

## Diverse Directions - 2016

Singers Shine At Strathmore. In April 2016, the Alexandria Harmonizers performed at the Music Center at Strathmore, North Bethesda, Md., with Kristin Chenoweth, Andrew Lippa, and the National Philharmonic, in the DC premiere of the contemporary oratorio, *I Am Harvey Milk*. Harvey Milk became a figurehead for gay civil rights as an elected city official who was murdered at San Francisco City Hall in 1978. Composer Andrew Lippa sought to offer up important and relevant social commentary through “gloriously sung choral music,” as reflected by the critics’ reviews:



“The Alexandria Harmonizers...were glorious. Not like your standard choir, they put all the emotion and energy into everything they sang.” Prue Reid

...the 118 magnificent singers...[sang] difficult four-part harmony...The addition of the ...Alexandria Harmonizers...added immeasurably to the zest and vigor of the whole Second Act-as they sang and swayed vigorously with each number...”

Paul M. Bessel and Barbara Braswell, DC Metro Theater Arts

“What did...move me...was the choral singing, and the commitment all of the performers had to sharing the story. The...Alexandria Harmonizers lived up to their name, and offered up some of the best choral singing I’ve heard in the area...”

Jennifer Perry, Broadwayworld.com

“The 100-plus men of the Alexandria Harmonizers...filled the hall with a tender, cohesive tonal blend, the finishing touch on a memorable evening.” Opera News

“The powerful message delivered through equally powerful music quickly surpassed its star power and became our purpose for the last four months. Music changes lives, and we strive to create a better world through singing every day, but today we didn’t have to go too far to find lives that were changed.” ... Joe Cerutti, Jr.

In Spring 2018 Strathmore cast the Harmonizers in the premiere of a new masterwork called Iron and Coal. This powerful and personal rock oratorio by acclaimed composer and performer Jeremy Schonfeld takes inspiration from his father Gustav's memoir "Absence of Closure," and traces his father's attempts to create a life out of ashes, having spent a year in Auschwitz in 1944-45 at the age of ten. The exciting musical event was written for men's chorus and women's chorus, and incorporated projections, animation, rock band, chamber orchestra, youth chorus, and youth orchestra. "...the sheer magnitude of the concert was enough to inspire and awe...gloriously spectacular and overwhelmingly beautiful...gripping...sumptuous orchestral and choral soundscapes...the message of the music soars." DC Metro Theatre Arts