

Rock the Blockbusters!!

Each day at Festival 2024 features two evening [Blockbuster concerts](#) programmed by a GALA Artistic Director and their Creative Team. These concerts are a great chance for your chorus or ensemble to SHINE and perform a song or two on one of the designated themes (in addition to your 30 min concert block). 6-8 choruses/ensembles will be selected to perform in each Blockbuster concert.



How to submit your song ideas:

1. Read through the **Blockbuster descriptions** and repertoire requests below.
2. **Submit your song** proposals no later **than Monday, November 6.**
 - a. You can submit songs for up to TWO Blockbuster Concerts, but each chorus will be selected for a single Blockbuster.
 - b. Consider collaborating and performing with another chorus!
 - c. Every BB is looking for repertoire in any voice configuration: SSAA, SATB, TTBB or others. They're also looking for solos, duets, spoken word and other transitional performances.
3. **Blockbuster ADs will review** all submissions and contact choirs by early December with their selections.

NOTE:

- Submitting songs does not *guarantee* a performance spot in a Blockbuster. Selection will depend on programming a diversity of both repertoire and choir types.
- If you have a soloist, spoken word artist, or ensemble that would fit well in performing during a chorus transition, we'd LOVE to have you submit that idea as well. Or contact the BB director to offer those unique options.
- If you don't have a song to suggest but you are interested in preparing a song selected by the BB director, put this option in your form as well!
- If selected, participation in a Blockbuster concert means:
 - having your song performance-ready by the time you arrive in Minneapolis
 - your chorus will need to arrive at least a day before the scheduled Blockbuster to attend a 2-3 hour Blockbuster tech rehearsal

Legacy

Thursday, July 11

Blockbuster Artistic Director: Kathleen Hansen

An exploration of our LGBTQ+ legacy through song. The **Legacy** Blockbuster concert features songs and stories to honor, name, and amplify voices of our movement including tributes to Bayard Rustin, Robert Seeley, Catherine Roma and Pauli Murray. **Legacy** highlights movements from commissioned works about the LGBTQ+ individuals and communities, social justice, and queer joy.

We have several choruses confirmed who will serve as a nucleus for this concert, but are **looking for 2-3 ensembles** to submit songs for performance:

- Humor and fun
- Uplifting songs or tributes
- Songs that honor a queer individual or community

[Submit song/s](#) to perform in the Legacy Blockbuster



The Peace of Wild Things

Saturday, July 11

Blockbuster Artistic Director: Meagan Johnson

Can singing together help us save the Earth? **“The Peace of Wild Things”** is a concert highlighting the work to counter climate change and celebrate the environment. This is an opportunity for your chorus to share music that grounds us in the current reality, opens us to possibilities, and inspires hope and activism.

What are we looking for? Songs of awe and wonder, protest music sung with a raised fist, settings of powerful texts about climate activism...any music that motivates our hearts, hands, and voices to save the natural world.

Festival audiences will leave this concert feeling more connected to the Earth, to each other, and to the work ahead.

[Submit song/s](#) to perform in *The Peace of Wild Things* Blockbuster.

Harmonies of the Sphere

Thursday, July 13

Blockbuster Artistic Director: Anthony Cabrera

Harmonies of the Sphere highlights the rich musical vibrancy of our global community. This Blockbuster offers an opportunity to share music that expresses the cultural identities of our world-wide member choruses as well as various identities held by members within our own home choruses.

What are we looking for? Songs that express the cultural identities of the various regions of our world. Songs that speak of the cultural roots of our choruses. Music of joy, lament, faith, protest. Authentic regional sounds, quality choral music. Music by culture-bearing composers and arrangers. Festival audiences will leave this concert experiencing a new collection of world choral music they can share with their choruses and audiences.

[Submit song/s](#) to perform in the Harmonies of the Sphere Blockbuster.

Banned

Saturday, July 13

Blockbuster Artistic Director: Jared Brayton Bollenbacher

Throughout the U.S. and the world, legislatures are trying to ban books in schools, trans individuals in sports, women from control over their bodies, drag queens, and many other parts of our LGBTQ community's independence.

Banned features a wide assortment of music from choruses and what bans are effecting them. We are looking for both action-packed songs and some bone-chilling ballads. *Banned* welcomes any and all music as long as it has some tie to something being banned by legislation causing our community to lose our rights.

Whether the song comes from a book inspiration (ex: a piece from *The Color Purple* musical) to a piece about Drag Queens (ex; "I Am What I Am" from *Les Cages Aux Folles* or "The Sex is in the Heels" from *Kinky Boots*) or a Women's Right song ("Savage Daughter" by Sarah Hester Ross), all will be welcome if they can be tied to a piece of legislation banning it. Join us for a concert uniting chorus' around the world protesting in the best way we can, by using our voices.

[Submit song/s](#) to perform in the *Banned* Blockbuster.



Light the Fire... Share the Torch!

Sunday, July 14

Blockbuster Artistic Director: Robert Glor

It all started with a RIOT...and so will this Blockbuster on the closing evening of Festival 2024! This costumed concert event celebrates the struggles and victories of our queer community from the perspective of our many generations of GALA singers.

We are seeking choirs and ensembles to perform songs celebrating our multi-generational choral community. Our ages and life experiences may be different but we share many common threads. We are creating an evening of fun, entertainment, and enlightenment. Join this group of amazing performers to create a blockbuster like no other!

From Riot to Celebration...Light the Fire and Share the Torch.

Repertoire we are considering (if your chorus wants to perform these songs, let us know):

- Gotta Get Down to Downtown from *Quiet No More*
- Boxes, by Catherine Dalton
- We're All in This Together from *High School Musical*
- And YOUR creative ideas and musical selections that fit the theme!

[Submit song/s](#) to perform in the Light the Fire...*Share the Torch* Blockbuster.