



Dear Federation of Gay Games,

We, the International Pride Orchestra, confirm our support for Denver's bid to host the 2030 Gay Games.

The International Pride Orchestra (IPO) brings together LGBTQ+ musicians from around the world to present concerts, build and celebrate community, and raise funds and awareness for LGBTQ+ programs and services. This special orchestra of eighty-five musicians hails from more than 32 states across the U.S. and abroad, including professional and community musicians, music educators, and members of queer ensembles nationwide. Past performers have included musicians from the New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera, Memphis Symphony, Reno Chamber Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic, U.S. Military Bands, Bay Area Rainbow Symphony, Queer Urban Orchestra, and ChamberQueer. We have also collaborated with nationally recognized artists, including drag superstars Thorgy Thor and Peaches Christ, conductors Robert Moody of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Christine Brandes, Michael Roest, and Elinor Rufeizen.

Founded in 2022, the IPO hosts an annual Pride Celebration Concert in a different host city leading into the city's Pride Weekend celebrations each year. Our inaugural concert took place in San Francisco at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and we just concluded our second annual concert in New York City, where we were hosted by the Manhattan School of Music.

The International Pride Orchestra has a track record of supporting efforts and causes promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are an organization with a mission to support, uplift, and celebrate marginalized communities, specifically in the LGBTQ+ community. Our orchestra focuses on creating a space that reflects the beautiful diversity in the LGBTQ+ community and partners with organizations providing programs and services to LGBTQ+ community members. Last year, we supported LYRIC, the first and largest queer youth center in the U.S., located in San Francisco, and this year we supported SAGE, which assists LGBTQ+ elders. If hosted in Denver, the International Pride Orchestra would identify an organization doing important work for the LGBTQ+ community in Denver to support during our residency. Our support of Gay Games XIII is a natural step in further demonstrating our public commitment to these principles.



INTERNATIONAL PRIDE ORCHESTRA

Denver's central location within the United States, with non-stop flights to all fifty states and eighteen countries, along with its incredible cultural diversity and access to world-class outdoor recreation, makes the city an ideal location for hosting the Gay Games. The city's vibrant music, theater, and arts scenes, along with world-class dining options and proximity to natural attractions such as Red Rocks Amphitheater, Rocky Mountain National Park, and Garden of the Gods, make Denver the ideal location for hosting Gay Games XIII.

The International Pride Orchestra would leverage our strong global reach to help ensure the success of Gay Games XIII. By promoting opportunities for participation to our participants across North America, South America, and Europe, the IPO would help ensure Gay Games XIII has a truly global reach.

We are excited by the opportunities collaborating with Gay Games XIII in Denver would present for not only the IPO but also the local, state, national, and international LGBTQ+ communities. We look forward to working closely with the Denver Gay Games Bid Committee to ensure Gay Games XIII is a truly inclusive event with broad global reach.

Sincerely,

Michael Roest, *Founder & Director*
International Pride Orchestra