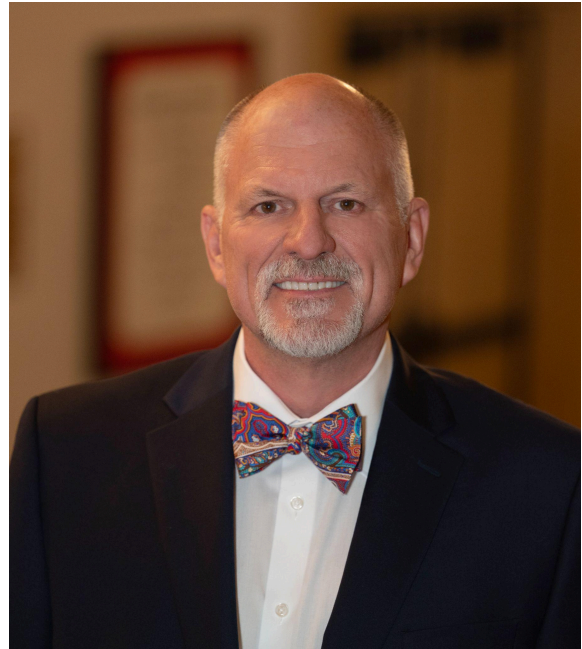




## GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF SOUTH FLORIDA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARK B. KENT TO RETIRE AT THE END OF 2026

Wilton Manors, FL – November 21, 2025 – The Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida (GMCSF) announced today that Executive Director Mark B. Kent will retire effective December 31, 2026, concluding nearly 12 years of transformative leadership. Since joining GMCSF in May 2015, Kent has guided the organization through significant growth, expanding the annual budget to over \$1.5 million and increasing yearly audience reach to more than 35,000 people. Under his leadership, GMCSF has become a leading regional arts presence and a national voice in LGBTQ+ choral music while remaining true to its mission of inspiring audiences, opening minds, and uplifting the community through song. The chorus also doubled its singing membership and broadened its concert season and community outreach programs during his tenure.



Mark began exploring retirement almost two years ago, emphasizing that the timing of his departure is "based solely on my personal desire to retire." He noted that after devoting decades to nonprofit arts leadership, he is ready to "step back and enjoy the next chapter of life." Both Kent and GMCSF's Board agree that the chorus's strong board governance, experienced leadership team, and solid financial foundation have created an ideal moment for this transition. The organization is stable, thriving, and well-prepared to welcome new leadership while continuing its mission-driven growth.

Looking ahead, GMCSF's Board of Directors will launch a nationwide search for the chorus's next Executive Director in January 2026. "Our goal is to have a successor identified and in place before Mark's departure, ensuring a seamless transition of leadership," said GMCSF Board Chair Kerry Waldee. Waldee confirmed that the search will prioritize candidates who can build on Mark's successes and further the chorus's vision. "Thanks to Mark's stewardship, the chorus is in a very strong position – artistically, organizationally, and financially – making now an optimal time to pass the baton to new leadership," Waldee added. "We are immensely grateful to Mark for his contributions and are excited for what the future holds for GMCSF."

Mark reflected on his decision to retire, stating, "Leading the Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida has been the greatest honor of my career. When I joined in 2015, I could not have imagined the incredible journey we would embark on – growing our chorus's reach, budget, and impact in ways that have truly changed hearts and opened minds."



For media and public inquiries, please contact Edward Otto Zielke, Director of Marketing and Sponsorship, at [eozielke@gmcsf.org](mailto:eozielke@gmcsf.org) or 954-763-2266, ext. 107—photo by Ginny Dixon.



#### About the Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida (GMCSF)

The Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida is a vibrant community of voices, blending generations and cultures in harmony with one mission: to shape a brighter, more inclusive future through music. GMCSF stands as a powerful force for advocacy, using the universal language of music to transcend social barriers and uplift the LGBTQ+ community. *Mission: We sing so that LGBTQ+ people can live their truth through quality music experiences that inspire audiences, open minds, change hearts, and affirm our shared humanity. Vision: A diverse world united.*

With a roster of over 180 talented singers, GMCSF is the largest gay men's chorus in the southeastern United States and one of the top ten LGBTQ+ choruses in the country. Our grand-scale concerts, meaningful community engagements, and volunteer-driven outreach touch lives throughout South Florida and beyond. Under the direction of Artistic Director Gabe Salazar, GMCSF captivates more than 35,000 live audience members annually, while welcoming over 72,000 visitors to its growing digital platform, [gmcsf.org](http://gmcsf.org).



A significant milestone was reached in December 2016 when GMCSF partnered with Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood to present its holiday concert at Hard Rock Live. What began as a landmark event has evolved into a dynamic nine-year partnership rooted in music, visibility, and community impact. Today, Seminole Hard Rock continues to amplify its mission as the Amplified Season Sponsor and host of *The Chic & Unique Ball*, its signature fundraiser. Whether on stage or in service, GMCSF stands united in building bridges and creating space where everyone can live their truth. Join us and be part of shaping South Florida's future.