklahoma City University in 1997, the same year that I came out as a gay man. I was 25. I moved to Texas and taught for five years before becoming a middle school assistant principal.

Before I came out, I was married—yes, to a woman—and had the most beautiful daughter. When the marriage ended, I lost custody of my child because the court declared a gay household to be an inappropriate living situation for her. I remained actively involved in my daughter's life, but as a teenager, she chose to stop her weekend visits to my house. I decided to move to California; the Bay Area seemed a safe refuge from the sadness I felt.

I became an administrator for a local school district. For the next three years, I made numerous friends and began to rebuild my life. I started feeling more at home, but something else was missing. Last spring, I found that missing piece—the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus.

SVGMC has been an incredibly important part of my life for the last year. Through the chorus, I have found friends that I consider my "extended family." More importantly, I have found people who share a love of music and service to our community. The people of SVGMC have made me feel safe and complete, and for that, I will forever be grateful.

Last year, the chorus traveled to Miami, Florida to perform at GALA Choruses Festival 8—a week-long series of concerts by and for gay and lesbian choruses from around the world. I had just been laid off from my job, but a scholarship from SVGMC allowed me to join my fellow singers on stage. The chorus could not have done this without financial support from people like you!

One year later, we're keenly aware of the economic challenges faced by our community, our patrons, and our fellow performing arts and community organizations. However, thanks to all of you who continue to support the gay and lesbian community, SVGMC is poised to complete a successful concert season...and we'd love to end it in the black!

*D. Asa Stern, Interim Artistic Director • Rusty Tooley, General Manager • Dan England, Director of Marketing*

*BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

*Tom Nixon, President • Kenny Porush, Vice-President • Don Jolly, Secretary • Richard Hall, Treasurer  
Jerald Enos • Kim Harris • David Lang • Jamie Mumau*

SVGMC has been the extended family for hundreds of gay men for over twenty-five years. We intend to keep transforming the lives of our singers and audiences for a long time to come.

To make that possible, I'm writing to you and other friends of SVGMC. I ask that you make a gift of any amount by June 20<sup>th</sup> to support our chorus.

To support our fundraising goals, SVGMC participates in the *Music & Arts Campaign* (a program of Arts Council Silicon Valley). You can join us in this campaign with a contribution of any amount: even \$5 makes a difference and demonstrates your support. If you can afford a larger gift, consider these three sponsorship opportunities:

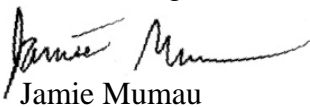
- **Underwrite a Performance.** Our concert expenses include much more than just theater rental. One of the largest “hidden” charges is liability insurance—over \$500 per concert. Your contribution of \$250 would provide the coverage required by our venues for one performance—and protect SVGMC in the event of a calamity.
- **Adopt a Singer.** Rehearsal weekends. Performance attire. Travel. It costs money to sing for a chorus! SVGMC auditions singers for their musical ability—not their financial status. We want to make chorus membership accessible to singers at every income level. With a gift of \$100, you can “adopt” a singer and help defray their personal costs of being in the chorus.
- **Buy a Song.** The price of sheet music keeps rising, but purchasing new works allows us to bring fresh programming to you, our audience. \$50 will purchase the copies of one song needed for rehearsals by our chorus members. Perhaps you can give at this level.

I hope you'll consider one of these sponsorship opportunities, but please know that we'd welcome a contribution of any amount! Making your gift to the *Music & Arts Campaign* enables us to put your contribution to work—quickly and efficiently. It's easy to make a secure credit card gift online by visiting <http://www.artsCouncil.org/grants/programs/music.asp> (click on “**Make a donation to the campaign**” at the bottom of the page). Or take a moment right now to write out a check and use the enclosed envelope. Either way, please remember to designate SVGMC as the recipient.

If your employer has a matching gift program, please obtain a Matching Gift Form from your Human Resources office and include it in the envelope. This is a great way to make your financial support go even further.

Your financial support of SVGMC sends a message of encouragement to our artistic director, the marvelous singers, and the wonderful volunteers. I'm grateful for your interest, involvement, and generosity. I'll see you at our next concert on June 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> with the Kinsey Sicks!

Warmest regards,



Jamie Mumau

Development Committee Chair, Board of Directors

P.S. Many of our chorus members have been singing and making music since elementary school. Music has transformed the lives of our members—and sponsors like you. Please help ensure the future of performing arts in the Silicon Valley with a generous gift today. Thank you!