



Overview of the organization

The Lesbian & Gay Big Apple Corps (LGBAC) is the premier Symphonic and Marching Band featuring lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) musicians, and their friends, within the New York City metropolitan area. As one of the first gay bands in the world, the LGBAC is celebrated for a tradition of musical excellence that promotes equality and social acceptance around the world.

Symphonic Band

Each year, the LGBAC Symphonic Band presents an annual concert series with a performance repertoire that features new and traditional band literature, orchestral transcriptions, Broadway show tunes, and other favorites. Audiences of all ages, ranging from connoisseurs to newcomers, leave each performance with an awareness of symphonic band literature and the enjoyment of hearing interpretations of familiar pieces.

The 2010/11 Season is the second year the Symphonic Band will recognize exemplary contributions to the music and LGBT communities with *The Lesbian & Gay Big Apple Corps Profile in Leadership Award*. This year's recipients include Pulitzer Prize- and Academy Award-winning composer John Corigliano and Composer, Arranger, and New York Pops Music Director Steve Reineke. In 2009, Distinguished Concerts International - New York was the first to receive this award.

Recent Symphonic Band appearances include Carnegie Hall and Symphony Space; the Big Apple Corps was the first openly gay ensemble to perform at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. All performances for the 2010/11 Season are at Symphony Space.

In 2005, the LGBAC appointed Brian Worsdale as artistic director and conductor. Nolan Dresden was appointed assistant conductor in 2009. They succeed founding director Nancy Corporon (1979-1981), Eric Culver (1981-1982), Trudy Lundgren (1982), Sam Gindin (1982-1986, 1992-1996), Nanisi Barrett (1987-1988), Jim Cochrane (1988-1990), Tom Ferguson (1990-1992), and Eric Peterson (1997-2005).

Marching Band

Millions of spectators experience the LGBAC Marching Band and Color Guard each year at East Coast parades and festivals. Recent appearances include the New York City (NYC) Greenwich Village Halloween Parade, NYC Heritage of Pride March, and the NYC Veterans Day Parade. During the 2009/10 Season, members of the Marching Band performed in more than 10 cities, including Boston, Philadelphia, and Providence, R.I.

The Marching Band has received a number of awards for its performances, including the 2007 Liberty Award from the American Veterans of Equal Rights, the 2005 Drumline Award for the Best Cadence in the NYC Heritage of Pride Parade, as well as the 2003 Best Foot Contingent in the D.C. Capital Pride Parade. Additional honors include participation in the 1986 Statue of Liberty Centennial Celebration as the only LGBT organization.

In 2003, the LGBAC appointed Marita Begley as artistic director, having previously served from 1990-1992. Michael Tolliver became drum major in 2001, and since 2006 Doug Ethe has served as assistant drum major. They succeed founding director Nancy Corporon (1979), Lloyd Weyant (1980), Thom Holt (1981-1983), Ron Quinto (1983-1984), Bruce Petricca (1984-1986), Nanisi Barrett, (1986-1988), Jim Cochrane (1988-1990), Margot Gallant (1992-1993), Gary Nell (1993-2002), Sara Julian (2003).

The LGBAC is a founding member of the Lesbian & Gay Band Association (LGBA), an international network of 34 gay bands. Recent collaborations with LGBA include the 2010 Gay Games in Cologne, Nolan Dresden served as an artistic director; at the Inauguration of President Barack Obama and the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago, Marita Begley and Michael Tolliver served as drum majors; both inaugurations of President Bill Clinton; and the 2000 Millennium March on Washington.