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Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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6-2008

### Connections

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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**BgMC**  
The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

presents

# CONNECTIONS



Friday, June 20, 2008

Unitarian Universalist

Church of Buffalo

695 Elmwood Avenue

(at the corner of West Ferry St.)

\*Saturday, June 21, 2008

First Presbyterian Church

One Symphony Circle

\*Interpreted for  
hearing impaired

3rd Concert:

Sunday, June 22, 2008

Williamsville United Methodist Church

5681 Main Street

at 4 pm

Doors open at 7pm

Concert at 8 pm

Special Guests:

The Royal Serenaders Male Chorus

Roy A. Mathis - Director

Joyce C. Mathis - Accompanist

Adults \$20

Students, Seniors

& Disabled \$18

Preferred Seating Available

Artistic Director: Barbara Wagner

Accompanist: Debi Overton

**BGMC OFFICE:**

695 Elmwood Avenue

Buffalo NY 14222

716.883.1277

[www.buffalogaymenschorus.org](http://www.buffalogaymenschorus.org)

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# The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus



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we can help as little or as much as you like™

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**BgMC**

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

**Office:**

695 Elmwood Avenue

Buffalo, New York 14222

716.883.1277

[www.buffalogaymenschorus.org](http://www.buffalogaymenschorus.org)

A NEW YORK NOT-FOR PROFIT CORPORATION

*Our Mission*

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus is dedicated to producing vocal music of high quality in the rich tradition of men's choral singing.

We seek through song not only to entertain, but also to enlighten.

We sing to create harmony as we celebrate pride in our communities and in ourselves.



**CITY OF BUFFALO**  
**BYRON W. BROWN**  
 MAYOR



June 2008

Dear Members and Supporters of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus:

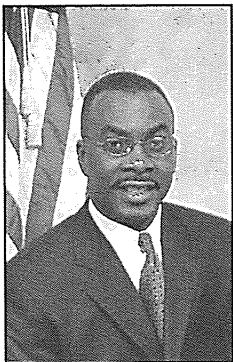
I extend greetings to the BGMC on the occasion of your 7<sup>th</sup> season of song!

On behalf of the residents of Buffalo, I send warm wishes on behalf of the City of Buffalo as you present "Connections" at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo on June 20<sup>th</sup> and at the First Presbyterian Church on June 21<sup>st</sup>. I also wish you success with your appearance at the Williamsville United Methodist Church on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Congratulations on receiving the 2008 Arts Organization Award from the Arts Council in Buffalo & Erie County! Your continued success under the direction of Maestra Barbara Wagner represents all that is best about the arts in our region: beauty, harmony and excellence!

While your audience listens to your "vocal music of high quality in the rich tradition of men's choral singing," they realize your sounds are the result of hard work and many rehearsal hours. We also look forward to the special appearance by The Royal Serenaders Male Chorus, founded in 1946, at your concerts.

Congratulations on the ever-growing positive impact you have on our community and region and continued best wishes as you enlighten and entertain in our city of "Good Neighbors!"



Sincerely,

Byron W. Brown  
 Mayor

## SPECIAL THANKS

Our Friday Hosts

Rev. Joel Miller and the Unitarian  
 Universalist Church of Buffalo

Our Saturday Hosts

Rev. Geri Lyon and the First  
 Presbyterian Church of Buffalo

Our Sunday Hosts

Rev. Gail Lewis and the Williamsville  
 United Methodist Church

Advertising

Robert Szustak and Russ Link

Program Cover Artwork

Robin Johnson

Program Design and Layout

Vilardo Printing

Music Notes

Barbara Wagner and Jason Ward

Photography

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Norm Duttweiler

Signing for Hearing Impaired

Catherine Hardesty, CT/OTC

For Their Enriching Contribution

The Royal Serenaders Male Chorus

Recording Coordinator

Michael Styn



Please feel free to notify the Chorus of any changes or corrections for future programs at [www.buffalogaymenschorus.org](http://www.buffalogaymenschorus.org) or by letter to the Chorus at 695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo 14222.

BGMC has "gone green". Please recycle your concert program if you do not wish to keep it as a souvenir. You will find collection boxes at the rear of the concert hall. Thank you!

## ***Friends of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus***

From all of the BGMC Family, a very special and heartfelt thank you to the Friends of the BGMC. Your generosity allows us to bring enlightenment, inspiration, healing and harmony to the greater community and to all of us. We are most grateful that you have added your "voice" to ours.

*The Friends of the BGMC listed in this program are those who have contributed between June 4, 2007 and June 4, 2008.*

### **Composer \$2,500 +**

Anonymous, *in honor of Pilgrim St. Luke's United Church of Christ*

### **Maestro \$1,000 +**

Buffalo AIDS Fund of WNY, Special Bingo  
For Scholarship Fund for Members Affected by HIV/AIDS

Paul A. Cassavaugh  
Corinne and Victor Rice

### **Virtuoso \$400 +**

Barbara and Brian Baird  
Douglas Charles and Gary Bienkowski  
William and Marjorie Gardner, *in memory of Sam Herr*  
Charles C. Konesky III, Darrin Kahn and Verizon (*matching funds*)  
David Mathewson and Merrill Lynch Foundation (*matching funds*)  
Ramón Meléndez  
Roger Parris and Michael Longo  
Michael Warner

### **Conductor \$200 +**

Thomas R. Alcamo	Lorne Edward Gretsinger
Christopher S. Babbitt	James D. Haynes and Donald Licht
David Batt	John F. Herbert
Belmore and Peter Bridgford, <i>in honor of Russ Link and David Mathewson</i>	David Hetherly
Dr. and Mrs. David S. Clifford, <i>in honor of Jason Alex Ward</i>	Jason Higbee
Marion Dann, <i>in memory of two nephews</i>	Ingram Micro, Inc. ( <i>matching funds</i> )
Norman Duttweiler, Jr.	Jim Jagow, <i>in memory of Patrick Pruski and Raymond Welsh</i>
Francis Felser and David Shaver	G. Michael Liska
Ronald J. Galena	James Mack
	Timothy H. Mahiques

### **Conductor \$200 + (continued)**

Nicholas Marchelos	Linda Reznick
Ryan McKane	Roger Mark Seifert and Dennis C. Stuart, <i>in memory of Sam Herr</i>
Sharon Osgood, Esq., <i>in honor of Russell Link</i>	Tim Socha and Bob Carlson
Michael Osika, Daniel Salcedo, M.D.	Underground Niteclub, <i>in memory of Richard Shiesley</i>
Agnes Palazzetti-Minion, <i>in honor of Dennis Stuart</i>	Ray and Mary Whitman, <i>in honor of Steven "Gone South" Young - We miss you dear friend!</i>
Nathan E. Phillips	
Jeffrey H. Platt	

### **Soloist \$100 +**

Michael Andriaccio and Joanne Castellani	Joel and Andree Lippes
Anonymous, <i>in memory of Gary Muscaro</i>	Marjorie Lord, <i>in memory of Donald Savage</i>
Bernice and George Baeumler, <i>in honor of Roy Mathis who 61 years ago did for the black male what BGMC is doing for gay males with his Royal Serenaders group, still singing. Blessed is the power of music.</i>	Kathleen S. Ludwig
Paul G. Berglund	Ms. Kurtice C. Luther, <i>in memory of Scott Winslow Willett</i>
Will and Bonnie Botsford, <i>in honor of Michael and Paul, David and Michael, Don and Sam</i>	Marie A. Marshall
Joan C. Caruso, <i>in memory of Gary Mascaro</i>	Mark Meyer
Max and Sheila Casey	Dr. Edwin A. Mirand, <i>in memory of Edwin Merritt Frantz</i>
Laurie Dann	David and Ellen Moomaw, <i>in honor of Alexandra Moomaw and Angelique Harvey</i>
John and Smita D'Arcangelo, <i>in memory of David A. Nunemaker</i>	Louis J. Moran, LCSW, <i>in memory of Bill Coplton and Michael Duclos</i>
The Rev. Charles A. Deacon	Barbara Neth and Kevin Po-Chedley
James and Mary Frances Derby	Debi Overton and Kathleen Niles
Edward R. Eardley	Mark Peszko
Morgan and Carolyn Epes	Richard Price
Terry Griggs	John Rex
Ronald Groth	Bob and Luann Roberts
Bob and Norma Henderson	Paula and Alan Rosner, <i>in honor of Russell Link's 75th birthday</i>
Linda Kaumeyer	Brian Rotach and Cheryl Bird, <i>in honor of Russell Link</i>
Mr. and Mrs. John T. Kociela	Denise and Bob Scheig
Lindy Korn, Esq.	Paul B. Selmonsky
Norma Jean Lamb, <i>in honor of Barbara Wagner</i>	Harriet Stewart
	Ceal Tachok
	Mary G. Therrien
	Candice Titus-Fuller
	Cynthia Van Ness
	Barbara Wagner, <i>in honor of Cheri Wopperer</i>

*Friends of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus  
(continued)*

*Singer Up to \$99*

Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Abramowitz, <i>in honor of Russell Link</i>	Collin Gehl
David Adinolfi	Mr. and Mrs. Roger D. Georgi
Anonymous, <i>in memory of Jim Kane</i>	Rev. Clara Gillies
Anonymous, <i>in honor of Woody Sipprell and Bob Rose</i>	Lynne B. Giroux
Anonymous ( <i>four separate donors</i> )	Helene Gliboff
D. Jeanne Aydelotte, <i>in honor of Russ Link's birthday</i>	Michael and Susan Gorup
Mary H. Benzel	Carl and Eloise Granger
Gail Boardway, <i>in honor of the Chorus for the beautiful music of their hearts and souls</i>	Joseph Grieco
John Burkhardt and J.W. Harrington	Francie Hace and Gerald J. Hace
Ruth L. Bury, <i>in honor of Martin Palcic</i>	Denise Hanlon
Dr. Donald Callen Freed and Larry Ebmeier, <i>in honor of Mark Meyer and Delwyn Milander</i>	Peter G. Hart
Sandra J. Carrubba	Richard Herr
Linda S. Chiarenza, <i>in honor of Russ Link's birthday</i>	Jack Hogan
Arthur Christy	Barbara D. Holender
Ruth Cohan and Paula Tiedemann	Ron Houk, <i>in memory of Debbie Osieja, good friend and constant supporter of the Chorus and its mission</i>
Dominic De Fillippo and Arlan Peters	Robert Hughes
Marjorie Dodd Gearing	Paula W. Jack
Joan M. Doerr, <i>in honor of Russell Link's 75th birthday</i>	Revs. James and Marie Jerge
Mr. and Mrs. Donald A. Ebel, <i>in memory of Margaret Puma</i>	Doris Jones
Bill Engelbrecht	Kensington Faculty Association
William J. Fay, <i>in honor of Russ Link</i>	Ed Koryl
David and Anne Floyd	John and Jenneth Lane
Marvin and Marcia Frankel, <i>in honor of Glenn Frankel, Adam Cohen and Lucy Maya Cohen-Frankel</i>	Dr. and Mrs. Louis Lazar
	Dr. Richard Lee
	Alfred Liberante, Jr.
	Dorothy M. Lien, <i>in memory of Mark Faltyn</i>
	Katie Lorentz, <i>in memory of Margaret Puma</i>
	Dr. Horace Mann
	Norm and Gloria McLaughlin, <i>in memory of James Murnan</i>
	Peter V. McNally
	Donald J. Nasca

*Singer Up to \$99 (continued)*

National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch No. 3, <i>in memory of Margaret Puma</i>	Mary K. Rossberg
Arthur E. Neeb and Arthur J. Picogna	Gretchen Sciarrino
Peter Nimkoff	Mary Pat and Debbie Sheehan, <i>in honor of Dave Gannon</i>
Irene E. Norton	Summer Street Cat Clinic
Hugh J. and Ann O'Hear	John and Elaine Swaine
James B. Palka	Andrea M. Tach and Deborah E. Moesser
Catherine B. Parker	Dom T. Trapani
Roger Parris and Michael Longo, <i>in honor of Russ Link's milestone birthday</i>	Ted Van Velzen, <i>in honor of Jim Jagow</i>
Roger Parris and Michael Longo, <i>in honor of Larry VanHeusen's and Bob Scharf's retirements</i>	Betty and Richard Venator, <i>in honor of Russ Link</i>
John J. Pellegrini	John and Noreen Visone, <i>in memory of Friends</i>
Donald M. Pinké, <i>in memory of Margaret Puma</i>	Joseph G. Vuich
Jim and Trudy Possinger	Margaret and Ronald Welker
Gregory P. Rabb	Robert A. Wiechman
Barbara M. Ribbick, <i>in honor of Russ Link</i>	Martin J. Wimmer, Dr. Douglas M. Scheidt and Family
Louis M. Ricci	Louise and Tom Yots, <i>in memory of Joseph Rocchio</i>
David Rocque	Arlene and Paul Zawadski, <i>in memory of Peter Wandel</i>
Rabbi Harry Rosenfeld	Tom Zimpfer
	Rita H. Zwick



**bua** ♥ **bgmc**

buffalo united artists salutes the buffalo gay men's chorus

## Connections

G. Michael Liska, President



On behalf of the entire BGMC membership, the Board of Directors and Artistic Director Barb Wagner, I wish to express our sincere thanks to all of our faithful supporters and contributors. We thank you for the many letters and conversations of praise for the work we do in WNY and surrounding communities. Without your generous gifts and encouraging words telling us how we have touched so many of your lives, our driving forces might have fallen short of yours and our goals. At this point in our existence, the BGMC has achieved much success and has won many awards in recognition of our work to enlighten and challenge those that may not fully embrace diversity.

Our loyal fans have always been foremost in our thoughts, as we plan for each presentation. We have sought to grow as we add to the diversity of our musical selections, of other languages, styles with varying degrees of difficulty, that challenge us to become better musicians. Our fresh new programs each January and June have paved our way to success as we strive to carry out our mission of changing hearts and minds through song.

In our attempt to reach new audiences, we have added a third performance on Sunday afternoons. In addition a Holiday Concert Series is planned for December. Check the [buffalogaymenschorus.org](http://buffalogaymenschorus.org) web site for dates and times.

From classics to ballads, to songs of great love and devotion, each concert is more diverse than the previous one. Our powerful new piece "Yes!!," composed for the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, is proudly presented for the first time in this concert series. The struggles of an interracial relationship and the innocence of two young boys, frowned upon by their elders, plays out with the highs and lows of this exceptionally challenging piece. We face the challenges of learning the whimsical but amusing choralography pieces, as we work to ensure that our patrons have the broadest experience possible at our concerts.

We blend our hearts and minds, knowing and respecting each other for our differences as individuals, as we stand beside our Brothers in Song. The energy, passion and love of the BGMC organization can't help but shine through.

This, my friends, is the real reason for our success. We are proud men, confident in knowing who we are. We have one common desire, and that is to present beautiful music to our beautiful friends, and along the way to open minds and change perceptions.

Thank you all for being with us today and for supporting the BGMC. Your gifts and donations allow us to continue our important work in the community.

Yours in Harmony,  
G. Michael Liska

## Connections

Barbara Wagner, Artistic Director

Dear Friends and Music Lovers,



This concert is truly about connections; the connections between parents and children, men and women, men and men, women and women, connections with nature and faith, connections within our community, connections to racism and homophobia and our rush for justice, our own country, in spite of all that's happened, how we handle failure and disappointment.

We connect with the Broadway shows that make us laugh and love and even dance, with thanks for the creativity and the hard work of our delightful, adventurous men, connections to the powerful and painful past that our beloved Madeline Davis reminds us of so poignantly.

In the end, we need to connect with ourselves and each other honestly; "Color of Colorado" and "Here's Where I Stand" allow us to do just that in very different ways. One of the most defining and heart wrenching lines in "Everything Possible" reads "I will sing you a song no one sang to me, may it keep you good company." That's what we will try to do for you today.

We hope you'll laugh out loud, cry real tears, be moved to justice, understanding and equality, and have an amazing time with us. We're so glad you're here. We've chatted with some of you already and will chat more after the concert at the reception. Some of you are brand new to our concerts and others are longtime faithful fans. We welcome you with gratitude for your support and your understanding of our mission and vision.

With much love and thanks,  
Barbara Wagner



## The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

### Tenor I

Robert Black  
 Peter Bruschi  
 Pee Lee Clark  
 Robert T. Donner  
 Shaun Doyle, Jr.  
 Norm Duttweiler, Jr.  
 Ron Houk  
 Dion Johnson  
 G. Michael Liska\*  
 Randy McWharf  
 Matthew Mooney  
 Cliff Moore III  
 B. Aidan Ngin  
 Thomas Nolan  
 John Rex  
 Hanford Searl, Jr.  
 Robert J. Szustak\*\*  
 Kevin L. Thompson

### Tenor II

Donald Behr  
 Paul Brundage  
 Edward F. Ciszek, Jr.  
 David Gannon  
 William C. Hardy  
 Gerald Klein  
 Delwyn Milander  
 Nelson A. Neels  
 Roger Parris  
 Mark J. Peszko  
 Nathan E. Phillips  
 Michael Rogers  
 Cedric 'Flip' Taporco\*\*  
 Jason A. Ward  
 James N. Wieland

### Bass I

Christopher Babbitt\*  
 Dave Batt\*  
 Paul Berglund  
 Dennis Bolton  
 Dan Folwell  
 William H. Gardner\*  
 Andrew Giarrizzo  
 Michael Heaney  
 Jeffrey Hunt  
 Darrin Kahn  
 Vincent Kuntz  
 Ramón A. Meléndez  
 Raymond Neil  
 Andy Newbert\*\*  
 Andrew C. Pollard  
 Joe Puma  
 Jim Rigo  
 Robert Rose  
 Sherwood 'Woody' Sipprell  
 Peter Smith  
 Dennis C. Stuart  
 Vernon West

### Bass II

Jaime Stephan Goldfuss  
 Lorne Edward Gretsinger\*  
 Jason Higbee\*  
 Jim Jagow  
 Paul LaDuca  
 Russell C. Link  
 Timothy H. Mahiques  
 Mark Marquardsen  
 David K. Mathewson\*\*  
 Ryan J. McKane\*  
 L. Martin Palcic  
 Brian Rotach  
 Lawrence Van Heusen  
 Edward K. Wadin  
 Joseph A. Zimmerman

\*\* Section Leader

\*Board of Directors

## The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus (continued)

### Non-Singing Members

Michael Gillis  
 Michael Hunter  
 John Jubulis  
 Mike Longo  
 Mark Meyer  
 Kyler Miller  
 Linda Reznick  
 Michael Shanahan

### Board of Directors

G. Michael Liska, President  
 Christopher Babbitt, Vice President  
 Jason Higbee, Secretary  
 William H. Gardner, Treasurer  
 David Batt  
 Norm Duttweiler, Jr.  
 Lorne Edward Gretsinger  
 Ryan McKane

### Artistic Director

Barbara Wagner

### News & Information Director

Kathleen Bryce Niles

### Accompanist

Debi Overton

### Archivist

Chuck Alaimo

### 'Our Voices Win Freedom...

...is the motto of **GALA Choruses.**

*The Gay And Lesbian Association of Choruses, Inc. (GALA Choruses)* is the world's only association committed to serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered choral movement. BGMC is a proud five-year member of this now over 100 member association encompassing 10,000 plus singers. Formed in 1982, *GALA Choruses* provides support and helps foster the artistic and organizational development of member choruses through a wide variety of programs and services. *GALA Choruses* produces choral festivals, educational conferences and publications and facilitates networking among members. BGMC traveled to Montreal, Canada, in the summer of 2004 and performed in GALA Festival VII and is currently making plans to attend and perform at GALA Festival VIII in Miami, Florida in July 2008.

## Connections

Processional

### **Down in the River to Pray**

Appalachian Folk Song

Arranged by Mark Hafso

### **Everything Possible**

Melody and Text:

Rev. Fred Small (UU Minister)

Arranged by Craig Carnahan

### **The Rainbow Connection**

Words and Music:

Paul Williams and Kenneth Ascher

Arranged by Audrey Snyder

Chamber Chorus

### **Middle Child**

Words and Music: Eric Lane Barnes

### **Our Children**

from *Ragtime*

Music: Stephen Flaherty

Lyrics: Lynn Ahrens

Jason Higbee, Bass; Christopher Babbitt, Baritone

### **THE ROYAL SERENADERS MALE CHORUS**

Roy A. Mathis, Founder and Director

Joyce Cameron Mathis, Accompanist

### **I'm Gonna Sing 'til the Spirit Moves in My Heart**

Words and Music: Moses Hogan

### **The Twenty Third Psalm**

Music: Alfred Newman

Arranged by Ken Darby

### **My Soul's Been Anchored in de Lord**

Spiritual

Arranged by Glenn L. Jones

Hansiel Moody, Peter Hey and Bob Cook, Soloists

### **Make Them Hear You**

from *Ragtime*

Music: Stephen Flaherty

Lyrics: Lynn Ahrens

Revoicing: Jaime Goldfuss

**Yes!!**

Music: Dr. Adolphus Hailstork

Text: Countee Cullen (1903 - 1946)

Commissioned by the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus  
for the GALA Chorus Festival in Miami, Florida  
and for this weekend's concerts "Connections."

### **"Tableau" by Countee Cullen © 1925**

Copyrights held by The Amistad Research Center, Tulane University

Locked arm in arm they cross the way,  
The black boy and the white,  
The golden splendor of the day,  
The sable pride of night.

From lowered blinds the dark folk stare,  
And here the fair folk talk,  
Indignant that these two should dare  
In unison to walk.

Oblivious to look and word  
They pass and see no wonder  
That lightning brilliant as a sword  
Should blaze the path of thunder.

The emotionally charged music and poetry help us take a powerful look at racism and homophobia, and how we are connected and affected by it. We hear explosive unpitched sounds like those of a work song - a chain gang, if you will - "locked arm in arm" - explosive, dissonant music. A young black boy and a boy that's white cross the way - the "splendor of the day" and the "sable pride of night," gently locked arm in arm. Soaring, joyous music describes the splendor of the day while the sable pride of night is reflected in quiet harmonies. Dissonance again reflects the racism and homophobia as they rear their ugly heads from behind the lowered blinds where the dark folks stare and the fair folk talk. How could they?!!! The boys, oblivious to the indignation, walk in the midst of music that informs brilliant lightning, blazing the path of thunder. They walk arm in arm in defiance and hope as the singers soar to the top of their ranges in triumph.

**Anthem**

Lyrics: Tim Rice  
Words and Music: Benny Anderson  
and Bjorn Alvaeus  
Arranged by Kathleen McGuire,  
1993, revised 2006

Matthew Mooney, Tenor

**Storm is Passing Over**

Charles Albert Tindley  
Arranged by Barbara Baker

— **Intermission** —

**Big Spender**

from *Sweet Charity*

Music: Cy Coleman  
Lyrics: Dorothy Field  
Arranged by Charles Beal

with Gladys Over, Guest Artist

**Naturally**

Words and Music: Johnny Colla and  
Huey Lewis  
Arranged by Carl Strommen

Chamber Chorus

Peelee Clark, Tenor (Vielen Dank und Viele Liebe)

**Friendship**

Words and Music: Cole Porter  
Arranged by Greg Gilpin

**Not While I'm Around**

from *Sweeney Todd*

Music and Lyrics: Stephen Sondheim  
Arranged by Robert Page

**Another One Down**

Words and Music: Madeline Davis  
Arranged by Phil Sims

**Psalm 23**

from *Chichester Psalms*

Music: Leonard Bernstein  
Words: Psalm 23, entire  
Psalm 2, vs. 1 - 4

Robert Szustak, Counter Tenor

**We Go Together**

from *Grease*

Music and Lyrics: Warren Casey and  
Jim Jacobs

Arranged by Ed Lojeski

Choralography: Peelee Clark

**Color Out of Colorado**

Music: Dick Gallagher

Lyrics: Mark Waldrop

Arranged for NYCGMC by Larry  
Moore

**Here's Where I Stand**

from *Camp*

Music: Michael Gore

Lyrics: Lynn Ahrens

Shaun Doyle, Tenor



Christopher Hart, Percussionist

Timothy Morz, Bass

Elizabeth Reeds, Flutist



*Please join us for a Reception  
immediately following the Performance.*



This concert is made possible in part by the  
Arts Council in Buffalo & Erie County  
with public funds from the  
New York State Council on the  
Arts' Decentralization Program.

## Music Notes

Barbara Wagner and Jason Ward

### Down in the River to Pray

This wonderful Appalachian Folk Song brings forth images of mountain folk walking down through the verdant green valley toward the river so they can all pray together. It has much the same feel as "Shall We Gather At the River?"

### Everything Possible

This amazing song by Unitarian Universalist Minister, Fred Small, has become one of the most beloved anthems of our movement. It comes in various arrangements and forms, but always with the same powerful words that give us comfort and courage: "You can be anybody that you want to be ... You can love whomever you will ... You can dream all the day never reaching the end of everything possible for you." The very end of the song tells us that the "only measure of your words and your deeds will be the love you leave behind when you're gone." In the end it's always the love and understanding that connects us, isn't it?

### Rainbow Connection

Written by Paul Williams and Kenneth Ascher, "Rainbow Connection" was originally performed by Kermit the Frog in *The Muppet Movie* in 1979. The popular song's name has been used by a number of charitable organizations wishing to evoke its message of a driving urge for something more in life. It has been covered by artists ranging from Willie Nelson to The Pussycat Dolls, and now, the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus. We hope you enjoy our take on this classic.

### Middle Child

From the mind of Eric Lane Barnes comes this traditional spiritual which offers sympathy to arguably the most famous middle child of all time. Can you guess who that would be? Barnes is a popular composer and arranger within the Gala Chorus Movement who currently serves as Assistant Director of the Seattle Men's Chorus as well as Director of Captain Smartyants (a breakout group of the aforementioned chorus).

### Our Children

One of the things that Fred Small says in "Everything Possible" is "some raise children and some never do." In our case, at least two of the men in the chorus are indeed raising children, 2 families and 4 wonderful little boys. It's magical and possible. This heartwarming song from the musical *Ragtime* is sung by two parents who don't know each other, but are

connected by their children as they play on the beach. "how they play, finding treasure in the sand, they're forever hand in hand. How they dance, hearing music of their own." The music is elegant and the words are a blessing.

## THE ROYAL SERENADERS

### I'm Gonna Sing

This rollicking spiritual, arranged by the inimitable Moses Hogan, may he rest in peace, will have you moving in your seats before you know it!

### The Twenty Third Psalm

The long time director of the Royal Serenaders, the gifted Roy Mathis, first heard this song in a movie from the 50's *David and Bathsheba*. For those of you who are old enough to appreciate it, Gregory Peck played David and one of the most beautiful redheads who ever lived, Susan Hayward, played Bathsheba. It was one of those amazing Biblical blockbusters that we don't see anymore. Roy says that when he heard this lush setting of the 23rd Psalm, he knew his chorus had to sing it.

As you listen to the next 4 songs, be aware that it is no mistake that they are placed in this order.

### Make Them Hear You

This rousing anthem from the musical *Ragtime* was arranged by the BGMC's own Jaime Goldfuss. *Ragtime* is a story of a black man who, after being humiliated by a racist fireman, decides to fight for justice. Just prior to his death at the end of the show, the character Coalhouse Walker admonishes his followers to "make them hear you." He goes on to say that "if you make them hear you, we will all be victorious". The song's message that justice and equality can only be obtained when you raise your voice and make yourself heard resonates strongly within the gay community.

### Yes!!

Please see the listing in the program. It will help in understanding how the poetry and the music are all so powerfully linked.

### Anthem

The musical *Chess* (with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Bjorn Ulvaeus & Benny Andersson of ABBA and later *Mamma Mia!* fame) is the story of a romantic triangle between an American and a Russian player in the world chess championship, and the woman who manages the American but falls

in love with the Russian. The song comes at the end of the first act after the Russian wins the championship, then defects to the west. Answering reporters' questions about his loyalties, his "Anthem" declares that "my land's only borders lie around my heart."

### **The Storm is Passing Over**

We are connected by hope and courage as we journey on through the night to the brightness of the morning light. The storm has passed over. Hallelujah!!

### **Big Spender**

In the most famous number from the 1964 musical *Sweet Charity*, "Big Spender" shows Charity Hope Valentine and the other taxi dancers at the Fandango Ballroom go through the motions in order to entice their prospective clients. Rest assured that we're doing anything but going through the motions in our effort to entertain you tonight!

### **Naturally**

This is an a capella doowop song was originally performed by Huey Lewis and The News on their 1986 album *Fore!* It's a reminder that love and relationships require effort, and with dedication, despite hardships, things will eventually work out: "You know that love is a struggle/and only the strong survive/so it's up to me and you/to do what we've got to do to keep our love alive."

### **Friendship**

From the Cole Porter musical *Anything Goes*, this song was originally written for another Porter show *DuBerry Was a Lady*. Not a part of the original 1934 production, it was added for the 1962 revival. This song was made famous when it was sung as a duet between Lucy and Ethel in the 3rd season of the television show *I Love Lucy*.

### **Not While I'm Around**

This song is from the 1979 Stephen Sondheim musical and the 2007 Tim Burton film, *Sweeney Todd*. This is the story of a man who returns to Victorian era London, England, after 15 years in prison for a crime he did not commit, with the sole intention of gaining his revenge. It is considered to be one of the most ghoulish and graphic shows in Broadway history and was the winner of nine Tony Awards in 1979.

### **Another One Down**

"It was the mid 80s and AIDS had hit Buffalo with a vengeance. My friend Ron was the first to go, in 1981. Then Jack, then Dick, then we heard about Jim and Mike. Then Tom and Claude. And it went on and on. I sang at one funeral after another. Our hearts broke over and over. I think the song wrote itself out of our collective grief. I sang and the audiences sang and we cried and were able to go on. We needed a vehicle to allow us to weep as a community and "Another One Down" became that vehicle and helped us to heal." *Words of Madeline Davis, Buffalo Composer, Singer and Leader of our Movement.*

### **We Go Together**

*Grease* opened in 1972 and went on to become the longest-running show in Broadway musical history at 3388 performances until it was beaten by *A Chorus Line*. It has since gone on to become a hugely successful film, a popular 1994 and 2008 Broadway revival, and a staple of community and regional theatre, summer stock, as well as high school and middle school drama groups. Those of you who attend our concerts are familiar with the term choralography; we hope you enjoy this year's attempt!

### **Color Out of Colorado**

This crazy, bittersweet, hilarious little song comes from a show called *When Pigs Fly*. It begins with a slap at the powers that be, who want to regulate human nature. They want to tell you who to be and why it's not going to work for all kinds of reasons. And so it begins with the states; here's just a little teaser, "You can't take the Mary out of Maryland" – and we're off!!!!!!

### **Here's Where I Stand**

From the 2003 independent film *Camp*, this song is sung at the end of the film by Jenna, whose father wanted to send her to weight loss camp, but compromised by having her jaws wired shut so she wouldn't overeat. Jenna is a last minute replacement for both the lead and understudy, whose feud turned violent. She has her jaws cut loose and belts this song out to her parents who are in the audience telling them, "Here's where I stand, here's who I am. Love me, but don't tell me who I have to be".

**BGMC**  
The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

## About the Artists



Incorporated in 2000, the **Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus (BGMC)** performs a rich catalog of classical, contemporary, Broadway, pop and multi-cultural music. The repertoire is as diverse as the 67 men who are singing with pride as members of the BGMC.

The BGMC has been honored by the Empire State Pride Agenda with a Community Service Award. This award was given in recognition of BGMC's efforts to raise awareness and to enlighten our region through song. To that end, the BGMC has performed in a variety of venues throughout Western New York and in Pennsylvania and Ontario for many community events. Additionally, the BGMC has traveled to Montreal to participate in the seventh annual GALA Festival, an international gathering of gay and lesbian choruses. Recently the BGMC won the *Artvoice* Best of Buffalo 2008 Award for Best Choral Group. Also in 2008, the BGMC was honored by the Arts Council of Buffalo and Western New York, with its prestigious award for Community Service. It was a glorious day.

While maintaining a strong presence within the gay community, the BGMC also has been privileged to perform with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra at Kleinhans Music Hall on two occasions. It has also done benefits for the Amherst Unitarian Universalist Church music program, Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church's restoration, the annual World AIDS Day Memorial Service and the AIDS Community Services fundraiser, *Cause for Celebration*. Additionally, BGMC performed for the arrival of The Amistad, participated in "Gusto at the Gallery" at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, sang at an Ars Nova Musicians "Viva Vivaldi" Concert, sang at Fredonia College for its diversity and multicultural groups and also performed at the Nichols School as part of its Diversity Week activities. Of course, our four major concerts annually bring our work to thousands of listeners in the Western New York area.

The BGMC is a New York not-for-profit corporation of member singers and supporters, dedicated to producing high quality vocal music in the rich tradition of men's choral singing. Through its music, the Chorus endeavors to entertain and enlighten, create harmony and celebrate personal and community pride.



**Barbara Wagner** (Artistic Director) has served as Minister of Music at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo for 44 years. She was the director of choral activities at the Nichols School for more than 24 years and served the congregation of Temple Beth Am as its Music Director for 12 years. She was in charge of vocal activities at the Buffalo Seminary for several years and conducts the Unitarian Universalist Church Choir as well as the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus. In addition to its Sunday morning responsibilities, the UU Church Choir has made two highly acclaimed European tours, the first to Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic and the second to Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland. In the Fall of 2006, the choir did a short concert tour of the Northern Adirondacks. The UU Church Choir, under the direction of Ms. Wagner, has recorded for American Public Radio, and has performed locally with members of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, with the Amherst Saxophone Quartet and with the Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra. Ms. Wagner was the conductor for the Peace Odyssey Tour of Hungary and the former Soviet Union. Choral singers from all over the USA participated in this tour. She was a member of the prestigious seven member Hymnbook Resources Commission that was responsible for the denominational hymnbook, *Singing the Living Tradition*, published in 1993. She was the chair of the New Hymns Task Force, which produced *Singing the Journey*, another denominational songbook, published in June, 2005.

She ran a choral program at Nichols High School that involved over 100 young singers, including a concert chorus, women's ensemble, men's ensemble and a mixed chamber group. She was also guest conductor for the City of Good Neighbors Chorale.

Ms. Wagner earned a BFA degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo, where she studied Organ with Squire Haskin. She has done graduate work at Westminster Choir College. She did advanced Organ study with Karl Richter at Munich Conservatory and has done advanced conducting study with Raymond Harvey, the former Assistant Conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and presently the Music Director of the Kalamazoo Symphony. Ms. Wagner regularly attends choral workshops led by many of the most prestigious choral conductors in this country. Rodney Eichenberger, the late Robert Shaw, Paul Salomonovich, Robert Page, Vance George and Dale Warland are just a few of the greats with whom she has worked.

She is a member of The American Choral Director's Association, Erie County Music Educators Association, MENC, Unitarian Universalist Musician's Network (founding member, former vice president and board member), NYSSMA, American Guild of Organists (former program chair and sub dean of the Buffalo Chapter) and Chromatic Club. She was presented with the Erie County Music Educator/ Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra award for excellence in choral education in May of 2002. Ms. Wagner has been included in editions of both *Who's Who in American Women* and *Who's Who in America*. She is the proud charter Artistic Director of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus.



A native of North Carolina, **Debi Overton** (Accompanist/Conductor), has held positions as coach/accompanist at the University of Texas at Austin and served as Director of the Chamber Music Program at The New School of Music in Philadelphia. For many years, she was active at the Summer Music Festival in Aspen, Colorado. As the coach/accompanist for the choral department in Aspen, she served as assistant to noted conductor Fiora Contino. She has assisted in preparing choruses and soloists for such conductors as Tamara Brooks, John Nelson, Robert Shaw and Sergei Commissiona. Additionally, she has coached with coach/accompanists David Garvey, John Wustman, Brooks Smith and Dalton Baldwin, as well as the local master, Livingston Gearhart.

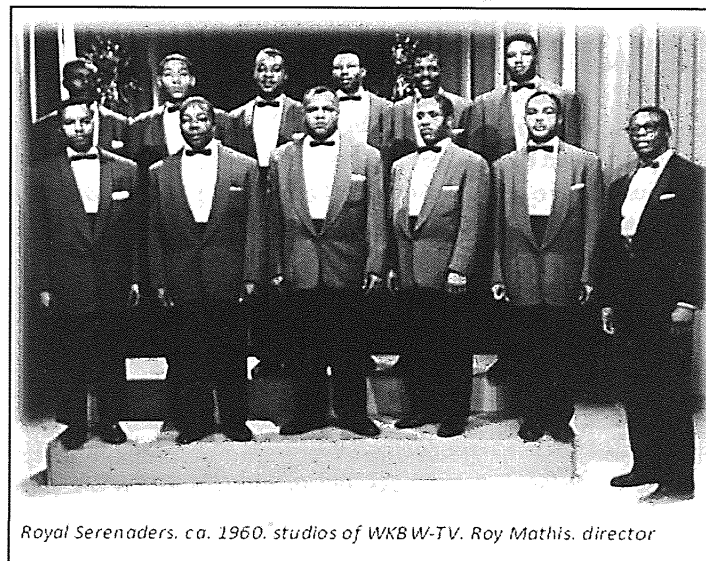
Ms. Overton has accompanied Master Classes for Luciano Pavarotti, Phyllis Curtin, Jessye Norman, Leontyne Price and Sylvia McNair. She has accompanied the regional Metropolitan Opera auditions in Greensboro, NC, Philadelphia, PA, Atlanta, GA and New York City. Considered by her peers to be "one of the finest sight readers in the country", she offers nuances and subtle interpretations of music that have been enjoyed and applauded by thousands of listeners throughout the United States. Recently reviewed, Ms. Overton was touted as "a musician's musician" in the Buffalo News. Considered a prodigy, and trained as a concert pianist, she took lessons at the University of North Carolina from a very early age, traveling two hours from her home in Roanoke Rapids to Greensboro for weekly lessons lasting six hours, and returning home again. Ms. Overton has toured in Europe but prefers the roots, both spiritual and local, offered by a career as a church musician.

In addition to her duties as Organist and Choir Master at Calvary Episcopal Church in Williamsville, NY, Ms. Overton is a past chair of the Music Commission of the WNY Episcopal Diocese, has been a member of the Board of Directors for the American Guild of Organists and is active in Western New York teaching, guest conducting, accompanying and performing with singers and instrumentalists. In 2007, she conducted the WNY premiere of Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* for Opera Sacra.

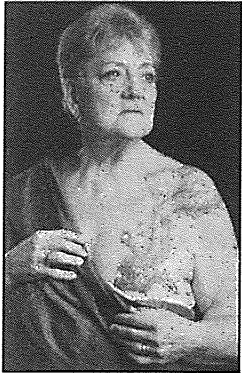
### The Royal Serenaders Male Chorus

In 1945, Roy A. Mathis moved to Buffalo from Chattanooga, Tennessee, to join his three brothers who had already relocated here. Once here, he decided to form a Quartet with himself and his brothers. In 1946, two more local men were added to the group. Eventually several more singers, joined and the group became The Royal Serenaders. They sang at local churches in the city. At one point, they joined the Shriners, and traveled across the country competing at national Shrine Conventions, winning 1st or 2nd place nationally.

The Royal Serenaders have been singing together continuously for 62 years under the leadership of the founding Director, Roy A. Mathis. Their repertoire consists of both secular and sacred music; from spirituals to classical (including opera) and pop music. Roy's wife, Joyce Cameron Mathis, has been Accompanist for the group for 40 years.



Royal Serenaders. ca. 1960. studios of WKBW-TV. Roy Mathis. director



**Madeline Davis** has been active in gay rights since 1970. She was a founding member of the Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier and taught the first Lesbianism course in the U.S. In 1972 she was the first out lesbian elected delegate and speaker at a major national political convention (Dem., McGovern.) She is co-author of *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold: The History of a Lesbian Community* (1993). She has been writing and performing music since 1959. "Another One Down" was written in response to the loss of many beloved friends during the AIDS crisis of the 1980s.

"I sang at so many funerals I thought the tears would never end." Madeline is currently Vice President of Stonewall Democrats, co-founder and co-chair of Rainbow Elders and founder and Director of the Madeline Davis GLBT Archives of WNY.

### **BGMC Commissions Song From Harlem Renaissance by Dr. Lawrence Van Heusen**

*The Chorus has commissioned a nationally acclaimed African American composer, Adolphus Hailstork, to compose a musical setting for the poem, "Tableau", from the collection, "Color", by Countee Cullen (© 1925; Copyright held by The Amistad Research Center, Tulane University). The choral work is re-titled "Yes!!" and will have its world premiere in Buffalo on June 20, 21, and 22, 2008.*

### **Countee Cullen**

*Color*, published in 1925, was awaited by New York City with baited breath. The anticipation had been fueled by Countee Cullen himself, the child prodigy whose earlier poem had made it to the front page of New York City newspapers. "I Have a Rendezvous With Life" was published at the conclusion of World War I when Cullen was still in High School. All of New York City had become involved in a discussion of that poem, and the Empire Federation of Women's Clubs had awarded him first prize in the city. For the general public in the 1920's, Cullen seemed to embody some of the characteristics of "The New Negro," a heroic icon following in the wake of Jack Johnson's earlier win of the Heavyweight title against a white man and Marcus Garvey's emerging "Back to Africa" movement. Cullen's handsome features, personal charm, and extraordinary popularity as the model New Negro led to him being labeled as the most famous black American writer of 1925.

Having graduated from NYU as Phi Beta Kappa, and then studying at Harvard where he would earn his M.A. in 1926, Cullen was seen by black and white alike as a positive representation of his race. In the press, headlines appeared such as, "Black Pan Sings Again," "A Young Poet of Death and African Beauty," "Harvard Negro Poet Wins Another Prize," "A Negro Shropshire Lad." However, Cullen justifiably resented being exploited as the racial representative. He told the press that he wanted to be seen as a poet only, and he frequently adhered to classical European form in his writing, doting on Keats and other Euro traditions. He knew the pain of racism as evidenced in his most quoted line: "Yet do I marvel at this curious thing:/To make a poet black and bid him sing!"

While not all are convinced, at least three biographers (David Lewis, Jean Wagner, and Arnold Rampersad) have concluded that Cullen was gay. Three points are made: (1) The content of some of his poetry (including "Tableau"), (2) that he lived for many years with a "handsome" West Indian named Harold Jackson, (3) that his marriage to the daughter of W.E.B. DuBois was disastrous, lasting less than a year, and may have been a career move. He died six years after remarrying in 1940. Some say this was a marriage of convenience, though they genuinely loved each other.

Cullen only lived for 39 years, and his second wife, Ida, inherited his literary estate. Subsequent laws extended the copyright, so that when Ida died in 1987, the copyright would have continued in 2007; no one knew where or how. By 2020, the poetry would be entering the public domain, but the poem was too important to BGMC to wait. BGMC spent many hours researching the copyright, as the musical composer would need permission to proceed. The Library of Congress was not forthcoming. GALA agreed to use this unusually difficult search as an educational model during an internet conference, but fared no better. Finally, Marjorie Lord, a musician and librarian retired from Buffalo State College, whom Barbara Wagner had alerted to our quest, discovered that the rights were held by the Amistad Research Center, now located at Tulane University in New Orleans.

### **Adolphus Hailstork**

When we first contacted Adolphus Hailstork in the spring of 2007, he had already been commissioned to write *Rise for Freedom*, an opera about the underground railroad to be produced in October 2007. (The *Opera News* gave it a great review.) Despite his busy schedule, he managed to devote the month of August to composing "Yes!!" for BGMC, using the Cullen poem. BGMC has exclusive performance rights for 2008, and lifetime rights thereafter.



BGMC is very fortunate to have been able to commission this work by "one of the greatest composers in the United States" (per Old Dominion University) whose work over the past 20 years has been commissioned and performed as opera, orchestral, and choral works in New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago. Like our own artistic director who has known "Dolph" for years, Dr. Hailstork has been a Unitarian Universalist choral director and a teacher. He is currently Composer in Residence at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, and is also well-known to Buffalo Philharmonic conductor Joanne Falletta who is the resident conductor of that city's orchestra as well.

Hailstork was born in Rochester, New York, but immediately moved to Albany where he was raised, and studied violin, piano, organ, and voice. He graduated from Howard University (BA), Manhattan School of Music (MA), and Michigan State University (PhD in Composition). His second and third symphonies were recorded on CD (Naxos) last year. Recent works have included "Earth Rise (A Song of Healing), Whitman's Journey" (Kennedy Center premiere in DC). Other premieres slated for the spring of 2008 are *Serenade* for chorus and orchestra, commissioned by Michigan State University, and "Set Me on a Rock", also for chorus and orchestra, commissioned by the Houston Choral Society.

### *Schola Cantorosa*



Schola Cantorosa, the gay men's chorus of Hamburg, Germany, is coming to Buffalo. They will join forces with Forte, the Toronto Men's Chorus, and the BGMC to present a GALA Send-Off Concert on July 6 preceded by a chicken barbecue. You will not want to miss this triple header at the Unitarian Universalist Church.

## *History of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus*

At the end of 1999, the vision for a Gay Men's Chorus in Buffalo was conceived. With the support and success of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, it was time for Buffalo to join the growing list of GBLT choruses all over the world. After 15 months of intense work, a Steering Committee had written by-laws, papers of incorporation had been filed, fundraisers had successfully raised over \$5,000 in seed money, a mission statement had been crafted and officers had been elected. After a thorough search, area choral conductor, Barbara Wagner, was asked to be the charter Artistic Director. Wagner, in turn, requested that Debi Overton be invited to serve as the Charter Accompanist. Both women are highly respected musicians and continue to serve the chorus well. In fact, Wagner was to join the ranks of only four female conductors of Gay Men's Choruses at the time.

The first auditions were in May, 2001, and rehearsals were to begin on September 11, 2001, a day of infamy that would be filled with horror and fear and death. The decision was made to go on with the rehearsal on this day that was destined to alter the course of history. There was controversy around that decision, but, at the end of the day, it proved to be a wise one. Forty men, many of whom didn't know each other, began to gather, eerily silent, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo. As the men and Wagner held hands for the very first time in a community circle, there were anguished murmurs of meditation and prayer. It was a birth fraught with complications and terror. Then they sang and began to forge the bonds that still hold them together to this day. That inaugural concert *Music From the Heart* presented on February 9, 2002, set the tone for all concerts to follow. The energy that filled that church that night validated the reality of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, and the bonds formed that night continue to remain strong after all of these years. The audience that first night was huge; the church was filled, chairs lined the aisles and, sadly, people had to be turned away at the door. All concerts after that were offered twice in one weekend and six years later, we are now adding a third concert to our series and a third performance to each concert. Our audiences continue to be huge and diverse. The awards began coming as we grew in stature and musical expression. Three awards of "Best in Buffalo" and "Best Chorus" were given to us from our local paper, *Artvoice*. Then we were invited to sing at Kleinhans Music Hall with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra twice, once for a subscription concert in 2004 and later for a benefit for the orchestra and the Olmsted Conservancy in 2006, with JoAnn Falletta conducting. Mary Louise Nanna, founder and conductor of *Ars Nova* asked us to sing on her Viva Vivaldi Series. BGMC was recognized by the Empire State Pride Agenda in 2005 with the ESPA Award for

Community Service for the excellence of their music and their dedication to the community. In March, 2008, the BGMC was chosen to receive the prestigious Buffalo and Erie County Arts Council Award for exceptional contributions to the arts and cultural community in Western New York. The citation reads as follows: "Your nomination and selection to receive this award is a testament to the years of time, talent, personal and professional resources you have invested in supporting, promoting and advancing art and culture in our region. You are an outstanding model of leadership by example."

Our success has brought many requests for Benefit Concerts, 21 to date. We try very hard to honor these and even have offered to sing benefit concerts for worthy organizations. We have received grants and gifts and much support from both the gay community and the community at large. We are eager to give back.

A major force in the success of BGMC has been the impressive dedication of the all volunteer chorus itself. These men take the chorus' artistic ambitions seriously; they are resolute rehearsal attendees and have worked hard to build their choral skills. The chorus' social impact on the community at large has been unprecedented and immense. The very existence of this chorus in a relatively conservative community has helped make enormous strides in acceptance and equality for the GLBT community here. In addition to enlightening the community at large, the chorus has been an important factor in raising the self esteem of a historically marginalized society. Its high profile has established the BGMC as a positive model for those who are grappling with the negativity all too often imposed on gay, lesbian, transgendered and bisexual people. And so the hard work continues with each note these intrepid men sing.

### *History of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo*

The Unitarian Church in Buffalo was founded on December 2, 1831, when Buffalo was still a village. Shortly afterward, a lot was purchased at Franklin and Eagle Streets downtown and a cornerstone was laid for a church building in 1833. Among those who contributed to its construction was Millard Fillmore, church member and future U.S. President, who later welcomed John Quincy Adams and Abraham Lincoln as guests in his pew. Other Unitarian churches were built at Delaware and Mohawk (1879) and Amherst & Fairfield (1897) prior to the current edifice at Elmwood and Ferry (1904-1906).

The Universalist Church in Buffalo was founded just days after the Unitarian Church, on December 6, 1831, although The Reverend Stephen R. Smith led a preaching circuit dating back to 1817 in Western New York. The cornerstone of the Universalist church building, the seventh in Buffalo, was laid in 1832. Other church locations were Main and Huron (1866), North and Mariner (1892), and Lafayette and Hoyt (1911). The Universalists also established a mission church at Grant & Ferry (1889).

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo was established in 1953, when the Unitarian and Universalist congregations in Buffalo merged and began using the Unitarian church building at Elmwood and Ferry.

### *History of the First Presbyterian Church*

Architects Green and Wicks designed the First Presbyterian Church, which was built from 1889 to 1891. Located at One Symphony Circle at Richmond Avenue, it is a massive Medina sandstone structure and is a prime example of romantic Medievalism.

The slender soaring tower was inspired by the 12th century Church of St. Philibert at Tournus, France, and serves as a beacon along one of Buffalo's major residential thoroughfares.

The church showcases Byzantine decorations and features Tiffany stained glass windows. A Noehran Organ with 76 ranks and 3,668 pipes is a centerpiece of the church. It also features the faulted and domed interior.

During the Pan American Exhibition of 1901, President Theodore Roosevelt attended services there.

In 1924, William C. Francis, a local artist and member of the Church's congregation, installed an elaborate painted iconography.

The First Presbyterian Church is affectionately called The Mother of Churches; it enjoys a proud history and tradition of reaching out to the newest and poorest of immigrants as they came to Buffalo.

For more information on this jewel of Buffalo, visit [www.firstchurchbuffalo.org](http://www.firstchurchbuffalo.org).

## *History of Williamsville United Methodist Church*

In 1809 a determined 19-year old named Glezen Fillmore fulfilled his life's mission to preach the Word of God by becoming the first Methodist minister in western New York. In his years as a circuit rider, Fillmore started numerous church societies in many communities, including the new cities of Rochester, Buffalo, and Lockport.

Notable among them was the First Society of the Episcopal Methodist Church, founded in 1834, which was the first religious society formed in the Town of Amherst. The Holland Land Company bestowed a deed to a plot of land to the First Society for the purpose of building a church.

When the building was completed, the first Methodist church in Erie County was dedicated in 1844. This church became Williamsville United Methodist Church after the portion of Amherst where the church was located became incorporated as the Village of Williamsville in 1896.

The walls of the original 1844 building still protect the sanctuary of the present church. Through the years, nearly every generation has improved the building to meet the needs of its members. The building as we know it today was dedicated in 1975. Within this sanctuary, more than 160 years of devotion to Christ and nurturing of a loving Christian community can be felt by all who come to worship here.



## Williamsville United Methodist Church

Lead Pastor: Gail Lewis

Associate Pastor: Daryl Bennett

5681 Main Street at Oakgrove

Williamsville, NY 14221

(716) 634-4800

[wumc@williamsvilleumc.org](mailto:wumc@williamsvilleumc.org)

The Chorus would like to extend a special thank you to all of the advertisers you see in tonight's program. They have generously supported the Chorus. Please support them with your patronage.

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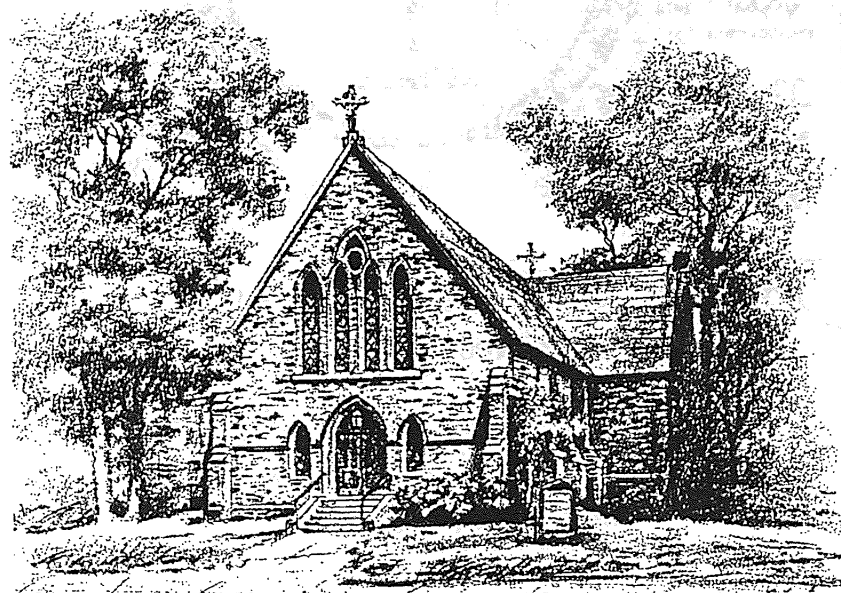
**W**  
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 Mindy Patocoff-Weinman, DDS....50  
 Westminster Presbyterian  
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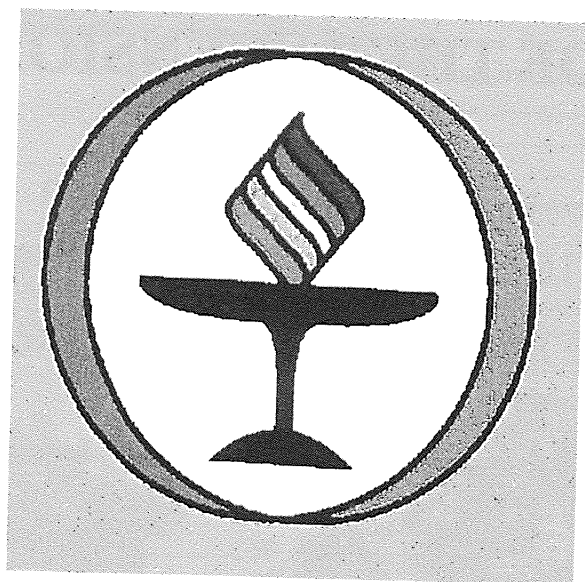
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July 12-July 19, 2008 / GALA Festival VIII

BGMC performs at 4:30 pm on July 14 in the Ziff Ballet Opera House, Miami, FL  
Saturday, October 25, 2008

BGMC in concert at True Bethel Baptist Church • 907 E. Ferry Street, Buffalo, NY  
to benefit the Men of Color Health Awareness (MOCHA) Project

Friday, December 12, 2008 at 8 pm

Concert - "Hope of the Holidays"

Unitarian Universalist of Buffalo, 695 Elmwood Ave

Corner of West Ferry • Buffalo, NY

Saturday, December 13, 2008 at 8 pm

Concert - "Hope of the Holidays"

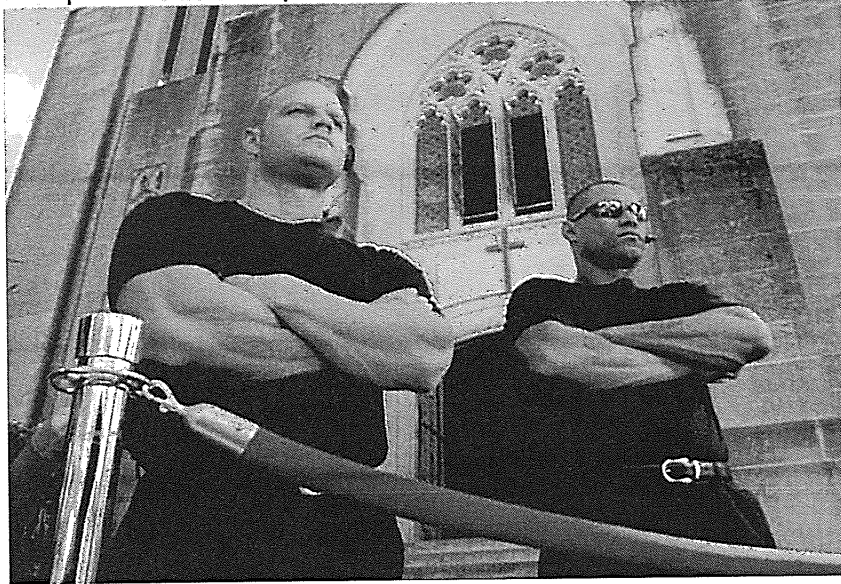
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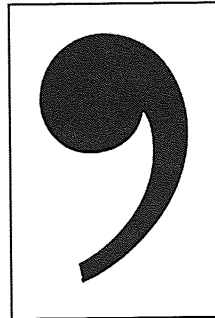
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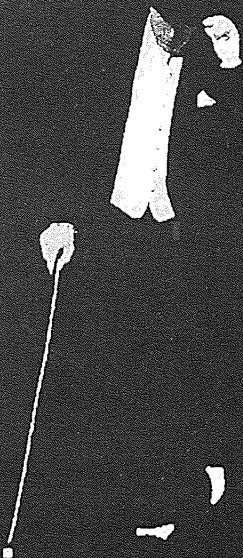


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*"control / alt / delete"*  
Norm Duttweiler



*"Sliding off the roof"*  
Ron Houk

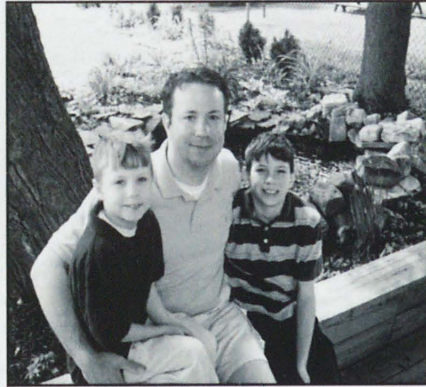


*"...and he shall feed his flock..."*  
Rev. Brian Rotach and family





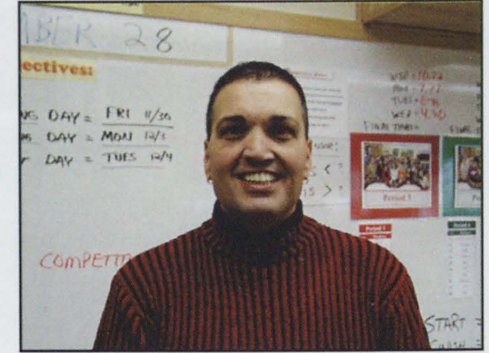
*"Take me out to the ball game. Go Red Sox!"*  
 Christopher Babbitt & Christopher Derisley  
 Patrick Derisley Age 8;  
 Andrew Derisley Age 6



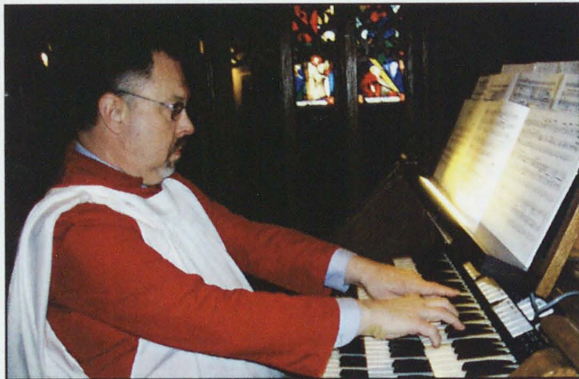
*"Our Children"*  
 Jason Higbee and his sons Jordan and Justin



*"He put in his thumb, and pulled out a plum."*  
 Rob Szustak



*"One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish ..."*  
 Nathan Phillips (aka Gladys Over)



*"Hallelujah! Hallelujah!"*  
 David Mathewson



*"Happy Pride"*  
 Barb Wagner and the Boys



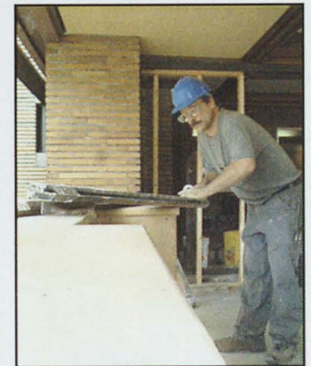
*"Caution: Children at Play"*  
 Lorne Gretsinger with students Rachel  
 and Madyn



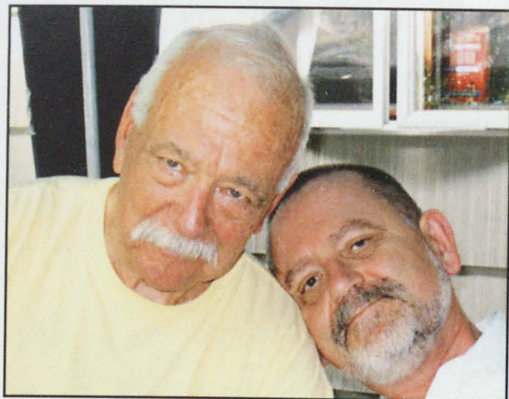
*"Dame Edna and her new best friend,  
 Andy Newbert"*



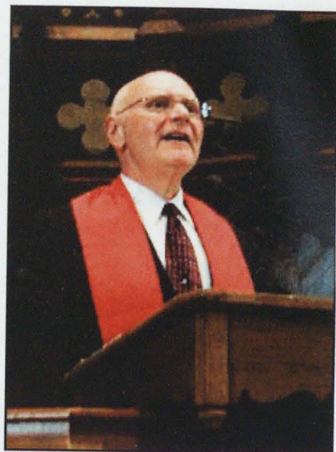
*"Can you hear me now?"*  
 Dennis Stuart



*"Man at Work"*  
 Vincent Kuntz at the Darwin  
 Martin House



*"Everything Possible"*  
Russ Link and John Jubulis (28 years)



*Spirit of Life*  
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*"Who will buy my sweet, red roses?"*  
Jeffrey Hunt

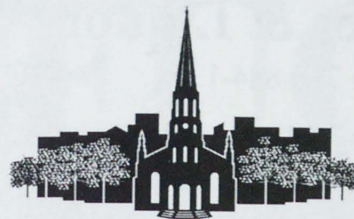
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*Oh, Lucky Bill*  
William Hardy



*"Under 0-69"*  
Jason Ward, Gladys Over and Flip Taporco



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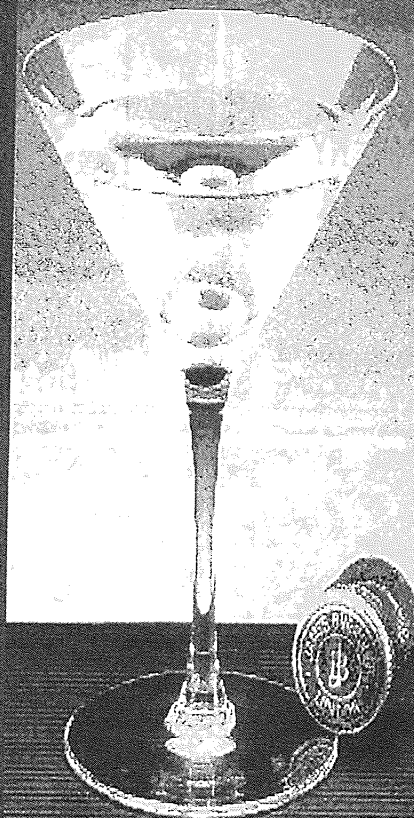
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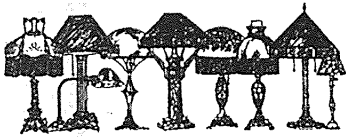
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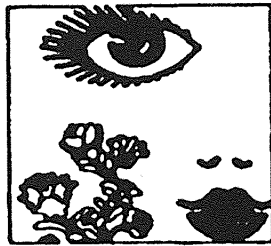


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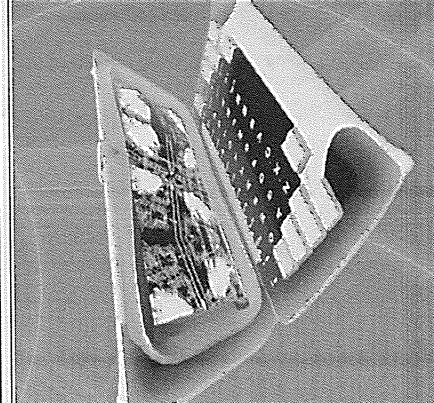
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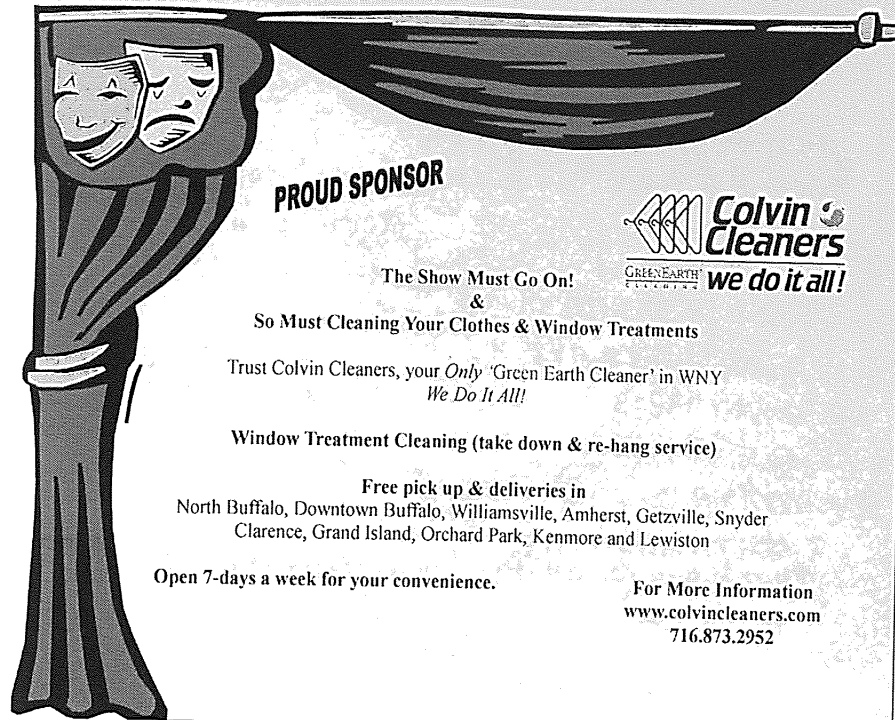
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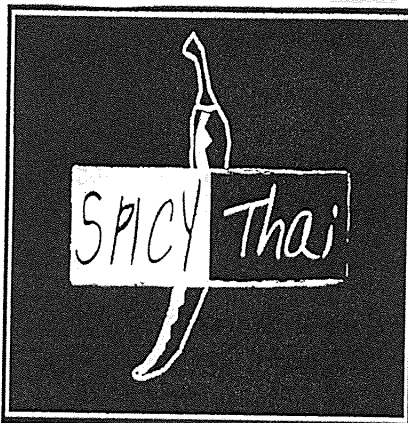
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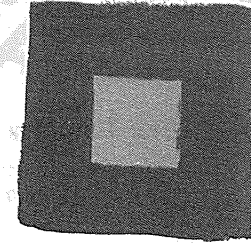
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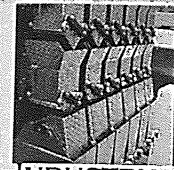
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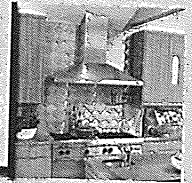
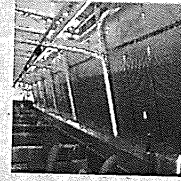


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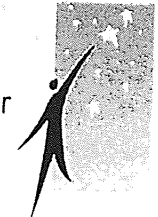
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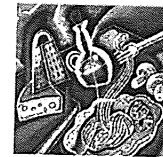
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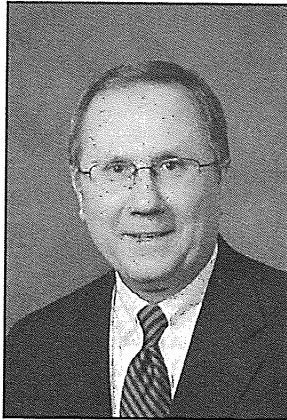


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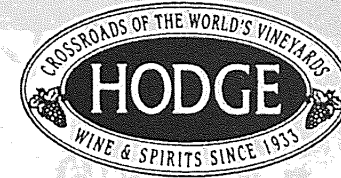
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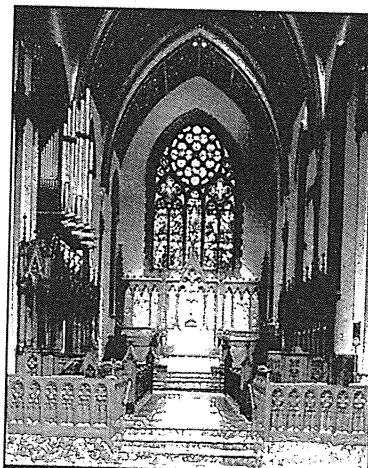
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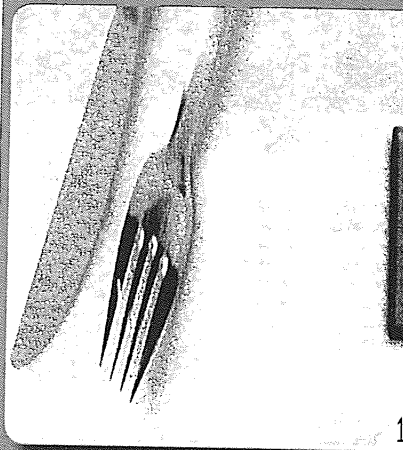


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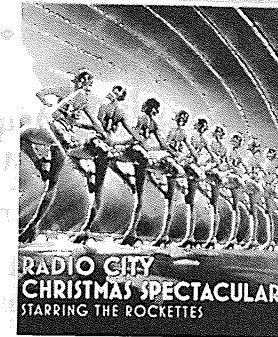
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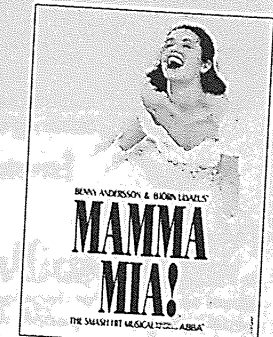
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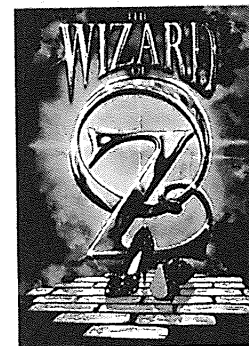
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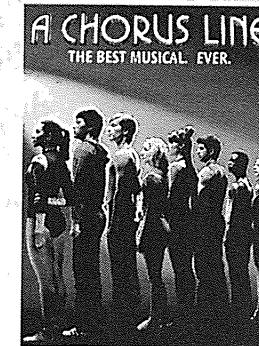
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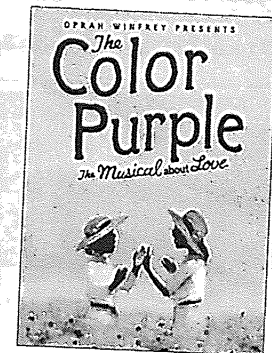
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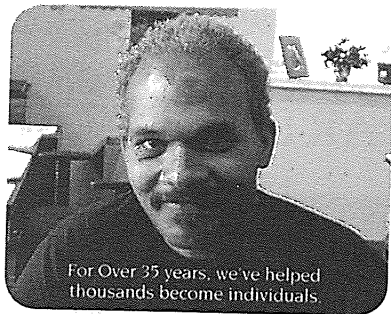
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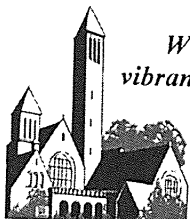
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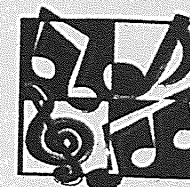
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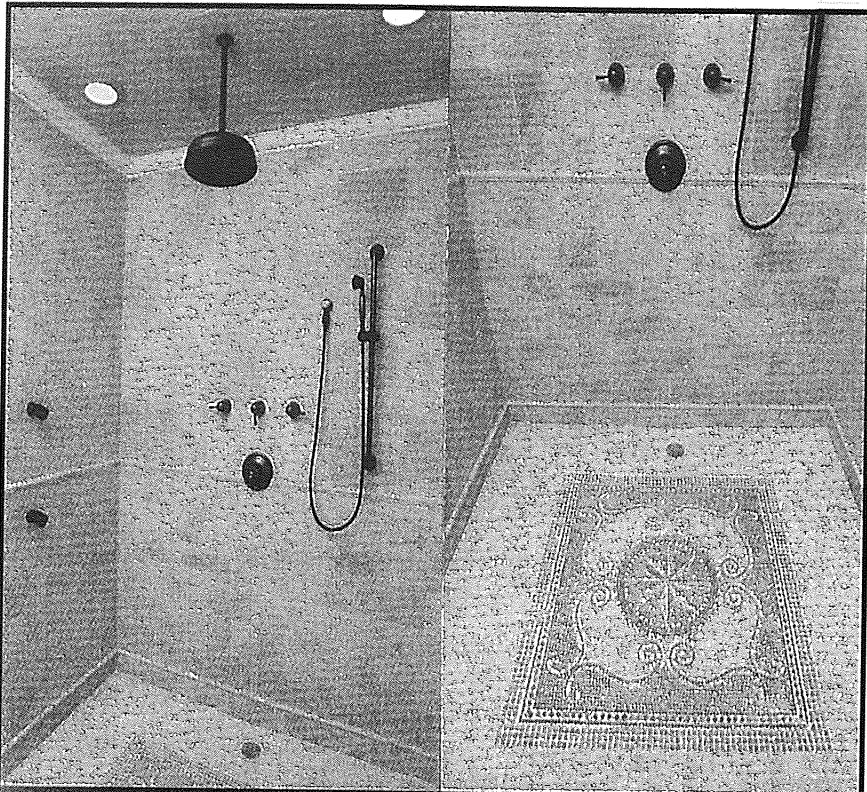
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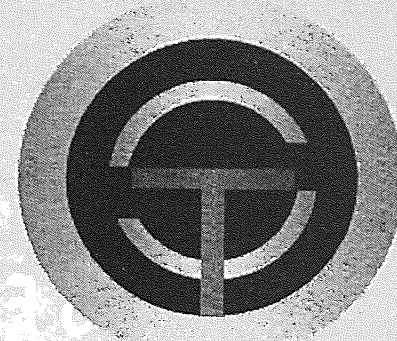
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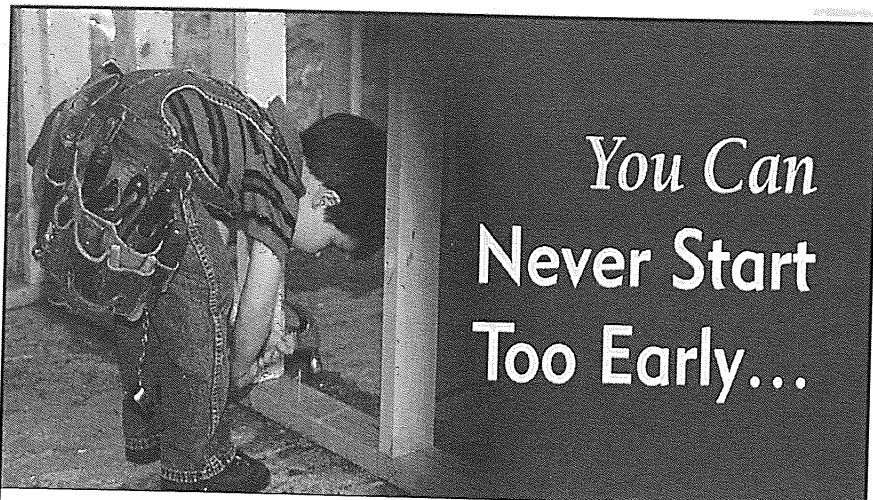
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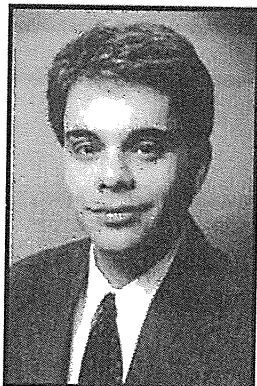
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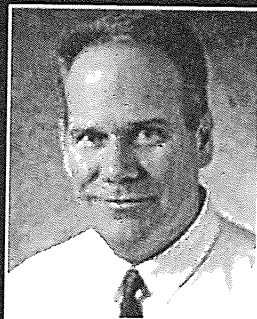
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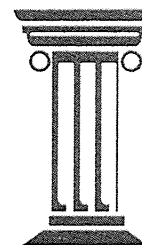


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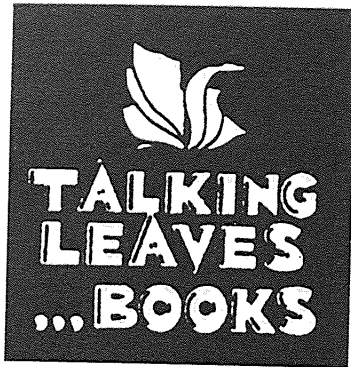
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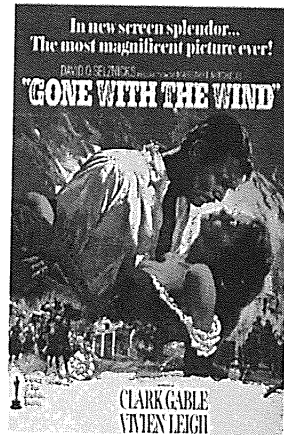
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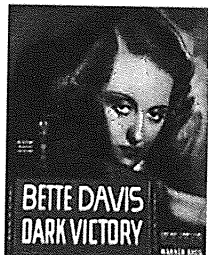
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Adults \$20 Students, Seniors & Disabled \$18  
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3rd Concert:  
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116 Union • Hamburg

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