



grapevine pr + consulting

Steven Le Vine
8033 Sunset Blvd, Suite 831
Los Angeles, CA 90046
(323) 386-2300, x1
steven.levine@theprgrapevine.com

Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles Partners with the Los Angeles Unified School District, Bringing Choral Music Education to Los Angeles Students

First-Ever Music Education Program Led by LGBTQ Arts Organization

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

(LOS ANGELES) – AUGUST 22, 2018 – Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles (GMCLA), one of the nation's largest and longest-running LGBTQ arts organizations, will for the first time ever in its 40-year history bring music education into schools.

GMCLA, expanding upon its Alive Music Project, which has successfully been implemented since 2007, reaching more than 60,000 Los Angeles area middle and high school students and making a sizable impact in their daily lives, is now linking up with the Partnership for LA Schools, to bring choral music education into schools that do not currently provide it as part of their curricula.

The new pilot program kicks off today at Edwin Markham Middle School in South Los Angeles. During this program, qualified teaching artists who are members of GMCLA will begin basic vocal training in a class comprised of about 35 students, for two classes per week for the entire semester.

This will be the first time in Los Angeles an LGBTQ Arts Organization offers choral music education in schools, and will further round out GMCLA's overall work in the community, whether through its seasonal concert programming, its Alive Music Project, or its Arts for Incarcerated Youth programming, in which GMCLA goes into youth detention facilities.

Through this vocal and choral music education program, the organization hopes to provide access to music training where it doesn't currently exist, and as a byproduct, continue to bring a message of diversity and inclusion to youth.

“GMCLA is thrilled to be collaborating with the Partnership for LA Schools in this exciting new program,” says Jonathan Weedman, Executive Director for GMCLA. “All children everywhere richly deserve to learn about music and the arts. It changes lives for the better, and we can’t wait to get started.”

“GMCLA’s Youth Programs reach tens of thousands of young people each year,” says Dr. Joe Nadeau, GMCLA’s Artistic Director and Conductor. “The work we are doing in this area is unprecedented. We are thrilled to be able to offer this new choral music education program and hope we can inspire many more young people to find their voices through song.”

Says Gavin Thrasher, Assistant Conductor and Youth Programs Director of GMCLA, “At GMCLA we know that music has the power to change lives, and have personally experienced the power that singing together with other people in a choir has to build connections with others, and build communication and collaborative skills that will help throughout a lifetime. We are excited to start this program that will bring this to more students.”

For more information about GMCLA and its new choral music education program and partnership, visit www.gmcla.org, or call (424) 239-6514.

###

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.”