

SEATTLE MEN'S CHORUS  
SEATTLE WOMEN'S CHORUS

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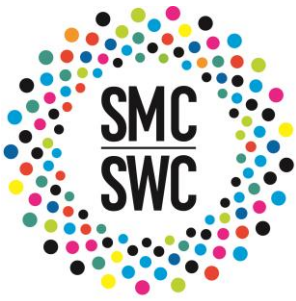
## Seattle Men's Chorus Celebrates Seattle's LGBTQ Underground Railroad

*Love Beyond Borders* Featuring **Bonnie McKee**  
March 20 & 21, 2020 (8pm & 2pm) at Benaroya Hall

SEATTLE, WA—Seattle Men's Chorus (SMC) shines the light on Seattle's pivotal role as a safe haven in the LGBTQ Underground Railroad that began in 2009. Local activists like **Michael Failla** and members from the Seattle Men's Chorus are opening their hearts, homes and wallets by providing housing, furniture, job contracts, training and emotional support to LGBTQ individuals seeking asylum from the dangers in their Muslim-majority homelands. Ultimately, the Seattle community's efforts have brought nearly 90 brave refugees to Seattle and other cities in Europe and North America where their identity is not reviled and they don't live in fear.

Four such men, **Jassem, Mado, Nayyef** and **Btoo** from Iraq, Syria and Tunisia, currently live in Seattle. **Nayeff** and **Btoo** are married and [featured in this video](#), as well as the 2016 documentary film *Out of Iraq*. Their stories, as well as those of **Jassem** and **Mado** will be celebrated in song at these two emotional Spring concerts. Interviews with these men, as well as artistic director **Paul Caldwell** and local activist **Michael Failla** are available upon request.

New commissions from **Caldwell and Ivory, Lyn Rye**, and **Michael Bussewitz-Quarm** open the concert. A cappella ensemble **The Supertones** gives new life to **George Michael's** hit song "Faith" while featured guest artist **Bonnie McKee** premieres her new song "Love You in the Light" to a hometown crowd. The chorus is expected to bring down the house with a selection of pop songs from LGBTQ artists from across the globe including **Freddie Mercury, Ricky Martin**, and **k.d. lang**.



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Grammy-nominee **Bonnie McKee** is one of this country's hottest singer songwriters. She co-wrote *California Gurls*, *Teenage Dream*, *Last Friday Night*, *Part of Me* and *Roar* with **Katy Perry**, co-wrote five songs on **Britney Spears'** album *Femme Fatale*, co-wrote three songs on **Adam Lambert's** album *Trespassing*, and wrote two songs on **Kesha's** album *Warrior*. She has also written songs recorded by **Christina Aguilera**, **Kelly Clarkson**, **Cher**, **Carly Rae Jepsen** and **Ellie Goulding**.

Tickets to the performances are \$25-\$78 and available at [SeattleChoruses.org](http://SeattleChoruses.org) or via the phone at (206) 388-1400. The Seattle area box office is open Monday through Friday, 11AM – 6PM.

**About Seattle Men's Chorus/Seattle Women's Chorus**

The internationally renowned Seattle Men's Chorus (founded 1979) and Seattle Women's Chorus (founded 2002) comprise the largest community choral organization in North America. Both choruses stand out as the largest LGBTQ-identified men's and women's choruses in the world. The choruses comprise one of the Pacific Northwest's largest, most vibrant and successful music organizations, performing in Seattle's most prestigious venues for an annual audience of more than 30,000 patrons. Flying House Productions is the not-for-profit organization that governs and manages the Choruses. Collectively there are over 600 singing members along with staff, volunteers, and associate members who support both Choruses. They are a leading voice for the LGBTQ community and offer more than 30 outreach events and main stage concert performances annually.

**Our Mission**

*Our voices transform society through innovative and entertaining programs that build community, illuminate the experiences of LGBTQ people and their allies, expand inclusion, and inspire justice.*

**Our Vision:**

*A more harmonious world that celebrates the unique identities and talents of all people.*