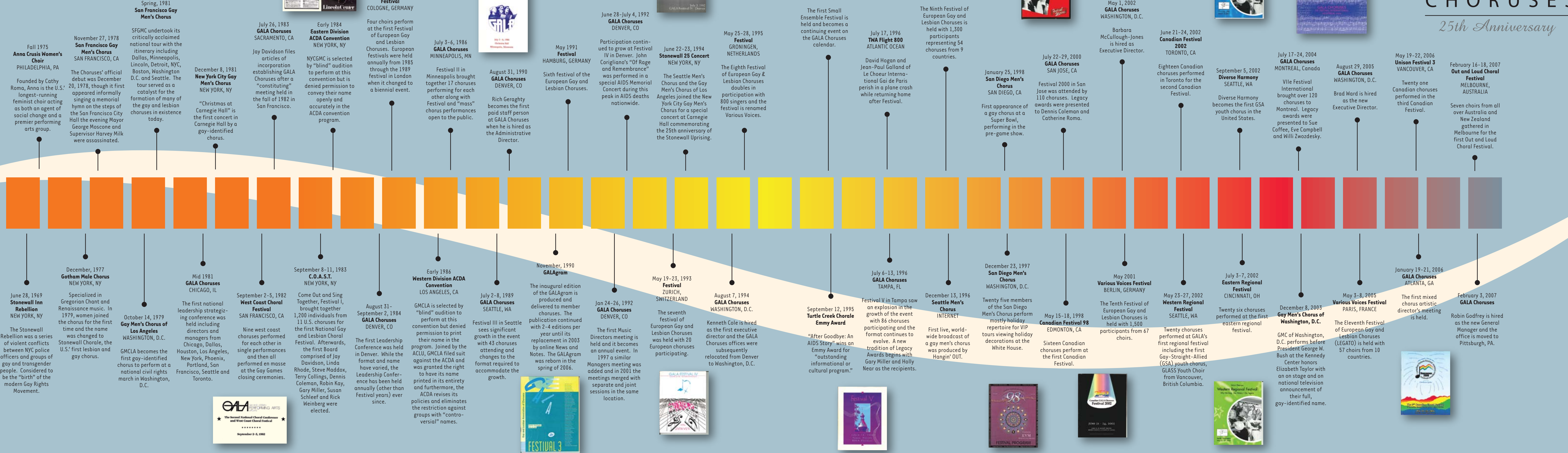


# GALA CHORUSES

25th Anniversary



Fall 1975  
**Anna Crusis Women's Choir**  
PHILADELPHIA, PA

Founded by Cathy Roma, Anna is the U.S.' longest-running feminist choir acting as both an agent of social change and a premier performing arts group.

November 27, 1978  
**San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus**  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

The Choruses' official debut was December 20, 1978, though it first appeared informally singing a memorial hymn on the steps of the San Francisco City Hall the evening Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk were assassinated.

Spring, 1981  
**San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus**

SFGMC undertook its critically acclaimed national tour with the itinerary including Dallas, Minneapolis, Lincoln, Detroit, NYC, Boston, Washington D.C. and Seattle. The tour served as a catalyst for the formation of many of the gay and lesbian choruses in existence today.

December 8, 1981  
**New York City Gay Men's Chorus**  
NEW YORK, NY

"Christmas at Carnegie Hall" is the first concert in Carnegie Hall by a gay-identified chorus.

July 26, 1983  
**GALA Choruses**  
SACRAMENTO, CA

Jay Davidson files articles of incorporation establishing GALA Choruses after a "constituting" meeting held in the fall of 1982 in San Francisco.

Early 1984  
**Eastern Division ACDA Convention**  
NEW YORK, NY

NYCGMC is selected by "blind" audition to perform at this convention but is denied permission to convey their name openly and accurately in the ACDA convention program.

May 1985  
**Festival**  
COLOGNE, GERMANY

Four choirs perform at the first Festival of European Gay and Lesbian Choruses. European festivals were held annually from 1985 through the 1989 festival in London when it changed to a biennial event.

July 3-6, 1986  
**GALA Choruses**  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Festival II in Minneapolis brought together 17 choruses performing for each other along with Festival and "mass" chorus performances open to the public.

August 31, 1990  
**GALA Choruses**  
DENVER, CO

Rich Geraghty becomes the first paid staff person at GALA Choruses when he is hired as the Administrative Director.

May 1991  
**Festival**  
HAMBURG, GERMANY

Sixth festival of the European Gay and Lesbian Choruses.

June 28-July 4, 1992  
**GALA Choruses**  
DENVER, CO

Participation continued to grow at Festival IV in Denver. John Corigliano's "Of Rage and Remembrance" was performed in a special AIDS Memorial Concert during this peak in AIDS deaths nationwide.

June 22-23, 1994  
**Stonewall 25 Concert**  
NEW YORK, NY

The Seattle Men's Chorus and the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles joined the New York City Gay Men's Chorus for a special concert at Carnegie Hall commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising.

May 25-28, 1995  
**Festival**  
GRONINGEN, NETHERLANDS

The Eighth Festival of European Gay & Lesbian Choruses doubles in participation with 800 singers and the festival is renamed Various Voices.

October 20-22, 1995  
**GALA Choruses**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The first Small Ensemble Festival is held and becomes a continuing event on the GALA Choruses calendar.

July 17, 1996  
**TWA Flight 800**  
ATLANTIC OCEAN

David Hogan and Jean-Paul Galland of Le Choeur International Gai de Paris perish in a plane crash while returning home after Festival.

May, 1997  
**Various Voices Festival**  
MUNICH, GERMANY

The Ninth Festival of European Gay and Lesbian Choruses is held with 1,300 participants representing 54 choruses from 9 countries.

January 25, 1998  
**San Diego Men's Chorus**  
SAN DIEGO, CA

First appearance of a gay chorus at a Super Bowl, performing in the pre-game show.

July 22-29, 2000  
**GALA Choruses**  
SAN JOSE, CA

Festival 2000 in San Jose was attended by 110 choruses. Legacy awards were presented to Dennis Coleman and Catherine Roma.

May 1, 2002  
**GALA Choruses**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Barbara McCullough-Jones is hired as Executive Director.

June 21-24, 2002  
**Canadian Festival 2002**  
TORONTO, CA

Eighteen Canadian choruses performed in Toronto for the second Canadian Festival.

September 5, 2002  
**Diverse Harmony**  
SEATTLE, WA

Diverse Harmony becomes the first GSA youth chorus in the United States.

July 17-24, 2004  
**GALA Choruses**  
MONTREAL, Canada

Vile Festival International brought over 120 choruses to Montreal. Legacy awards were presented to Sue Coffee, Eve Campbell and Willi Zwozdesky.

August 29, 2005  
**GALA Choruses**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Brad Ward is hired as the new Executive Director.

May 19-22, 2006  
**Unison Festival 3**  
VANCOUVER, CA

Twenty one Canadian choruses performed in the third Canadian Festival.

February 16-18, 2007  
**Out and Loud Choral Festival**  
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Seven choirs from all over Australia and New Zealand gathered in Melbourne for the first Out and Loud Choral Festival.

June 28, 1969  
**Stonewall Inn Rebellion**  
NEW YORK, NY

The Stonewall Rebellion was a series of violent conflicts between NYC police officers and groups of gay and transgender people. Considered to be the "birth" of the modern Gay Rights Movement.

December, 1977  
**Gotham Male Chorus**  
NEW YORK, NY

Specialized in Gregorian Chant and Renaissance music. In 1979, women joined the chorus for the first time and the name was changed to Stonewall Chorale, the U.S.' first lesbian and gay chorus.

October 14, 1979  
**Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

GMCLA becomes the first gay-identified chorus to perform at a national civil rights march in Washington, D.C.

Mid 1981  
**GALA Choruses**  
CHICAGO, IL

The first national leadership strategizing conference was held including directors and managers from Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, Phoenix, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle and Toronto.

September 2-5, 1982  
**West Coast Choral Festival**  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Nine west coast choruses performed for each other in single performances and then all performed en masse at the Gay Games closing ceremonies.

September 8-11, 1983  
**C.O.A.S.T.**  
NEW YORK, NY

Come Out and Sing Together, Festival I, brought together 1,200 individuals from 11 U.S. choruses for the first National Gay and Lesbian Choral Festival. Afterwards, the first Board comprised of Jay Davidson, Linda Rhode, Steve Maddox, Terry Collings, Dennis Coleman, Robin Kay, Gary Miller, Susan Schlee and Rick Weinberg were elected.

August 31-September 2, 1984  
**GALA Choruses**  
DENVER, CO

The first Leadership Conference was held in Denver. While the format and name have varied, the Leadership Conference has been held annually (other than Festival years) ever since.

Early 1986  
**Western Division ACDA Convention**  
LOS ANGELES, CA

GMCLA is selected by "blind" audition to perform at this convention but denied permission to print their name in the program. Joined by the ACLU, GMCLA filed suit against the ACDA and was granted the right to have its name printed in its entirety and furthermore, the ACDA revises its policies and eliminates the restriction against groups with "controversial" names.

July 2-8, 1989  
**GALA Choruses**  
SEATTLE, WA

Festival III in Seattle sees significant growth in the event with 43 choruses attending and changes to the format required to accommodate the growth.

November, 1990  
**GALAGram**

The inaugural edition of the GALAGram is produced and delivered to member choruses. The publication continued with 2-4 editions per year until its replacement in 2003 by online News and Notes. The GALAGram was reborn in the spring of 2006.

Jan 24-26, 1992  
**GALA Choruses**  
DENVER, CO

The first Music Directors meeting is held and it becomes an annual event. In 1997 a similar Managers meeting was added and in 2001 the meetings merged with separate and joint sessions in the same location.

May 19-23, 1993  
**Festival**  
ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

The seventh festival of European Gay and Lesbian Choruses was held with 20 European choruses participating.

August 7, 1994  
**GALA Choruses**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Kenneth Cole is hired as the first executive director and the GALA Choruses offices were subsequently relocated from Denver to Washington, D.C.

September 12, 1995  
**Turtle Creek Chorale Emmy Award**

"After Goodbye: An AIDS Story" wins an Emmy Award for "outstanding informational or cultural program."

July 6-13, 1996  
**GALA Choruses**  
TAMPA, FL

Festival V in Tampa saw an explosion in the growth of the event with 86 choruses participating and the format continues to evolve. A new tradition of Legacy Awards begins with Gary Miller and Holly Near as the recipients.

December 13, 1996  
**Seattle Men's Chorus**  
INTERNET

First live, world-wide broadcast of a gay men's chorus was produced by Hangin' OUT.

December 23, 1997  
**San Diego Men's Chorus**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Twenty five members of the San Diego Men's Chorus perform mostly holiday repertoire for VIP tours viewing holiday decorations at the White House.

May 15-18, 1998  
**Canadian Festival 98**  
EDMONTON, CA

Sixteen Canadian choruses perform at the first Canadian Festival.

May 2001  
**Various Voices Festival**  
BERLIN, GERMANY

The Tenth Festival of European Gay and Lesbian Choruses is held with 1,500 participants from 67 choirs.

May 23-27, 2002  
**Western Regional Festival**  
SEATTLE, WA

Twenty choruses performed at GALA's first regional festival including the first Gay-Straight-Allied (GSA) youth chorus, GLASS youth choir from Vancouver, British Columbia.

July 3-7, 2002  
**Eastern Regional Festival**  
CINCINNATI, OH

Twenty six choruses performed at the first eastern regional festival.

December 8, 2003  
**Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, D.C.**

GMC of Washington, D.C. performs before President George W. Bush at the Kennedy Center honors Elizabeth Taylor with an on stage and on national television announcement of their full, gay-identified name.

May 3-8, 2005  
**Various Voices Festival**  
PARIS, FRANCE

The Eleventh Festival of European Gay and Lesbian Choruses (LEGATO) is held with 57 choirs from 10 countries.

January 19-21, 2006  
**GALA Choruses**  
ATLANTA, GA

The first mixed chorus artistic director's meeting is held.

February 3, 2007  
**GALA Choruses**

Robin Godfrey is hired as the new General Manager and the office is moved to Pittsburgh, PA.

