

UNITED ★ WE ★ STAND

ATLANTA GAY MEN'S CHORUS



# RED WHITE & YOU

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS COURTENAY COLLINS & FREDDIE ASHLEY

PRESENTED BY:



EMORY  
UNIVERSITY

Office of Lesbian/Gay/  
Bisexual/Transgender Life  
Campus Life



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF GEORGIA



ATLANTA  
GAY MEN'S CHORUS

JUNE 15 - 16, 2012

Glenn Memorial Auditorium, Emory University Campus



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UNITED ★ WE ★ STAND

# ATLANTA GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Crystal Anderson, Executive Director • Kevin Robison, Artistic Director  
Robert Strickland, Principal Pianist

## PRESENTS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
EMORY UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF  
LESBIAN/GAY/BISEXUAL/TRANSGENDER LIFE  
&  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GEORGIA

# RED WHITE & YOU

Written by Kevin Robison and Doug Gathers

With Special Guests  
COURTENAY COLLINS & FREDDIE ASHLEY

June 15 – 16, 2012  
Glenn Memorial Auditorium  
Emory University

The views and material expressed or otherwise contained in this program and performance are not necessarily those of the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus, its Board of Directors, its membership, and/or their affiliates. The AGMC is a non-partisan, non-political charitable organization; the AGMC does not support, endorse or oppose political parties, candidates or organizations, nor does it participate in any activities that benefit any particular political party, candidate or organization.





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EMORY UNIVERSITY

Office of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Life  
Campus Life

The Emory Office of LGBT Life is proud to partner with the Atlanta Gay Men’s Chorus and the League of Women Voters of Georgia to present the empowering messages of *Red, White & YOU* on the Emory campus.

Since 1991, the Office of LGBT Life has been dedicated to engaging the university community in the creation of an affirming and just campus environment while supporting the development of students of all gender and sexual identities. Today, Emory is considered one of the most open learning and working environments in the country, where individuals are not just tolerated but valued. Emory is listed among the top 100 most inclusive universities in *The Advocate College Guide for LGBT Students* and has earned 5 out of 5 stars on the LGBT-Friendly Campus Climate Index.

For more information, email us at [lgbt@emory.edu](mailto:lgbt@emory.edu), follow us on Twitter at [@emorylgbtlife](https://twitter.com/emorylgbtlife) or call our office at 404.727.0272.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GEORGIA

With a proud legacy of the women’s suffrage movement, for over 90 years the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, has worked to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government. It strives to increase understand of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters of Georgia is pleased to join the AGMC and the Emory Office of LGBT Life in presenting the thought-provoking *Red, White & YOU*.

[lwvga.org](http://lwvga.org)  
404.522.4598  
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# A Proclamation

June 1, 2012

From generation to generation, ordinary Americans have led a proud and inexorable march toward freedom, fairness, and full equality under the law — not just for some, but for all. Ours is a heritage forged by those who organized, agitated, and advocated for change; who wielded love stronger than hate and hope more powerful than insult or injury; who fought to build for themselves and their families a Nation where no one is a second-class citizen, no one is denied basic rights, and all of us are free to live and love as we see fit.



The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community has written a proud chapter in this fundamentally American story. From brave men and women who came out and spoke out, to union and faith leaders who rallied for equality, to activists and advocates who challenged unjust laws and marched on Washington, LGBT Americans and allies have achieved what once seemed inconceivable. This month, we reflect on their enduring legacy, celebrate the movement that has made progress possible, and recommit to securing the fullest blessings of freedom for all Americans.

Since I took office, my Administration has worked to broaden opportunity, advance equality, and level the playing field for LGBT people and communities. We have fought to secure justice for all under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and we have taken action to end housing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. We expanded hospital visitation rights for LGBT patients and their loved ones, and under the Affordable Care Act, we ensured that insurance companies will no longer be able to deny coverage to someone just because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. Because we understand that LGBT rights are human rights, we continue to engage with the international community in promoting and protecting the rights of LGBT persons around the world. Because we repealed “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans can serve their country openly, honestly, and without fear of losing their jobs because of whom they love. And because we must treat others the way we want to be treated, I personally believe in marriage equality for same-sex couples.

More remains to be done to ensure every single American is treated equally, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Moving forward, my Administration will continue its work to advance the rights of LGBT Americans. This month, as we reflect on how far we have come and how far we have yet to go, let us recall that the progress we have made is built on the words and deeds of ordinary Americans. Let us pay tribute to those who came before us, and those who continue their work today; and let us rededicate ourselves to a task that is unending — the pursuit of a Nation where all are equal, and all have the full and unfettered opportunity to pursue happiness and live openly and freely.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2012 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month.

I call upon the people of the United States to eliminate prejudice everywhere it exists, and to celebrate the great diversity of the American people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

Barack Obama

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Steven Pennock  
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**We also thank the members of the AGMC Endowment Fund and the Club 88 Membership Club.**

**A full donor listing can be found on the Giving page of [agmchorus.org](http://agmchorus.org).**



Dear Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus & Supporters,

I know far too well the reality of hate and the impact of violence and harassment on young people. Just over thirteen years ago, my son Matthew was left to die after being brutally beaten simply for being gay. Matthew's only agenda was to continue his studies, to help the world, and to be a good son. That chance was taken from him because of violence deeply rooted in hate and prejudice.

In the years since then, one source of inspiration and change has been Randi Driscoll's beautiful song, "What Matters." Since Randi released it as a benefit single after Matthew's death, the song, and the choral arrangement by Kevin Robison, has been performed by individuals, choral groups, and faith-based organizations around the world. This touching song tells the story of acceptance and love and how we should be treating each other in this world.



When my husband Dennis and I founded the Matthew Shepard Foundation, our goal was to raise awareness and encourage acceptance for all, regardless of difference. What we discovered in our experiences in working with others pursuing similar missions was how powerful one person can be in making changes in this world.

This song is just one example of how an individual can make a difference. I want you to know that you too can make a difference, if you choose to make the commitment. You can change the world. You can do it as an individual; you can do it as part of a group. You just need to make the choice. Hate is a learned behavior, and we can unlearn that behavior. We can live our lives in love, if we make that choice.

I want to thank you, the performers, for your courageous efforts and for including "What Matters" in *Red, White & YOU* as this song raises so many emotional and personal issues. I encourage you to use this opportunity to facilitate dialogue in your community about ways we can all do our part to "Replace Hate with Understanding, Compassion and Acceptance."

Best Wishes,

Judy Shepard  
Co-Founder & President  
The Matthew Shepard Foundation





## Red, White & YOU: From Page to Stage

Not since 2009 have we programmed a concert as powerful as *Red, White & YOU*, and our timing could not have been better. President Barack Obama's unprecedented statement regarding marriage equality is one of many newsworthy moments in American history that make this weekend even more timely than we anticipated.

Many of you will remember our concert that focused on stories of gay men, faith and reconciliation. *Shaken, Not Heard* was culled from real-life stories of members of the chorus, woven together to serve as a thread for the music. Shortly thereafter, the AGMC creative team considered creating a similar piece of choral theatre, but what would the subject be? We discussed the problem of bullying, but after much deliberation we agreed that the topic was too narrow. Bullying is only a small part of a greater problem — a lack of equality at all levels of society. Once again, we were brought back to the mother of all reasons that we sing, which is to create positive social change and promote equality. It was going to be an election year and campaign trails seem to always carry some equality-related issue. What better time to focus on it? *Red, White & YOU* had a name, but what shape would it take?

It was just as our creative team was putting its best American “power songs” on the table that I came across the play *8* by Dustin Lance Black, author of the screenplay *Milk*. In the form of a staged reading, *8* followed the landmark trial of *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* — the case filed with the federal district court of California to overturn a bill eliminating the right for gay and lesbian couples to marry. The script was based on actual court transcripts and in the absence of video tapes never released, distilled the essence of the testimonies that had put fear and prejudice on trial.



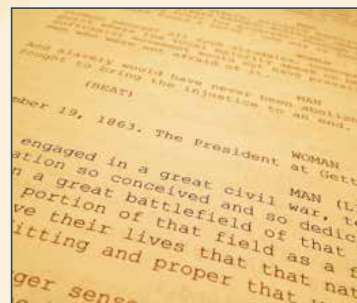
The powerful closing argument (delivered by Martin Sheen in the film version of the LA reading) reminded me of many recent speeches I had seen on Facebook and YouTube. There was Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire's moving follow-up on signing marriage equality into law; Newark, NJ Mayor Cory Booker's speech in which he said that such laws would strengthen our society, not break it down; and there was Zach Wahls, the young man who spoke to the Iowa House of Representatives, proudly stating that his lesbian moms helped him become the man he is today. And of course Attorney Theodore B. Olson's final words of that closing argument: “The day we end the discrimination we say is making us less American is the day we become more American.” There was something to be tapped into for sure, and there was a wealth of ways to sing about it.



So we began to explore this idea of great speeches on a broader level. We didn't want to do a concert that simply focused on the topic of marriage equality because, as Congressman John Lewis puts it, "You cannot draw a line, you cannot build a wall. We must respect the dignity and the worth of every human being." History clearly proves his point — slavery was eventually abolished, women were granted the right to vote, segregation ended, hate crime laws are being passed, and states are beginning to ratify marriage equality laws. All of these issues illustrate that marriage equality is simply part of the larger picture.

That being the case, what did political leaders and activists have to say during the civil war? What points did women make about the right to vote during the suffrage movement? Countless African-Americans put their struggles into powerful words during the civil rights struggle. Could we not look back and draw some obvious parallels? Our universal message was coming squarely into focus, and we were right — hate crime, bullying, women's rights, civil rights, gay rights...they were and still are debated because we continue to forget a founding principle of this country: that all people are created equal.

After much research, the written or spoken words of eight powerful Americans made the final cut. AGMC is proud to have Atlanta-based actors Courtenay Collins and Freddie Ashley reading excerpts from them and guiding us through the history of equality in this country. Unfortunately, we couldn't possibly quote every great speech and we couldn't address every issue – such as the feminist movement and the seemingly endless issue of discrimination against women in the workplace. Additionally, because we must plan well in advance, we may not have not been able to celebrate or fully explore events that have happened in the last month.



Still, I believe what we've created is another thought-provoking work in the canon of choral theatre — one that reflects on American struggles and how they were overcome. We believe *Red, White & YOU* demonstrates that when views on an issue appear to simultaneously improve and worsen, the conflict will reach a tipping point and something will have to change. With polls now showing over 50 percent of Americans in support of marriage equality, we have reached the tipping point.

To help us celebrate our momentum, we are honored to have the Emory University Office of LGBT Life and the League of Women Voters of Georgia at our side. Their efforts have made it possible for you to experience this production with us. Additionally, we've received personal letters of support from activists and political leaders that we are thrilled to share with you in this souvenir program.

We're not here to endorse any candidates or tell you what you should think or how you should live your life. Regardless of how you vote this year, our hope is that you make informed decisions that speak from your heart...just as we are singing from ours.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "K. Robison".

Kevin Robison, Artistic Director

# RED WHITE & YOU

## ACT I

### How Can I Keep From Singing?

Quaker Hymn (c. 1800), Arranged by Gwyneth Walker

Sponsored by Micky O'Leary, PhD, Karuna Counseling dedicated to the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus

### America

Words by Katherine L. Bates, Music by Samuel A. Ward

Arranged by Mary McDonald

### Shall Women Vote?

Words by Joseph D. Payne (1881), Music by Frank Boylen

### We Shall Overcome

Arr. Mark Hayes

Musical and Lyrical Adaptation by Zilphia Horton,  
Frank Hamilton, Guy Carawan, and Pete Seeger

Inspired by African American Gospel Singing; members of the Food and Tobacco  
Workers Union, Charleston, SC; and the southern Civil Rights Movement

### Here Comes the Sun

featuring Panache

John Lennon & Paul McCartney

Arranged by Kirby Shaw

### Don't Rain on My Parade

Words by Bob Merrill, Music by Jule Styne

Arr. Neal Richardson

### Armed Forces Medley

Arranged by Greg Gilpin

*In keeping with tradition, if you have served or are currently serving  
in a branch of the armed forces, please stand when the song of your branch is sung.*

The Caisson Song  
The Marine's Hymn  
Anchors Aweigh  
Semper Paratus  
The U.S. Air Force

Edmund L. Gruber  
Words by Henry C. Davis, Music Traditional  
Capt. Alfred H. Miles and Charles Zimmerman  
Words and Music by Capt. Francis Saltus Van Boskerck  
Robert Crawford

~ INTERMISSION ~

# ACT II

## Color Out of Colorado

featuring Benjamin Hammer, Ryan Mobley,  
Daniel Guillaro & David Morris

Words by Mark Waldrop, Music by Dick Gallagher  
Arranged by Larry Moore

## Mean

featuring Panache

Taylor Swift  
Arranged by Kevin Robison

## What Matters

Words & music by Randi Driscoll, Arranged by Kevin Robison

## It Gets Better

featuring vocal ensemble\*

Jay Kuo and Blair Shepard  
Arranged by Kevin Robison

## Why We Sing

Greg Gilpin

## We Shall Overcome / Lean On Me

featuring Allen Burrell  
We Shall Overcome

Arr. Mark Hayes

Lean on Me

Zilphia Horton, Frank Hamilton,  
Guy Carawan & Pete Seeger  
Words & music by Bill Withers

## Dedications

Performance costs for selected songs in AGMC concerts are underwritten by the generous donations of singing and associate members or other supporters. For Red, White & YOU:

**What Matters:** This concert's message — equality, harmony, unity — is what matters, and why I've sung with this chorus since 1994. Love to my AGMC family and our supporters. — Mac McKinsey

**What Matters:** In honor of Tom Lekan, who has truly shown me what matters in Life.  
With all my heart, John Lane.

**What Matters:** In memory of my friend Craig Allen, who left us far too soon. — Paul Pisanick

**It Gets Better:** Dedicated with love and wishes for a speedy recovery  
for our chorus brother Jim Harper, by the members of the AGMC.

**Why We Sing:** To my wife Susan. Our life-long duet began when we were just 19. 35 years later,  
the best is yet unwritten. What a beautiful, harmonic journey we share! I love you! — Jim Boyle

\***Vocal Ensemble:** Allen Burrell, Michael Cranford, Timothy Garrett, Daniel Guillaro, Benjamin Hammer  
Ryan Mobley, David Morris, Tommy Robinson, Daniel Summers, Jr.



# Members of the AGMC

## Tenor I

Allen Burrell  
 Brandon Bush #  
 Eric Eason  
 Doug Gathers#  
 Dick Johnson  
 Benjamin Laffoon \*  
 Sean McClenney #  
 Steve Mendenhall  
 Christopher Repotski #  
 Daniel Summers, Jr. #  
 Cole Thaler \*  
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## The Fifth Section

Jason Aguila  
 Andrea N. Baker  
 Daniel Barker  
 Susan Boyle  
 Tim Byrne  
 Dallas Davisson  
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 Rainer Haspel  
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 Gary Lindsey  
 Kane McConnell  
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 Will Simson

## Tenor II

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 Tom Brumlik  
 Scott Drinkard \*  
 John Fay  
 Joe Gallagher  
 Scott Guffey #  
 Daniel Guillaro #  
 Jim Harper \*  
 Steve Harper  
 Nathaniel Hodges #  
 Neil Keener \*  
 Eric Klem  
 Tom Lawson  
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 Ryan Mobley  
 David Morris  
 Bill Paden  
 Gene Rinehart \*  
 Randall Sheffield  
 David van Mersbergen  
 James Wagoner  
 Andrew White  
 Greg Wiggins #  
 Erik Williams #

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 David G. Artadi #  
 Dennis Barrett #  
 Lucas Beno  
 Joshua Bosin  
 Shanen Boyd  
 Darrell Card \*  
 Joe Christley #  
 David Clark \*  
 Michael Cranford  
 Peter Cranton  
 Mark Danak # \*  
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 Alan Dale  
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 Allen Fromherz  
 Tim Garrett #  
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 Levi Robinson \*  
 Tommy Robinson #  
 Robert Sanders #  
 Michael Shipley #  
 Hugh Simons  
 Eldon Smith \*  
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## We Want YOU...

*...to join us for our 32nd season this fall as we continue our mission to present entertaining and thought-provoking performances that appeal to a diverse audience, create a positive image of the LGBTQ community, and promote equality for all persons.*

# Panache  
 \* Leave of Absence

Auditions will be held in late summer. Watch [agmchorus.org](http://agmchorus.org), email us at [information@agmchorus.org](mailto:information@agmchorus.org) or call us at 404.320.1030.

Dear Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus,

There are often contentious issues to deal with as a member of the state legislature, but so far, none more so than the issue of marriage equality. I recently voted in favor of the bill that would legalize gay marriage in the State of Washington. Many of my constituents did not approve of my stance on this legislation and I respect their right to disagree with me on this.

Some feel that by allowing gay couples to marry it somehow diminishes the institution of marriage. I see just the opposite. Others argue that the legalizing of domestic partnerships offered all of the same rights as marriage to gay couples. In actuality, there are still over 1100 federal benefits for which gay couples do not qualify. For example, same sex partners and their children do not qualify for federal Social Security survivor benefits. Same sex couples with kids are also not allowed to file joint tax returns as a family resulting in an increased tax burden.

I initially had concerns that religious institutions could be forced to perform marriages for gay couples or risk being sued. The language in the bill is very specific in recognizing the separation of church and state and assures that will not happen.

I was raised and married in the Catholic Church. My parents will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary this September. I am one of seven children whose siblings have all been married for decades without any divorces. My own marriage to the love of my life lasted for 23 years until I was widowed 6 years ago. I come from a family who respects and cherishes the institution of marriage. I also come from a family that does not believe in discrimination, and frankly, I suspect the Supreme Court will ultimately rule that denying equal rights to same sex couples to marry is unconstitutional.

Some may question if I am truly a Republican. I would submit that a core tenet of the Republican Party is individual freedom. As a legislator, my vote on the vast majority of bills is cast on what is in the best interest of the people in my district. When confronted with issues of conscience such as this, I am unable to compromise on what I truly believe is the right thing to do in my heart and in my mind. It may have been politically easier for me to vote no on this issue and not be subjected to the many undesirable comments I have received. But I signed up for this job, am truly honored to serve, and hope my constituents agree that I must be true to my convictions.

I am pleased to hear that you have dedicated a performance to address the issue of individual freedom and wish you the best with *Red, White & YOU*.

Rep. Maureen Walsh (R)  
16th Legislative District  
Washington State



# Who's Who in Red, White & You



**Kevin Robison, Artistic Director** is now completing his fifth season as artistic director of the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus. After receiving a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from the University of North Alabama and a Master of Arts degree in choral conducting from the University of Nevada, Kevin moved to Southern California where he served as resident director of music for the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts and on the faculties of Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo, Cal-Poly Pomona, and Cal-State Fullerton. For three years he served as assistant conductor of Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles (GMCLA) and artistic director of the South Coast Chorale in Long Beach.

Kevin has been actively involved with GALA Choruses — the international association of gay and lesbian choruses — for a decade and has become one of its most sought-after composers and arrangers. Published by Hal Leonard and Oxford University Press, Kevin has received commissions from some of the leading choruses in the nation, including the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, New York City Gay Men's Chorus, Seattle Men's Chorus, Turtle Creek Chorale, San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, and the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus. Kevin's arrangements have been sung on stage by Malcolm Gets, Jenifer Lewis, Lily Tomlin, Joanna Gleason, Susan Egan and many others. He has also collaborated on productions with Del Shores (of *Sordid Lives* fame), Kate Clinton, and Miss Coco Peru. Much of his music for male voices has been performed and/or recorded by GMCLA, including his tribute to Kander and Ebb, which received an OutMusic Award nomination for best new CD in 2005.

Kevin is an accomplished pianist, published author, composer, arranger and a specialist in singing for actors. In November 2011, Kevin was included as a member of *Fenuxe Magazine's Fenuxe 50*, recognizing his laudable contributions to Atlanta's arts and LGBT communities.



**Crystal Anderson, Executive Director** joined the AGMC in the fall of 2011 as the chorus' new executive director. She has 15 years of professional experience in the fields of operations management and nursing. Most recently, for over three years she was senior vice president of programs for StandUp for Kids, a nationally recognized non-profit organization that helps rescue homeless and at-risk youth.

Through her work with homeless youth as well as her extensive history of volunteering with hospice patients and LGBTQ organizations, Crystal has developed a deep passion for non-profit work and an intense desire to make a positive impact on her community through program development, social awareness and advocacy. Her strengths lie in her unwavering commitment to the organizational mission, her ability to lead others toward a shared goal, and in creating and implementing an effective administrative infrastructure.

**Robert Strickland, Principal Pianist** joined the AGMC as principal pianist in early 2012. In his extensive career, he has played piano for the Atlanta Pops Orchestra with artists including Lena Horne, Germaine Jackson, Teddy Wilson and many others. He has been at the keyboard for concerts with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, Savannah Symphony Orchestra and the Ritz Carlton Jazz Orchestra, including concerts with Diane Schurr, Joni Mitchell, Brian Stokes Mitchell and Rob Evan.



Robert has performed in hundreds of cabaret shows across Atlanta with such local favorites as Libby Whittemore, Robert Ray, Shawn Megorden, Bernardine Mitchell and Carolyn Calloway. He has performed in the orchestra of Theater of the Stars and the Broadway Series in some 50 shows including *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Miss Saigon*, *Evita*, *Annie*, *Ragtime*, *Titanic*, *The King and I*, *A Chorus Line*, *The Will Rogers Follies* and many more. Robert also conducted the 2007 production of *Dreamgirls* starring Jennifer Holliday. He has appeared with the Center for Puppetry Arts, the Atlanta Lyric Theatre and in over 25 productions with the Alliance Theatre.

**Courtenay Collins** is a professional actress, singer, and vocal coach living in the Atlanta area. A graduate of Juilliard, she toured the US, Europe, and Canada as Christine in *Phantom of the Opera*. Other New York roles include Babette in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* as well as leading roles in *Grease*, *Showboat*, *Love's Labors' Lost*, *Eating Raoul*, *Brigadoon*, and many others. Since moving back to Atlanta a few years ago, Courtenay has been seen around town in many of Atlanta's theatres, Gala Events, and Cabaret clubs. A frequent headliner at Libby's Cabaret, she developed several shows which she now performs around the country for various events and theatres (*Dixie Divas*, *Miss Otis Regrets*, *Let the Good Times Roll*, *Live at the Club* and *Nightingale*). Courtenay has been seen in shows at Actors Express (*Love Jerry*, *Suzi*, Award Nomination – Best Actress in a musical), Atlanta Lyric Theatre (*Jerry's Girls* and in the title role of *Evita*), The Alliance Theatre (*The Fourth Wall* and *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*, nominated Best Play of 2007 by AJC). She has also appeared in the Atlanta Children's Christmas Parade, and for many Fundraising Gala events around the city. She has recorded 4 CDs – *Nightingale*, *One for My Baby*, *A Merry Little Christmas*, and *Live at the Club*.



**Freddie Ashley** was appointed Artistic Director of Actor's Express in July 2007. He has directed AE productions of *Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them*, *Spring Awakening*, *Broadsword*, *Albatross*, *Becky Shaw*, *Slasher*, *Fair Use*, *Grey Gardens* (Suzi Bass Award winner, Best Director of a Musical), *Zanna Don't*, *Mauritius* (Suzi nomination), *Finn in the Underworld*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *When Something Wonderful Ends*, *dark play or stories for boys* (Atlanta Journal-Constitution Top Ten of 2007, Suzi nomination), *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* (Suzi nomination), *I Am My Own Wife* (AJC Top Ten of 2007) and *The Last Sunday in June*. Other directing credits include *Cabaret* (Atlanta Lyric Theatre), *The Last Schwartz* (Jewish Theatre of the South); *A Man of No Importance* (Theatre Gael, AJC Best Musical Revival of 2004). Prior to joining AE, Ashley served as Literary Manager of the Alliance Theatre (recipient of the 2007 Regional Theatre Tony Award), where he served as dramaturg for 30 productions.

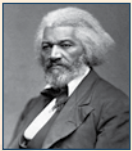
Play development activities include work with Jewish Theatre of the South, Kennedy Center, the New Group and Page 73 Productions. He has received the Elliot Hayes Award for Dramaturgy from the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas and in 2007 was awarded an Arts Encouragement Award from the Charles Loidans Foundation. He serves on the faculty of Kennesaw State University and holds degrees from Shorter College and the University of Southern Mississippi.

# Right or Wrong Side of History?

You Decide.



“The condition of slavery is nothing but the form of civil government instituted for a class of people not fit to govern themselves.” — Jefferson Davis



“No man can put a chain about the ankle of his fellow man without at last finding the other end fastened about his own neck.” — Frederick Douglass



“I draw the line in the dust and toss the gauntlet before the feet of tyranny, and I say segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever.” — George C. Wallace



“The day will come when men will recognize woman as his peer, not only at the fireside, but in councils of the nation. Then, and not until then, will there be the perfect comradeship, the ideal union between the sexes that shall result in the highest development of the race.”  
— Susan B. Anthony



“Feminism encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism and become lesbians.” — Televangelist Pat Robertson



“And the first commandment of feminism is: I am woman; thou shalt not tolerate strange gods who assert that women have capabilities or often choose roles that are different from men’s. Men should stop treating feminists like ladies, and instead treat them like the men they say they want to be.” — Phyllis Schlafly, founder of the Eagle Forum



“I think the scars and stains of racism are deeply embedded in American society. Some of the things that you hear people saying about this president... in religious terms, this president has been called everything but a child of God. And as — and I’ve been around a while — I have never, ever seen the type of hostility that exists in America; we didn’t have this type of hostility during the height of the Civil Rights Movement.” — Congressman John Lewis

# More Great Speeches to Look For



**January 4, 2012, Olympia, Washington**

“We have serious problems to address — a war, a recession, worldwide economic competition. But loving, committed married couples of any sexual orientation can only help us. They can help us defend our Democracy, help our neighbors, and build strong communities. And they will. Please answer the call to support equality again in the great state of Washington. It is the right thing to do, and it is time.”

— Governor Chris Gregoire (D)

**May 23, 2011, Constitution Amendment Hearing, State of Minnesota**

“Happiness is so hard to find for people. So they find it — they find someone that makes them happy — and we want to say you can be together, you can love that person, but you can’t marry them. That’s wrong. I don’t know about you guys, but I cannot look at this family, look at this picture of a dead soldier, and say ‘You know what, corporal, you were good enough to fight for your country and give your life, but you were not good enough to marry the person you love.’ If there was a ‘hell no’ button right here, that would be the one I would press.” — State Rep. John Kriesel (R)



**January 26, 2012, Newark, New Jersey**

“I’m tired and exhausted that we have a country that has been able to overcome women having a second-class position in this country, blacks having a second-class citizenship in this country, Latinos having a second-class citizenship in this country, blacks and whites who want to marry having a second-class citizenship in this country. It’s about time we create first-class citizenship for every American, plain and simple. This should not be a popular vote. This is something we should do now...to me it’s ridiculous and offensive that we’re still having this debate in New Jersey. It should have been done years ago.” — Mayor Cory Booker (D)

**December 1, 2011, Iowa House Judiciary Committee**

“I score in the 99th percentile on the ACT. I’m an Eagle Scout. I own and operate my own small business. If I was your son, Mr. Chairman, I believe I’d make you very proud. Our family doesn’t derive its sense of worth from being told by the state, ‘You’re married, congratulations!’ The sense of family comes the commitment we make to each other to work through the hard times so we can enjoy the good ones. It comes from the love that binds us. That’s what makes a family.” — Zach Wahls on the subject of his lesbian parents





# Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus

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*Score Preparation*  
Elizabeth Scott, *Historical Consultant*  
Dick Johnson, *Video Archivist*  
Paul Newman & Van Neel, *Rehearsal Disk Producers*

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# *Leveraging the power of our differences*

We are all unique. We are all diverse. We recognize AGMC's distinctive contributions to the Atlanta community.

