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Chorus

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Fall 2003

Crescendo!, Fall 2003

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Crescendo!

The Newsletter of
the Buffalo Gay
Men's Chorus

Volume 2 • Issue 1
Fall 2003



Photo Mike Longo

Out in the community

As pictured left, for the second consecutive year, the BGMC kicked off the Buddies Summer Fest with a half-hour performance on the patio of the popular downtown bar. The weekend-long annual event draws members of the community together for food, fun and entertainment. On that same beautiful August weekend the Chorus sang under the Unitarian Universalist Church's marquee at the Elmwood Avenue Festival of the Arts.

Kudos

The BGMC welcomes Todd B. Ruth to the post of chorus archivist succeeding Ramon Melendez, who is now concentrating on membership activities. You can help Todd by being on the lookout for articles in the local media featuring the BGMC or any of its members. Bring them to rehearsal or contact Todd at truth_inbflo@hotmail.com.

Welcome also to new BGMC Board members Dave Gannon, Dennis Stuart and Kevin Thompson, as well as Don Behr and Lee Sheldon our new librarians.

Applause, applause to Max Phillips appearing in *The Odd Couple* during August. And it couldn't happen to a nicer guy! John Herbert is one of the 40 Under Forty winners to be honored on November 6 at the Buffalo Convention Center. Roger Parris received the President's Award from the Minority Bar Association of Western New York.

On the road with the BGMC

To further its mission, the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus appears frequently at numerous community events to spread goodwill and advertise itself to a larger audience. Since our last newsletter the BGMC sang at three events in Buffalo: the annual Buddies Fest; the Elmwood Avenue Festival of Arts; and during the visit of the Amistad.

Please refer to the "Save These Dates" portion of the newsletter for information about upcoming appearances on Sunday, October 19, 2003, for the Domestic Violence Awareness Program and World AIDS Day,

December 1, 2003.

History will be made next March 13 and 14, 2004, when the BGMC sings with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra at Kleinhans Music Hall. It's not too soon to purchase tickets by calling the BPO at (716) 885-5000 or visit their website at www.bpo.org.

Next summer, the Chorus will join a constellation of 10,000 singers from as far away as London, Paris, and Berlin at GALA Choruses Seventh International Festival in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, July 17-24, 2004. Visit their website: www.galachoruses.org.

Barb's Corner

by Barbara Wagner, BGMC Music Director

It's been a busy, busy Summer for the BGMC Crew! Our marvelous Ad Hoc Committee chaired by Rob Donner has met every single week to address and explore solutions to some of the problems and growing pains that plagued us last season, the Music Committee and I have planned and ordered the music for the January Concert, and we're close to completing the program for the Spring Concert.

If *Music Be the Food of Love, Play On* has been a delightfully inspiring theme. Look for gems like "Food, Glorious Food," "Lollipop," and "Who Will Buy" from *Oliver*, the serene "Sing Me to Heaven" by Daniel Gawthrop, Bernstein's exquisite "Dream With Me," a rollicking Psalm 150 by Brazilian composer Ernani Aguiar and much, much more.

The Board has been busy with all of the myriad plans for the new season and with the move into our very own office at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Dave Gannon, with a great deal of help from lots of willing folks, has organized the move. It feels good to know that all of our "stuff" is finally in one central location. Max Phillips has updated the website. It looks great. Check it out if you get a chance.

As for me, I've talked to enough folks, attended enough conferences, networked with enough singers and directors involved with Gay Men's Chorus, and looked through so many catalogs that the reference copies of TTBB (tenor, tenor, baritone, bass) music are stacked a mile high in my study. What fun it's been, but now it's good to be back to work. Our first briefing/rehearsal was on September 9 at the Unitarian Universalist Church. I've missed the joy of rehearsing wonderful music, the sheer pleasure of being with the loving men of the BGMC, the laughter and the silliness of our weekly gatherings at Panos after rehearsals and the sounds of the glorious voices of this most special and amazing group.

We all know that music is the food of love, so let's play on—on to concerts, benefits, Kleinhans Music Hall and the Buffalo Philharmonic, and GALA in Montreal.

Love, *Barb*

P.S.: Those interested in singing with this very special group of men, please call me at 668-1124 and we'll set up an audition.

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, Inc. is a member of the **Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, Inc.** (GALA Choruses). GALA Choruses fosters the artistic and organizational development of member choruses through a variety of programs and services.

For more information, visit www.galachoruses.org

It comes but once a year . . .

. . . no silly, we're not talking about those holidays that arrive every December. We're talking about the Friends of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus annual appeal letter! The elves at the North Pole may work hard each Winter to help Santa but the volunteers at BGMC work just as hard each Fall. They work hard to prepare and send you that wonderful letter asking you to

help the Chorus make beautiful music by writing a check. You wouldn't disappoint Santa's elves, would you? Please don't disappoint the BGMC volunteers: when that letter arrives in mid October, please send a generous check! You'll have the joy of holiday "giving" a bit early and feel the joy of knowing you've helped a worthy organization. We only ask you once a year!

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Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Volume 2 • Issue 1 • Fall 2003

Editor **Delwyn Milander**
Designer **Max Phillips**

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, Inc.
Incorporated 2001 as a 501
(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation in
the State of New York.

Music Director **Barbara Wagner**

Officers & Directors, 2003-2004

President **James A. Estep**
Vice President **Dave Gannon**
Secretary **Bill Gardner**
Treasurer **R. Mark Meyer**
Directors **Kevin Thompson,**
John Herbert, Dennis Stuart,
Roger Parris, and Max Phillips

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President's Column

by **James Estep, BGMC President**

Here's a behind-the-scenes look at what keeps the Chorus running.

We now have an office located in the Unitarian Church. It's a small space but one that is well suited to our present needs, convenient to our rehearsal space and to Barb's office. We have a phone: (716) 883-1277. Please be patient while we install an answering system. Having an office is an important step in establishing our stability. It says we are an active and lasting part of the Buffalo cultural scene. We're coming of age.

The Board of Directors recently established an Ad Hoc Committee. Chaired by Rob Donner, it worked hard all summer in the areas of communications, concert organization,

dues, rehearsal attendance, publicity and public relations, audience research, and program development. You'll be hearing more about these subjects as the Board puts the committee's recommendations into action.

The Chorus has had a busy summer. We sang for the annual Pride Celebration in June, opened Buddies Fest again this year as a fundraiser for AIDS Community Services, and made a guest appearance at the Elmwood Festival of the Arts in August where Russ Link raised over \$700.00 for the Chorus at his successful book sale. We sang during the visit of the Amistad on September 13. These special appearances are important because they bring us before potential new audiences and build goodwill with other not-for-profit arts organizations.

We will represent Buffalo at GALA Choruses Seventh International Festival in July 2004. In preparation for this event, the Chorus has commissioned Ron Martin to write a signature piece for the Chorus to perform in Montreal, the site of what promises to be one of the largest performing arts festivals in history. **Chorus members need to send in their non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 no later than September 28.**

The Board meets regularly on the third Monday of the month at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Board meetings are open to all BGMC members. The annual Chorus retreat is in preparation, tentatively scheduled for later this Fall.

I extend my personal thanks to all the men who worked so hard for the Chorus this past summer and to our Music Director, Barb Wagner, for her inspiring leadership.

Treasurer's Report

by **R. Mark Meyer, BGMC Treasurer**

Our financial success continues, thanks to the love and support of so many people and organizations. From my vantage as treasurer, I can see how complex and how expensive an organization such as this chorus is! But I also see how valuable our web of friendships and supporters is. This should make us all glow with pride and gratitude.

The figures to the right show several interesting things. First, our sources of income have diversified with the addition of \$4550 in grants from organizations and businesses. Special thanks goes to **Jim Estep** and **Doug Levy** for writing the grant that garnered us \$2000 from the Arts Council in Buffalo and Erie County.

Second, though ticket sales rose a

modest amount, our expenses rose much faster, due in part to our more ambitious concert programs. Consequently, our net income for this year was a respectable but relatively modest \$5419. Since we are going to GALA in Montreal next year, our fundraising activities will have to intensify in order to cover the approximately \$35,000 cost. Currently, we have \$10,000 set aside from our first year of existence, specifically earmarked for Montreal.

I am confident that the energy and spirit of the chorus men, the wonderfully gentle but firm baton of Barbara, the wisdom of the board, and the help of all volunteers and friends will propel us into our most successful and exciting year yet.

Income and expenses Fiscal year ending July 31, 2003

INCOME	
Dues	\$7,850.89
Friends of BGMC	7,895.00
Grants	4,550.00
Ticket Sales	19,228.00
Advertising	8,825.00
Other income	925.87
	\$49,274.76

OUTGO	
Music Director	\$6,500.00
Music	3,294.55
Insurance/Legal	399.00
Concert expenses	23,961.89
Office supplies & Equip	1,487.54
Outside Personnel	1,905.00
Other expenses *	6,307.96
	\$43,855.94

Net income \$5,418.82

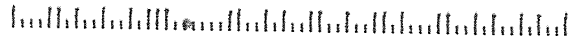
*Other expenses include: bank fees, copying, special events, transportation, web site hosting fees, post office box rental, memberships, member care, permits, promotional supplies and miscellaneous.

SAVE THESE DATES!

- Sunday October 19 2003 • **Domestic Violence Awareness Program** • 6pm at
Unitarian Universalist Church • 695 Elmwood Avenue
- Monday December 1 2003 • **World AIDS Day** • 8pm at Montante Cultural Center • Canisius College
- Friday January 16 2004 • **If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On** • 8pm at
Unitarian Universalist Church • 695 Elmwood Avenue
- Saturday, January 17 2004 • **If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On** • 8pm at
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church • 1080 Main Street
- Saturday March 13 2004 • **BGMC sings with BPO** • 8pm at Kleinhans Music Hall
- Sunday March 14 2004 • **BGMC sings with BPO** • 2:30pm at Kleinhans Music Hall
- Friday June 18 2004 • **Pride** • 8pm at Unitarian Universalist Church • 695 Elmwood Avenue
- Saturday June 19 2004 • **Pride** • 8pm at First Presbyterian Church • Symphony Circle
- Sunday-Saturday July 18-24 2004 • **GALA Choruses Festival** • Montreal



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Cut along dotted line and mail in bottom portion with your donation today!

Yes, I'll join the Friends of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus!

Thank you for helping the growth & success of BGMC. Your contribution is tax deductible.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Composer \$2,500 + | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Donation \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Would you like your name to appear in our next program? (Please PRINT exactly how you would like your name to appear.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maestro \$1,000 - \$2,499 | <i>In memory of</i> _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Virtuoso \$400 - \$999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Honorarium _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conductor \$200 - 399 | <i>In honor of</i> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you do NOT want your name to appear in our program. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soloist \$80 - \$199 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate \$25 - \$79 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ | | |

Friends who contribute at the \$200 "Conductor" level and above will receive two tickets to our next concert.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip +4 _____

Home telephone _____ Business Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

- Please add me to the BGMC mailing list.
- I have time or services that may help the BGMC. Please contact me.