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**Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles Marks Decade of Fostering Healthy School  
Climates and Providing Resources for Southern California LGBTQ Youth**

*GMCLA Kicks Off Alive Music Project's New Season at Boyle Heights'  
Roosevelt High School on October 14th*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**(LOS ANGELES) – OCT. 4, 2016** – On October 14<sup>th</sup>, the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles (GMCLA) will kick off the 10<sup>th</sup> year of its Alive Music Project, the country's most expansive school outreach and music education program for LGBTQ youth at Roosevelt High School in the East L.A. community of Boyle Heights.

Concentrating on schools throughout Southern California, the program connects and engages students by facilitating significant dialogue through music and directly with chorus members to create a safe space on campus, as well as through master classes and workshops with GMCLA's Artistic Director Dr. Joe Nadeau and a combined performance.

Since launching in 2007, GMCLA has reached a staggering 45,000 students directly through its Alive Music Project, and looks forward to considerably increasing that number during its next season.

The commencement of its 10<sup>th</sup> season in October coincides with an important month for awareness of issues raised around the safety of LGBT youth, with National Coming Out Day being marked on October 11, as well as Spirit Day on October 20. According to the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN), 74% of LGBTQ students have been verbally harassed because of their sexual orientation; 49% have experienced cyberbullying; and 55.5% feel unsafe at school.

Following the start of the season at Roosevelt Height School, GMCLA's Alive Music Project also has plans to reach students this fall with their message of equality and of bolstering self-esteem in middle schools and high schools throughout East and South L.A., as well as Riverside, Ventura, Santa Clarita, and Long Beach. They will also be introducing their program for the first time in the city's youth correctional system.

"GMCLA's Alive Music Project engages youth through exciting live performances, helping students and teacher engage with a subject that isn't always discussed in class, helping to create more safe spaces on school campuses throughout Southern California," says Gavin Thrasher, GMCLA's Assistant Conductor and Alive Music Project Coordinator. "GMCLA works with many students who have never met an open and out member of the LGBT community, and this gives them the

opportunity to engage with the truth of LGBT people as part of society, out or not, just like everyone else.”

“Visibility and education are the greatest tools in building a healthy school environment of acceptance and respect for LGBTQ youth especially within the Latino community,” says Eddie Martinez, co-founder of the Latino Equality Alliance. “The Gay Men’s Chorus of Los Angeles performance at Roosevelt High School will inspire a generation of Boyle Heights youth to be bullying free and inclusive of LGBTQ rights.”

For more information on the Alive Music Project and GMCLA, visit [www.gmcla.org](http://www.gmcla.org).

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**About Gay Men’s Chorus of Los Angeles (GMCLA)**

*GMCLA has garnered international acclaim for artistic excellence while remaining deeply rooted in service to the Los Angeles community and beyond by promoting civil rights, tolerance and acceptance through music. Founded in 1979 during the emergence of the gay civil rights movement, critics have proclaimed the chorus “inspired,” “expressive, innovative, and utterly moving,” and hailed it for presenting “meaningful entertainment.”*