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Men's Chorus

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Winter 2004

Crescendo!, Winter 2004

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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Crescendo!

The Newsletter of
the Buffalo Gay
Men's Chorus

Volume 2 • Issue 2
Winter 2004

BGMC sings at World AIDS Day event



On December 1, the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus under Barbara Wagner's direction provided music for the World AIDS Day interfaith healing service at the Carol & Carl Montante Cultural Center on the campus of Canisius College. Pianist Debi Overton accompanied the BGMC in six selections. The service, held annually and sponsored by AIDS Family Services in support of people living with HIV/AIDS, caregivers, the bereaved and others affected by the pandemic, included readings from Christian, Jewish and Islamic scriptures and a prayer in the Native American tradition.

BPO welcomes BGMC

As you have read in earlier issues of *Crescendo!* the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus has been invited by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra to appear with the orchestra on Saturday evening, March 13, and Sunday afternoon, March 14, 2004. The BGMC will sing Gabriel Faure's *Cantique de Jean Racine* as part of a program called "The French Connection."

"The Buffalo Philharmonic family and I look forward to welcoming the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus to the stage of Kleinhans as our special guests," said JoAnn Falletta, BPO Music Director. "We know that our audiences will be thrilled by the artistic excel-

lence and vibrant musicality of the Chorus."

"We of the BGMC are thrilled and delighted by the invitation from the BPO," replied Barbara Wagner, BGMC Music Director. "The opportunity to sing with a world class orchestra on the stage of Kleinhans Music Hall is an honor and a privilege."

Included on the program will be Maurice Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin*, Mozart's *Symphony No. 31* (the Paris), and Francis Poulenc's *Gloria* with the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus. For tickets, call (716) 885-5000 or visit the BPO website at www.bpo.org.

Bernstein rarity on January 16 and 17 concerts

A program note—
and sneak preview

by Tim Fox, Tenor II

Music Director Barbara Wagner has chosen a wide spectrum of music for the January concerts that has not only challenged the chorus but will also pique listeners' curiosity.

A highlight of the concert will be Leonard Bernstein's "Dream with Me," a rarely performed yet highly lyrical piece whose origin remains shrouded in mystery. According to the Bernstein estate it was originally published as a song for medium voice and cello. Rumor has it that Adolph Green and Betty Comden heard the melody and wanted to incorporate it into the score of *On the Town*. But no matter where it was placed in the score, it never quite worked, and was dropped from that 1944 show.

Bernstein later wrote incidental music for a stage version of *Peter Pan* that featured Jean Arthur and Boris Karloff. The incidental music turned into several songs and some choruses, which resulted in a show that was not quite a musical, yet not quite a straight play. Although "Dream with Me" is not listed in the original score of the Bernstein version of *Peter Pan*, it seems the composer added it to later productions.

It should be noted that "Dream with Me" has nothing to do with the version of *Peter Pan* that Mary Martin starred in on Broadway and television.

President's Column

by James Estep, BGMC President

Welcome to the third performance year for the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus. Through this period, we have steadily advanced in our fiscal and capital planning. We are no longer operating out of the car trunks of the members of the Board of Directors: We now have an office! Our music library, equipment, mailing address (695 W. Ferry Street, Buffalo 14222) and telephone (716-883-1277) are all together in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo.

As a thriving member of the arts and cultural milieu in Buffalo and the surrounding area, the BGMC is recognized by financial institutions and granting foundations. We are building an outstanding reputation, thanks to the artistry of our music director Barbara Wagner, our accompanists, and the enthusiastic participation of the men who devote their time and energy to sing.

As we have grown to more than seventy singers, the Chorus has time and again shown its willingness to give back in kind to the community that so generously supports the Chorus. This year, we sang at Buffalo's waterfront for the arrival of the freedom ship Amistad, a fitting tribute to the men and women who sought and found freedom from slavery during the early history of our country. We performed at a community concert sponsored by the YWCA Week Without Violence to support the WNY Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Domestic Violence Committee. The BGMC was an integral part of an interfaith community healing service on International AIDS Day organized by AIDS Family Services.

Recognition of our good work is strengthened by invitations from organizations that recognize the excellence of our musical presentations.

We'll be making history on March 13 and 14 when the BGMC makes our first appearance with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra on a program called *The French Connection*. In April, our Chorus will return to Ithaca to participate in the second Festival of Voices, a showcase for New York State gay and lesbian ensembles. As we have for the past two years, we will proudly sing at Buffalo's Pride Week event. And in July 2004, we will represent Buffalo at the international gathering of over 100 gay and lesbian choruses at the International GALA Festival in Montreal.

We hope to see you on January 16 or 17 for our winter concert, *If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On*. Tickets are available now! On June 18 and 19, 2004, we will present our spring concert, *Singing with Pride*.

We of the BGMC are grateful to you for being there for us. We appreciate your support, not only your monetary gifts, but your attendance at our concerts, sometimes in the most daunting winter weather, and by your willingness to spread the word to your friends and families. In this season of celebration, let me express the profound gratitude and thanks of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus.

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus proudly presents

If **Music** be the **Food** of **Love** Play On!

Friday, January 16, 2004 at 8:00 pm
Unitarian Universalist Church
695 Elmwood Avenue, at West Ferry

Saturday, January 17, 2004 at 8:00 pm
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1080 Main Street, between Summer & North

For tickets or information call
(716) 883-1277
or visit us online at
www.BuffaloGayMensChorus.com



Crescendo!

The Newsletter of the
Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Volume 2 • Issue 2 • Winter 2004

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**

Public Relations Director
Cherie Messore

Officers 2003-2004

President **James A. Estep**
Vice President **Dave Gannon**
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Roger Parris, and Max Phillips

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Buffalo, NY 14222.

Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra:

The French Connection

Saturday, March 13, 2004 at 8:00 PM

Sunday, March 14, 2004 at 2:30 PM

Kleinhans Music Hall

Ron Spigelman, conductor

Christine Vallas, soprano

Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Ravel: *Le Tombeau de Couperin*

Faure: *Cantique de Jean Racine*

Mozart: *Symphony No. 31 in D major, "Paris"*

Poulenc: *Gloria*

Call (716) 885-5000 to order tickets.

Barb's Corner

by Barbara Wagner, BGMC Music Director

I'm delighted that it's time for another issue of *Crescendo!* because I love writing about BGMC and the work we do. We're now well into our preparations for the winter concerts on January 16 at the Unitarian Universalist Church and January 17 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

The theme is *If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On*. As you might expect, this kind of open-ended title allows our imaginations to run riot. There's actually a marvelous setting of those Shakespearean words by Henry Purcell and we plan to open and set the tone for the evening with that piece. As always, the program is not only very diverse, but challenging for the chorus. We are constantly striving for the perfect vowel sounds in songs like Daniel Gawthrop's exquisitely mournful "Sing Me to Heaven," Morten Lauridsen's luscious "Dirait-on" and "Winter Song," a Celtic folk song arranged by Jeffrey Jones-Ragona. "Winter Song" is reminiscent of last season's "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening," so prepare yourselves for some transcendent singing.

We're excited about Brazilian composer Ernani Aquiar's setting of Psalm 150 as well as Hungarian composer Gyorgy Orban's "Daemon Irrepi Callidus" (the Demon sneaks expertly tempting the honorable heart). Both of these go like the wind and surprise and delight us in rehearsal with their excitement and new vocal problems to solve. And what program that includes food in its theme would be complete without "Lollipop?" We love a bit of silliness.

For those of you who remember some of the great old sentimental love songs like I do, you'll get

a chance to hear "Drink to me Only With Thine Eyes" as arranged by Robert Shaw and Alice Parker. I want to weep every time I hear my "boys" sing it. There's lots more, including the gorgeous Leonard Bernstein "Dream With Me" as arranged for the New York City Gay Men's Chorus by Larry Moore (see Tim Fox's sneak preview program note on the front page), "Who Will Buy" from *Oliver*, "I Remember It Well" from *Gigi*, and "Good Old A Cappella," a song made popular by the Nylons.

As we celebrate the beginning of our third year together, we are grateful for the support of our wonderful audiences, the commitment of our non-singing members, the work of the Friends of BGMC, the dedication of our hardworking volunteers, the successes of our singers and the love and concern we have for one another. It surely does "take a village."

If any of you would like to attend one of our spirited rehearsals, you are most welcome any Tuesday evening at the Unitarian Universalist Church beginning at 7 PM. The coffee break feasts are something to experience! Drop in and see what the magic is all about and please plan to attend our concerts in January!

I wish you all a happy and healthy new year.

Love, *Barb*

Grace Note: We welcome Cherie Messore to the BGMC family in her new role as Public Relations Director. She comes to us with a most impressive record of success in her field.

Special thanks to the Friends of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

A hearty and heartfelt thank you to all who have joined the *Friends of the BGMC* through your financial gifts. Your support enables us to touch more people with the BGMC experience. Because of your generosity, you're helping uphold the grand tradition

that is men's choral music. Your gift is special to the chorus and the community and we raise our voices in grateful song for your continued kindness. From all of us at the BGMC to all of you—*thank you*.

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

SAVE THESE DATES!

Friday January 16 2004 • *If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On*
8pm • Unitarian Universalist Church • 695 Elmwood Avenue

Saturday January 17 2004 • *If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On*
8pm • Holy Trinity Lutheran Church • 1080 Main Street

Saturday March 13 2004 • *The French Connection* • BGMC sings with BPO • 8pm • Kleinhans Music Hall

Sunday March 14 2004 • *The French Connection* • BGMC sings with BPO • 2:30pm • Kleinhans Music Hall

Saturday April 17 2004 • *Festival of Voices* • Ithaca, New York

Friday June 18 2004 • *Singing with Pride* • 8pm • Unitarian Universalist Church • 695 Elmwood Avenue

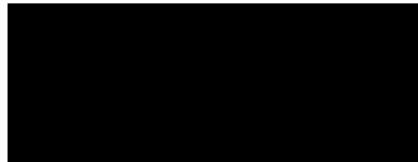
Saturday June 19 2004 • *Singing with Pride* • 8pm • First Presbyterian Church • Symphony Circle

July 17-24 2004 • VII International GALA Choruses Festival • Montreal, Quebec, Canada

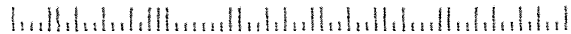


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Cut along dotted line and mail bottom portion with your donation today!

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.

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

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Please add me to the BGMC mailing list.

I have time or services that may help the BGMC. Please contact me.