
PRESS RELEASE

BIG APPLE PERFORMING ARTS



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BIG APPLE PERFORMING ARTS WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEW YORK, January 11, 2017 – Big Apple Performing Arts, home of New York City Gay Men’s Chorus and Youth Pride Chorus, today announced the appointment of its new Executive Director, Lisa Reilly. Lisa brings a wealth of expertise to her new position, having lead major non-profit arts organizations including the Emelin Theater, College of Staten Island Center for the Arts, Earlville Opera House and Westbeth. As Executive Director of BAPA, Lisa will lead all strategic and operational aspects of the organization, growing and expanding BAPA in the years ahead.

"With a proud history of artistic excellence matched only by unparalleled commitment to the movement for social justice and equality, NYCGMC and YPC are iconic New York City cultural institutions," Lisa said. "I am thrilled to be joining BAPA's leadership team at a time when these dual missions are more important than ever, and honored to be part of an organization that ardently believes in the value of community."

Charlie Beale, Artistic Director for BAPA, commented, "Lisa has extensive experience in the arts, is passionate about the LGBTQ+ community, and is a proven leader. I look forward to working with Lisa as we continue taking NYCGMC and YPC to new levels of artistic and organizational success."

For more information about Lisa, click [here](#).

For more information about NYCGMC, YPC, and BAPA (including descriptions and images) can be found [here](#).

JetBlue is the official airline and corporate partner of the New York City Gay Men's Chorus.

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Lisa Reilly's extensive work in the non-profit arts community includes positions as the Executive Director of the Emelin Theatre, the Managing and Artistic Director of the College of Staten Island Center for the Arts, and the Executive Director of the Earlville Opera House. In addition, she served as the Executive Director of Westbeth, an artists' housing project in Manhattan's Greenwich Village. Lisa has taught at Syracuse University and served as a consultant for dance and theatre organizations in the specialty areas of marketing, fundraising, board development, grantswriting, executive searches, and curriculum. Reilly has served on and chaired panels for the New York State Council on the Arts, the Council on Arts and Humanities for Staten Island, the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour program, the Performing Arts Exchange Conference, ArtsWestchester, the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, and many others. Lisa is a board member for Dusan Tynek Dance Theatre, Blessed Unrest theater company, and Racoco Productions, a modern dance company. Recently, Lisa has been delighted to be part of projects with The Bang Group, Heidi Latsky Dance, and Compagnia de' Colombari.

New York City Gay Men's Chorus is a world-class, world-renowned New York institution and a pioneering voice for the LGBTQ community. NYCGMC is comprised of more than 260 talented singers

of various ages, backgrounds, and experiences. Together, we produce a vibrant sound and energy that audiences can feel and connect with. Through the power of this sound, and our spectacular performances, we are fearless champions for love, equality, and acceptance. Founded in 1980, NYCGMC has formed a strong bond with devoted followers and continues to make lasting connections with new and diverse audiences. We sing in every style from classical to pop, Broadway to gospel, and from cultures all over the world. As artists, we listen to the changing world around us and transform what we hear into music. We sing to challenge perceptions of the LGBTQ community, to combat fear and hatred, encourage compassion and human connection, and to thrill with the superb quality of our sound. Through our music, audiences mourn losses, cheer victories, find unconditional acceptance, and celebrate life. We perform in a variety of settings, including special, private, and corporate events, concerts, television appearances, festivals, Broadway/theatre productions, conferences, weddings, parties, fundraisers, and community events. nycgmc.org

New York City's Youth Pride Chorus harnesses the power of the performing arts to engage lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and straight young people ages 13-22 as agents of change. YPC fights homophobia, bullying, and all forms of hate by boldly asserting—through music—the joy, diversity, strength, and pride of today's youth. YPC singers discover their own power by empowering others in schools, online, and in the broader community through electrifying, high caliber singing and performances. youthpridechorus.org

Big Apple Performing Arts is the non-profit management company for the New York City Gay Men's Chorus and Youth Pride Chorus. With over thirty years of history, innovative programs, and service to the LGBTQ community, Big Apple Performing Arts is renowned for producing legendary performances, commissioning new works, and taking a leading role in the movement for social justice. From Carnegie Hall to City Hall, from the AIDS crisis to the struggle for marriage equality, as well as today's gender and identity politics, the choruses of BAPA have been leaders and activists in the New York City community since 1980.

Here are links for more information on the following:

[NYCGMC](#)

[NYCGMC's new branding](#)