BY NATALIE TRIMBLE



Broadway Star Britney Coleman Joins the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus for Pride Concert 2025

Coleman, known for her roles in the first national tours of "Company" (Bobbie) and "Beetlejuice" (Barbara Maitland), will be singing approximately 10 songs for the Pride concert in the Twin Cities.

Calling all Broadway lovers!

The Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus will be celebrating Pride this year at Ordway Concert Hall on Saturday, June 21, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, June 22, at 2:30 p.m.

The show, which is titled "Leading Ladies: Divas of Broadway," will include songs for all generations to enjoy, while highlighting the female legends of the Broadway stage throughout the decades.

Broadway actress Britney Coleman has been selected once again as the guest artist for this concert and will be performing with the ensemble for several numbers, including a few solo songs.

Coleman's first experience on stage with TCGMC was at the Pride concert in 2022. Gerald Gurss, artistic director of TCGMC, was so blown away by Coleman's professionalism and talent that he had to ask her back for this year's very fitting theme.

"One of the beautiful things about hiring an artist like Britney is that they're not just an artist, they are a professional and they are talented and they are responsible," Gurss gushes. "Britney is somebody who you could never hear enough of, she's so good."

The multigenerational show is comprised of music from the early days of the infamous theater-writing team Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammer-

Photo courtesy of Dennis Whipple

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stein, legendary performer Julie Andrews and modern-day icons such as Joy Woods. With the diversity of the program, all audience members are sure to hear a song they know and love.

"Let's be honest … there's an undeniable tether between queer culture and Broadway," Gurss says.

He wants this show to celebrate that connection and put a smile on the faces of every audience member who purchases a ticket and supports them.

Unlike their 2022 show, which was heavily focused on relaying a deeper message to their audience about social justice-related issues, Gurss wants this concert to be purely about bringing joy to the queer community by presenting them with a performance involving a genre of music they resonate with.

"This concert is designed for people to just come and enjoy being themselves in a place with people who are like them and people who are allies for them," Gurss explains. "Just to have a wonderful escape from the things that they have to see and feel the repercussions of during their daily lives."

The chorus and Coleman have already been rehearsing the numbers for this show for a while now. Coleman, who is based in New York City, treats the rehearsal process for this performance like she would for any of her Broadway shows.

"I'm starting work already and we're more than a month out to make sure that [the program] is up and performance ready," Coleman says. "So that means working with the material with a coach and a voice teacher."

Coleman will likely be flying into the Twin Cities one day before the show for in-person rehearsal time with the ensemble. The chorus and Coleman should then be able to smoothly combine their rehearsed parts with little to no issues.

While Pride is a wonderful and emotional time of celebration for the LGBTQ+ community, it can also feel tiring for TCGMC singers. Gurss believes this is due in part to the abundance of performance requests the choir receives during June from both local and national companies. The Pride concert is more so a way to bring joy to their audience members rather than to themselves.

"In some ways, when you're in the arts, you have a career of servitude. You're there to provide these emotional experiences and catharsis for all the different human emotions," Gurss explains.

The level of professionalism this chorus upholds makes it practically impossible for their audiences to recognize when the singers feel fatigued or sluggish.

Coleman and Gurss believe that this very skill is what sets professional and professional-adjacent performers apart from the rest: their ability to maintain high energy levels for extended periods of time, when others may have trouble masking that exhaustion.

Don't get it twisted, the chorus still adores preparing these performances for listeners and feels just as thrilled as the next Broadway fan to be singing next to Coleman. The desire from the audience to watch an exceptional performance always replenishes the ensemble's excitement.

Gurss feels that it's crucial for TCGMC to put on great performances for their audiences because each person who shows up paid to be there and wants a good and meaningful performance.

"I'm never okay settling for mediocrity. I always want them to leave the stage feeling like they have done the best possible job that they can do," he shares.

To buy tickets to the TCGMC Pride concert or to donate to the organization, visit tcgmc.org.

To stay updated with Britney Coleman, follow her on Instagram @britneycoleman. ▮

