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6-2010

### Once Upon a Time

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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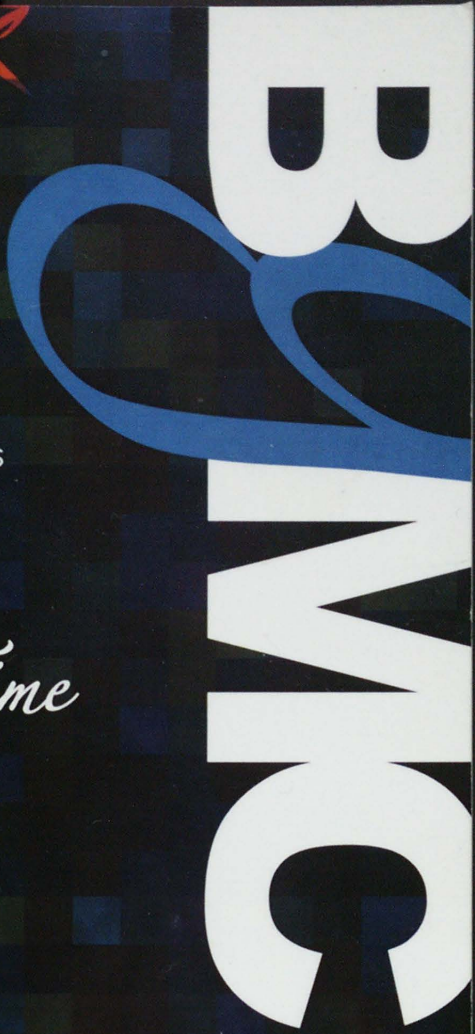
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The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

proudly presents

*Once Upon a Time*

Friday, June 18, 2010  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
695 Elmwood Ave.  
Buffalo, NY · 8pm

Saturday, June 19, 2010  
First Presbyterian Church  
1 Symphony Circle  
Buffalo, NY · 8pm

Sunday, June 20, 2010  
Orchard Park Presbyterian Church  
4369 South Buffalo Rd.  
Orchard Park, NY · 4pm



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

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buffalogaymenschorus.org

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*The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus*



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**BGMC**

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Office:

51 Colonial Circle  
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 2010

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

Greetings and salutations to the BGMC on the occasion of your summer season of song!

We send warm wishes on behalf of the City of Buffalo as you present "Once Upon a Time!" at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo on June 18<sup>th</sup>, at the First Presbyterian Church on June 19<sup>th</sup>, and at the Orchard Park Presbyterian Church on June 20<sup>th</sup>. We are sure the program, divided into 4 specific sections: *Family, Friends, Loneliness* and *Love*, will be a source of delight and inspiration for all.

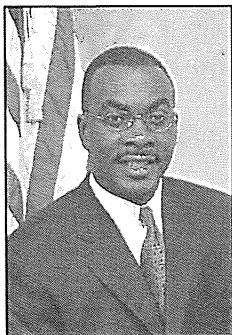
Your continued success under the direction of Maestra Barbara Wagner represents all that is best about the arts in our region: beauty, harmony and excellence.

While we listen to your "vocal music of high quality in the rich tradition of men's choral singing," we know your sounds are the fruit of hard work and many rehearsal hours.

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



65 NIAGARA SQUARE / 201 CITY HALL / BUFFALO, NY 14202-3392 / (716) 851-4841 FAX: (716) 851-4360 / [www.city-buffalo.com](http://www.city-buffalo.com)

## Special Thanks

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Our Saturday Hosts

Rev. Dr. Geri Lyon and First  
Presbyterian Church

Our Sunday Hosts

Gregory White, Director of Music,  
and Orchard Park Presbyterian Church

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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 51 Colonial Circle, Buffalo, New York 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 "voices" to ours.

*The Friends of the BGMC listed in this program are those whose contributions were received between June 15, 2009 and May 15, 2010.*

## **Maestro \$1,000 - \$2,999**

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Timothy H. Mahiques and  
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## **Conductor \$200 - \$499**

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<i>Honoring Rob Black</i>	James Mack
Bock & Whitman Roofing, Inc. (Ray and Mary Whitman), <i>Honoring Steve Young and Linda Reznick</i>	Nicholas Marchelos
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## **Soloist \$100 - \$199**

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Samuel J. Barone	Sharon Osgood, <i>Attorney</i>
Paul G. Berglund	Debi Overton and Kathleen Niles
Susan Blackley and KarenMarie Kanderer	Arthur J. Picogna, <i>In memory of Arthur E. Neeb</i>
Mary Bruce and Patty Gilmour	Jeffrey H. Platt
Max and Sheila Casey	James and Trudy Possinger
Laurie Dann and Tom Hunt	Richard Price
William and Marion Dann	John Rex
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Tricia M. Grace and David Dunn, <i>In memory of Grace Smith-Stukowski</i>	Harriet Stewart
Paul Justice and Donn Youngstrom	Dennis Stuart, <i>In memory of Grace Smith-Stukowski</i>
David C. Krieman, <i>In memory of Dan, David and Ron</i>	Gloria and Paul Stuart, <i>In memory of Grace Smith-Stukowski</i>
Norma Jean Lamb	John and Elaine McCreight Swaine
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Andree and Joel Lippes, <i>In memory of Grace Smith-Stukowski</i>	Noreen and John Visone
Kathleen S. Ludwig	Jacqueline L. Wilson
	Edward J. Witul

*Singer - Up to \$99*

Vickie Agostini, *Honoring Jimmy Rigo*  
Christopher S. Babbitt  
Samuel J. Barone  
Laverne M. Behr  
Phyllis S. Bornand  
Pamela and Alex Borok, *Honoring Jason Ward*  
Pete Carroll, *In memory of Jim Cain*  
Sandra and Joseph Carrubba, *In Memory of Richard B.*  
Joseph R. Cherico and Edward A. Fenn  
Helen M. Christian  
Elisabeth G. Clark  
Judith Clarke and Alan Dozoretz  
Harold and Mary Cohen  
Marilyn R. Cornelius  
Helen Cyulik  
Dave Davis  
Florence and Clarence Davis, Jr.  
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Norm Duttweiler, Jr.  
Bill Englebrecht  
Daryl M. Ervolina  
William J. Fay  
John Fleischman, Jr.  
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Marvin and Marcia Frankel, *Honoring Lucy Maya Cohen-Frankel*  
Donald Callen Freed, Ph.D. and Larry P. Ebmeier  
Leigh and Dan Fuller  
A. P. Georgi  
Clara Gillies  
E. Joseph and Lynne Giroux  
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Bill and Suzie Jack  
Jim Jagow  
Doris Jones  
Gail King and Helen Christian  
Carol and John Kociela  
John and Jeanette Lane  
Dorothy M. Lien  
Diana McManus, *In memory of Grace Smith-Stukowski*  
Peter and Mary McNally  
Sam Maislin, *Attorney*  
Ed and Pat Malican  
Mark R. Mancuso  
Dr. Horace Mann  
Donald A. Mateczun, *In memory of Grace Smith-Stukowski*  
Delwyn P. Milander  
Louis M. Molisani  
Susan H. Nealon, *Honoring Russell Link and John Jubulis, 30 years together*  
Hugh J. and Ann O'Hear  
Donna Parris, *Honoring Roger Parris*  
Michael J. Pawlak  
John J. Pellegrini  
Mark J. Peszko  
Eileen Pfeil  
Benjamin Phillips  
Mark J. Preskop  
Michael J. Purtill  
Linda A. Reznick, *In memory of Grace Smith-Stukowski*  
Molly A. Rosinski  
Paula and Alan Rosner, *Honoring Russell Link*  
William and Mary Jane Russell

*Singer - Up to \$99 (Continued)*

Joe Schuder, II  
Debbie M. Sheehan  
Carol D. Speser  
Curt Steinzor and Elaine Gardner  
Diane S. Strassel  
Paul Stuart, *In memory of Grace Smith-Stukowski*  
Kari J. Summer  
Summer Street Cat Clinic  
John T. and Elaine McCreight-Swaine  
Nicole M. VanValkenburg  
E.J. and R.D. Venator, *Honoring Russell Link and John Jubulis' Anniversary*  
John and Noreen Visone  
Robert A. Wiechman and John R. Molinaro  
Diana Williams-Foster  
Theresa Wise



**COME JOIN US IN SONG**

The BGMC thanks all its members, volunteers, and audiences, past, present and future. We also extend to the entire Western New York community an invitation to join our organization as either a volunteer or singer. We welcome new singers with open arms. As always, we welcome any man, gay or straight, who wishes not only to sing but to join our mission to seek through song to enlighten as well as to entertain.

Open auditions for the tenth season of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus will be held September 7th and 14th at 6 pm at St. John's Grace Church (corner of Lafayette Avenue and Colonial Circle), 51 Colonial Circle, Buffalo, NY 14222 or phone our Artistic Director, Barbara Wagner, at 668-1124 or 359-1894 to make an appointment for an audition.

## Once Upon a Time

Christopher S. Babbitt, President



According to the Oxford English Dictionary, “**Once upon a time**” is a stock phrase that has been used in some form since at least 1380 in storytelling in the English language. It seems to have become a widely accepted convention for opening oral narratives by around 1600. These stories often end with “...*and they lived happily ever after,*” originally, “*happily until their deaths.*” These are examples of the narrative form, and occur most frequently in the narratives produced for children aged between six and eight.

“**Once upon a time**” is particularly apparent in fairytales for younger children, where it is almost always the opening line of a tale. It is commonly used in the original translations of the stories of Charles Perrault, Hans Christian Andersen and the Brothers Grimm. The phrase is also frequently used in oral storytelling, such as retellings of myths, fables, and folklore.

BGMC has taken a different spin on “**Once upon a time.**” We are using it in our oral storytelling through singing. The concert you are about to hear is very near and dear to our hearts. There are bits of this concert that will sadden, frighten and even inspire you. This is the story of our lives. This music is a way for us to share with you, our loyal patrons, what we felt, dealt with, and eventually ended up with throughout our lives. With 70+ men in our chorus, the entire story is not entirely ours, but each and every man singing before you tonight has experienced or lived through one or more of these songs and emotions.

BGMC is honored and humbled by the support we have received over the past nine years. We look to you, our family and friends, for our strength. We hope you enjoy our fairytale (pardon the pun) of **ONCE UPON A TIME**. Please join us after the show for our reception and feel free to pick up a copy of one of the many BGMC CD's we have for sale.

Thank you again for the strength, love and support that you give to each one of us.

Yours in Harmony,  
Christopher S. Babbitt

## Once Upon a Time

Barbara Wagner, Artistic Director



For many years now, I've wanted to work with my beloved BGMC on a program we would call “Once Upon a Time.” In my mind, it would be a musical tale of their lives as gay men. There would be stoles on which they could tell their stories in pictures or symbols. I'd seen those on the Heartland Gay Men's Chorus in Kansas City at a conference and loved them. We would have baby pictures in the program. The carefully chosen music would tell the stories of their lives.

Pretty tall order for a straight woman who had never trod any of the paths that gay men take during the course of their lives. But, I DID have my own path that took me to this family of men that I have come to love like grandsons, sons and brothers. I have listened to happy stories of new relationships and have wept as I held them and listened to the sad stories of the loss of a beloved partner or family member or friend. The hurt and pain that this family of men endure is almost beyond description – fear, hatred, cruel gossip, physical violence, the pain of illness, loss of family and friends, who cannot accept their life style, not even a way to be legally married or think about equal rights – it goes on and on. I guess I felt that I needed for you, our loyal and true audience, to understand even just a little of what I've been privileged to see and feel. And then there's the unbounded joy – the sons and daughters of “my boys” that I've been blessed to meet, the parents, sisters, brothers and friends who have not only loved them, but maybe even loved them a little more. We meet each other on the street and there's always a big hug. We sing our songs with such warmth and understanding that sometimes I can hardly believe it. I see tears and smiles and I know why. I know the hilarity that exists when we sit and tell outrageous stories and we laugh at ourselves, and laugh at me when I inadvertently say something that's outrageously inappropriate. These past nine years have been the best time of my long life and I want to thank all of you, the members of our devoted audiences, for being around, showing up at all of our concerts and having extraordinary faith in what we do. None of this would happen without you, as I've said many times. We are so grateful for your loving presence and support.

With Love,  
Barbara Wagner

# The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

## Tenor 1

Jerrod Baldwin  
Robert Black  
Norman Urban Boyer  
Shaun Doyle, Jr.  
Norm Duttweiler, Jr.  
Keith Galantowicz  
Ron Houk  
Dion Johnson  
G. Michael "Spike" Liska  
Mike Matters  
Matthew Mooney  
Mike Rogers  
Hanford Searl, Jr.  
Robert J. Szustak \*

## Baritone

Dave Batt  
Paul Berglund  
Dennis Bolton  
Gregory Ciupak  
William Gardner  
Jeffrey C. Hunt  
Vince Kuntz  
Paul LaDuca  
Raymond Neil  
Andy Newbert \*  
Andrew Pollard  
Joe Puma  
Philip Revekant  
James Rigo  
Woody Sipprell  
Mark Smith  
Dennis Stuart  
Tom Villeneuve

## Tenor 2

Donald Behr  
Edward F. Ciszek, Jr.  
Joseph Grieco  
William C. Hardy  
Gerald Klein  
Delwyn Milander  
Clifford Moore III  
Scott Nachbar  
Nelson Alan Neels  
Roger Parris  
Mark J. Peszko  
Nathan E. Phillips \*  
Cedric "Flip" Taporco  
Jason Ward

## Bass

Pierre Albrecht-Carrie  
Christopher S. Babbitt  
Michael Cacho  
Neal Flaig  
Jaime Stephan Goldfuss  
Lorne Gretsinger  
Jason Higbee  
Randy Kozlowski  
Timothy H. Mahiques  
David K. Mathewson \*  
Ryan McKane  
L. Martin Palcic  
Todd B. Ruth  
Joseph Zimmerman

*Section Leader \**

# The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

## Non-Singing Members

Michael Bardo  
Robert C. Donner  
Dan Folwell  
David Gannon  
Dudley Joseph  
John Jubulis  
Michael LaFleur  
Aaron LeBeau  
Russell Link  
Mike Longo  
Mark Mancuso  
Mark Marquardsen  
Ramón Meléndez  
Mark Meyer  
Brian Rotach  
Michael Shanahan  
Dr. Lawrence Van Heusen  
Zach Velkinberg

## Artistic Director

Barbara L. Wagner

## Accompanist

Debi Overton

## News & Information Director

Kathleen Bryce Niles

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Chuck Alaimo

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Teresa Tam

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Norm Duttweiler, Jr., Vice President  
David Mathewson, Secretary  
Shaun Doyle, Jr.  
Mark Mancuso  
Ryan McKane  
Matthew Mooney  
Andrew Pollard  
Mark Smith

William Gardner, Treasurer

## Production Committee

### **2009-2010**

Damian Tremblay, House Manager  
Jason Ward, Production Committee Chair  
Norm Boyer  
Shaun Doyle, Jr.  
Dion Johnson  
Tim Mahiques  
David Mathewson  
Nelson Neels  
Andy Newbert  
Nathan E. Phillips  
Robert J. Szustak  
Teresa Tam  
Cedric "Flip" Taporco  
Barbara L. Wagner  
Woody Sipprell, Reception

## The Stoles

The stoles that the BGMC members are wearing were designed and made by Marjorie Lord and her assistants Caroline Coleman, Kay Weagraft, Elizabeth Clark and Marjorie Gardner.

The designs on the stoles were created by the men who are wearing them. They represent, in many ways, the stories of their lives.



## Once Upon a Time

A tiny baby boy was born and  
THIS is part of his story --

L I S T E N

### LIFE BEGINS . . .

- Bonse Aba** Arranged by: Andrew Fischer  
(Traditional Zambian Song)  
*"All that sing have the right to be called  
the children of God."*  
Lorne Gretsinger, Jason Higbee, Dion Johnson, Tim Mahiques  
and the Chorus  
Flip Taporco, Bongo Drum
- Family** Lyrics: Tom Eyen  
Music: Henry Nieger  
Arranged by: Dennis Coleman
- Drama Queen** Lyrics and Music: Eric Lane Barnes
- He Ain't Heavy,  
He's My Brother** Lyrics: Bob Russell  
Music: Bobby Scott  
Christopher Babbitt and the Chorus
- The Last Song** Lyrics: Bernie Taupin  
Music: Elton John  
Arranged by: Steve Milloy  
Jimmy Rigo, Soloist  
with Paul Berglund, Gregory Ciupak, Scott Nachbar  
and the Chorus
- In Remembrance** Text: Anonymous  
(Attributed to Mary Elizabeth Frye)  
Music: Eleanor Daley

## WE GROW UP . . .

- The Rainbow Connection** Lyrics and Music: Paul Williams and  
Kenneth L. Ascher
- To Singing** Lyrics: George Klawitter  
Music: Karl Logue  
David Mathewson and the Chorus
- You Raise Me Up** Lyrics and Music: Rolf Lovland and  
Brendan Graham  
Shaun Doyle, Jerrod Baldwin  
and the Chorus

— *Intermission* —

### WE DISCOVER LONELINESS . . .

- Both Ways** Lyrics: Douglas Scheidt  
Music: Martin J. Wimmer
- To A Stranger** Poetry: Walt Whitman  
Music: Martin J. Wimmer
- Nine Hundred Miles** Traditional American Folk Song  
Arranged by: Philip Silvrey
- Born of the Sun** Poetry: Stephen Spender  
Music: David L. Brunner  
Jason Higbee, French Horn
- Last Letter Home** Music: Lee Hoiby  
From a letter by Pfc. Jesse Givens,  
who lost his life on an Iraqi battlefield  
(as have many men and women, gay and straight)
- Ain't No Turnin' Back  
on This Road** Lyrics and Music: David Maddux

## WE FALL IN LOVE . . .

**Walk Hand in Hand** Lyrics and Music: Johnny Cowell

**Amor de mi Alma** Poetry: Garcilaso de la Vega  
Music: Z. Randall Stroope  
*"You are the love of my soul."*

**A Love That Will Never Grow Old**  
Arranged by: Chad Weirich

**Save The Last Dance For Me** Lyrics and Music: Doc Pomus and  
Mort Shuman

**Somebody to Love** Lyrics and Music: Freddie Mercury  
Arranged by: Kathleen McGuire  
Soloists: Norman Boyer, Dion Johnson and Rob Szustak  
with Jerrod Baldwin, Cliff Moore and the Chorus



Christopher Hart, Percussion  
Timothy Mroz, Bass



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

**Mark Custom Recording Service, Inc.** takes great pride in being the recording company of choice for the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus. Be it in our state of the art studio in Clarence, or on location in your venue, Mark Recording will make you and your ensemble, sound great!

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## Music Notes

Phil Revekant, Jimmy Rigo, Jason Ward  
and Barbara Wagner

### Bonse Aba

Loosely translated from the original Chibemba language, "all that sing have the right to be called children of God" is the perfect sentiment for a processional for a big choral production. Chibemba is the language spoken primarily in Zambia. Many of the words have multiple meanings and can vary depending on the context. This translation is intended to convey the broad meaning of the piece. You may feel like dancing in the aisles. Feel free to do just that!

### Family

From the Broadway musical and film of the same name, "Dreamgirls," this song exemplifies what it means to be a part of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus for many members. It speaks to the special relationship that we've formed over the years we've sung together. It is indeed more than any one of us individually, because we *are* a family.

### Drama Queen

We all know one, and it is not a requirement that you be gay to be one. To quote Eric Lane Barnes, the composer of this piece, "I think everyone can relate to someone being a drama queen, someone who absolutely has to have their own way and has to have everything revolve around them, or they throw a fit."

### He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother

Here we are taking on the 1969 hit by The Hollies. This was during the "Flower Power" and "Peace and Love" era. Many people were protesting and dying in the Vietnam War. And now, in 2010, we're still fighting for basically the same things, including equal rights for all. This song is ageless.

### The Last Song

Elton John wrote this heartbreaking song in memory of the life of Ryan White, who died of AIDS. The two became close friends as the 18 year old Ryan's life slowly ebbed away. The song was used during a closing montage featuring people who died of AIDS in the film, "The Band Played On." It tells of an estranged father coming to his dying son's bedside in the last days of his life. This is an amazing father and son song if there ever was one. It appears that Elton John and his father were, indeed, virtually estranged themselves.

### **In Remembrance**

One of Eleanor Daley's best known works, "In Remembrance," comes from her Requiem which won the 1994 National Choral Award for Outstanding Composition of the Year by the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors. Known for her rich imagination and lyricism, Daley arranges her scores to be pleasing to both singers and audiences.

### **Rainbow Connection**

This song was made famous by none other than Kermit the Frog in the opening number of the 1979 film, "The Muppet Movie." It speaks to persevering and keeping the faith on one's journey through life.

### **To Singing**

With music by Karl Logue and lyrics by George Klawitter, "To Singing" pays homage to choral singers and the power of singing in a chorus. The opening words are, "When music saves a hidden soul, the boy becomes a man. Then all the hurts of yesterday dissolve as best they can." This beautiful language attests to the strength and fierce loyalty of a brotherhood of song.

### **You Raise Me Up**

Most recognized for recordings by vocalist Josh Groban, "You Raise Me Up" was written by Secret Garden's Rolf Lovland (music) and novelist Brendan Graham (lyrics). "You Raise Me Up" was originally written as an instrumental piece entitled "Silent Story" with the melody based on the beautiful "Londonderry Air." It was released on the 2002 Secret Garden album called "Once in a Red Room." The song has been covered over 125 times.

### **Both Ways**

This simple little song is about two teenage friends (?) with rather complex stories to tell. The young men, one who is gay, and the other, who is questioning, don't quite know how to "be." One treats his "friend" very rudely and coldly when they are among their friends, but when they are alone, it's a different story. It's hard to be a teenager under any circumstances, but these young men seem to find it very difficult. Wonder why????!! Our dear friend and one of our favorite composers, Marty Wimmer, composed this song that is truly not so simple at all!

### **Nine Hundred Miles**

A long-forgotten newsworthy event is thought to have inspired this song. The lyrics invite us to wonder, who is singing? Who wrote the letter and what does it say? Why are there tears in the singer's eyes? While leaving the particulars to our imagination, the song succeeds in capturing the mood and the spirit of life on the American railroad in the early twentieth century.

### **To A Stranger**

Marty Wimmer also composed the music for this song and chose the stirring poetry of Walt Whitman's "To A Stranger" for the lyrics. In the lines of the poem, Whitman indicates that strangers might be able to become intimate and affectionate friends. The stranger is a dream like symbol of the sense of intimacy and joy imagined as he passes by. "You give me the pleasure of your eyes.... You give me the pleasure of your face."

### **Born of the Sun**

David Brunner, imaginative composer, dynamic conductor and inspired teacher, is the composer of "Born of the Sun." Stephen Spender's poem, "I Think Continually of Those Who Were Truly Great," reminds us of ambition, striving, passion and spirit. It speaks in a larger context about all of those "born of the sun" who wear at their hearts, at the fire's center, whose passion leaves the "vivid air signed with their honor." The music is filled with fanfares, joyous with the majesty of a life well spent, but with lyricism and warmth as well. The poem is my favorite poem ever and David Brunner honors the words with some of the most powerful music I've ever heard.

### **Last Letter Home**

Jesse Givens, Private First Class, U.S. Army, died at the age of 34 in Iraq on May 1, 2003 in the service of his country. He wrote a letter to his wife, Melissa, his five-year-old son, Dakota (nicknamed "Toad") and his unborn child, Carson (nicknamed "Bean"). He asked Melissa not to open the envelope unless he was killed. "Please, only read it if I don't come home," he wrote. "Please put it away and hopefully you will never have to read it."

### **Ain't No Turnin' Back On This Road**

This song was originally commissioned by the Seattle Men's Chorus. David Maddux delivers a roaring anthem for justice and truth, which we continue to seek in this world. There is a religious undertone that reminds one of the Crusades. He bands the chorus together at the beginning of the piece with a unison march-like line which slowly divides into four part harmony and echoes to mimic the strides made toward the "golden prize."

### **Walk Hand In Hand**

This is a beautiful ballad, written in 1956 by Johnny Cowell. It was a decent selling single for crooner Tony Martin, hitting #10 on the charts. It's the perfect fit for a full men's chorus, as you'll hear when you listen to BGMC singing this fantastic love song. It sounds as good today as it did more than 50 years ago.

### **Amor de mi Alma**

Z. Randall Stroope is widely known as a conductor, lecturer and composer. Choral groups under his direction have taken more than 60 national and international tours. He annually conducts several all-states, as well as appearances in Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and summer festivals in Europe. One of the finest of the Spanish Renaissance poets, Garcilaso de la Vega, wrote the poem "Amor de mi Alma." De la Vega called it "Soneto V," a simple title for a poem full of brilliant words of great love, which was later set to some of the most beautiful choral music ever written.

### **A Love That Will Never Grow Old**

From the movie Brokeback Mountain, "A Love That Will Never Grow Old" was composed by Gustavo Santaolalla with lyrics by Bernie Taupin. The song won the Golden Globe Award in 2006, the Satellite Award and the Internet Movie Award for best original song. When nominated for an Academy Award for best original song, sadly or unfairly (it depends on your point of view) it was rejected as ineligible because it was not prominently featured in Brokeback Mountain.

### **Save The Last Dance For Me**

Many cover versions of this wonderful old song have been made over the years. Now, BGMC is tackling this "old chestnut" in a great new arrangement for men's chorus. One of the guys depicted in the song begs his date to have a lot of fun, do anything you want.... But please, above all, save the last dance for me.

### **Somebody To Love**

From the 1975 album, "A Night at the Opera," by the English rock band "Queen," this gospel-influenced song is about faith, desperation and soul searching. "Queen" multi-tracked their voices for the recording to create the impression of a hundred-voice gospel choir. We've decided that we're close enough to that number to go for it.



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

Historically, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) people have seldom had a "voice," a comprehensive, recognized presence with full participation in the American culture. Today, however, GLBT choruses are flourishing. The Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA), the national support organization for GLBT singing groups, celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2008. The passage of New York State's Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act (SONDA) and the rising success of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus are just two examples of many developments changing history for the better.

The BGMC idea was first conceived in 1999. Guided by Roger Parris (still one of our singers), a vigorous group of men worked throughout the coming year to make the BGMC organization a reality. With the support of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus to encourage them, a steering committee consisting of a dozen dedicated members had written the by-laws and incorporation papers, held fundraisers for seed money, agreed on a mission statement, elected officers and directors and (after a thorough search) hired Barbara Wagner as BGMC's Artistic Director. She, in turn, arranged the appointment of Debi Overton as our charter accompanist. Both women are highly respected musicians. Barbara Wagner is now one of only two female conductors of over 150 gay men's choruses in the United States and Canada.

Auditions were held in May 2001, with 36 chorus members on board after the first day. Soon, there were over 50. Rehearsals began on September 11, 2001, a day of shock and sadness throughout our land. The difficult decision to go forward with the rehearsal, despite the tragedy of that day, proved to have been wise. Forty men, many not knowing each other, gathered in an eerie silence. As they and Ms. Wagner held hands for the first time in a community circle, there were anguished murmurs of meditation, grief and prayer. They sang ... (*"From you I receive, to you I give, together we share and from this we live"*). They learned that long-lived and classic American hymn, *"How Can I Keep From Singing?"*. It remains to this day the Chorus theme song and a continuing reminder for its members of the mutual family togetherness and inspiration that the Chorus always aspires to attain. It was the processional music at the opening of BGMC's first public concert (*"Music From the Heart"*) on February 9, 2002. The men of

the Chorus, singing this music with feeling and intensity, strode down the aisles of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Buffalo, with uninvited (but welcome) television news cameras recording the event.

The audience that 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 each performance weekend until, some years later, the Chorus began presenting three times in the weekend and, for a short time, three weekend presentations each year rather than just two. Audiences continue to be large, diverse and enthusiastic.

The Chorus has commissioned a number of compositions and special arrangements of music for its concerts. Two of them were especially commissioned for performance by the Chorus at the quadrennial Festival of GLBT choruses from all around the United States, Canada and elsewhere. The Chorus commissioned "Adamic Songs," a six-part composition featuring poems by Walt Whitman, the creation of Buffalo's Roland E. Martin. Also a BGMC commission, "Yes!" was composed by the renowned Adolphus Hailstork. "Yes!", was based on a poem by Countee Cullen, the Harlem Renaissance poet, dealing with the struggle for racial harmony. The Chorus performed these new works respectively at the GALA Festivals of over 150 GLBT Choruses in Montreal in 2004 and Miami in 2008.

The Chorus has also enjoyed remarkable creative support from other Buffalo composers and arrangers. Madeline Davis, longtime leader of the GLBT movement in Buffalo and founder of the GLBT Archives, has provided the Chorus with many poignant tunes and texts. Along with many of the GALA composers, Buffalo's Phil Sims, musician extraordinaire, has composed many beautiful arrangements for the Chorus. Marty Wimmer, a very capable and creative spirit with his moving words and music, continues as a faithful contributor to the BGMC repertoire. Marty provides two of the musical presentations offered at this weekend's concerts.

Along with its efforts and growing musical success, BGMC has received honors in many forms and venues. A number of awards from Artvoice's "Best in Buffalo" proclaim the Chorus the best local choral group. The Chorus was asked to sing on the Kleinhans Music Hall stage with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra on two occasions, once for a subscription concert in 2004 and another as a benefit for the Orchestra and the Olmsted Conservancy in 2006, with Maestra JoAnn Falletta conducting. Mary Louise Nanna, founder and conductor of Ars Nova, asked the Chorus to sing in her Viva Vivaldi Series. BGMC was recognized by the Empire

State Pride Agenda in 2005 with the ESPA Award for Community Service awarded to the Chorus for the excellence of its music and its dedication to the community. In March 2008, 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.

BGMC's success has brought many requests from worthy organizations to perform benefit concerts, and the Chorus attempts to honor these requests when it is able to do so. The Chorus has received grants and gifts and much support from both the GLBT community and the community at large. It is pleased to be able to reciprocate.

A major force in the BGMC success has been the impressive dedication, hard work and unflagging efforts by the Chorus singers, as well as the dedication of its non-singing members and volunteers. The Chorus understands the need to create a positive social impact in the affected communities as effectively and meaningfully as possible. It finds itself in a relatively conservative environment, a factor that, if anything, should make its efforts and impact all the more important, and, it continues to hope, all the more effective. In addition to its influence on the community at large, it is clear that the Chorus has helped raise the self esteem of an historically marginalized portion of our society. Its high profile has helped to create a positive model for those who are grappling with the negativity that is too often imposed on GLBT people.

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus takes great pride in what it has been able to accomplish in the first nine years of its existence. Probably the greatest accomplishment has been its success in weaving the different lives and personalities of its members and of the communities it serves through the tug and magic of music, sung from the heart. The Chorus is, truly, a family. We are delighted to have all of you join us as you listen to our songs.

For those interested in more specifics of the varieties of our experiences and happenings, please browse through the following lists of time and events. The beat continues, with the concert you are now attending.

#### ***Events and Happenings . . .***

World AIDS Day Memorial Services  
AIDS Community Services Annual Fundraisers, "Cause for Celebration"  
Domestic Violence Awareness Fundraiser  
Fundraiser on behalf of Police Officer Patricia Parete  
CARES Benefit for the University of Buffalo Dental School  
AIDS Family Services, two Benefit Concerts

Katrina Relief Funds, Benefit Concert  
 North West Pennsylvania Rural AIDS Alliance and the Unitarian  
 Universalist Church of Erie, Pennsylvania, Benefit  
 Southern Tier AIDS Community Services and the Katharine Jackson  
 Carnahan Foundation Benefit  
 Habitat for Humanity Benefit Concert  
 Concert benefiting roof repairs at Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church  
 Amherst Unitarian Universalist Church, Benefit Music Program  
 Tree Lighting Ceremony for Women's and Children's Hospital  
 Benefit for the Darwin Martin House (Frank Lloyd Wright, architect)  
 Benefit Concert for and with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the  
 Olmsted Conservancy  
 Mark's Place, Niagara Falls, NY, Benefit Concert  
 St. Paul's Cathedral, Youth Program, Benefit Concert  
 Opening Concert, St. Paul's Cathedral Music Series  
 Performance at Buffalo Seminary – High School for Young Women  
 Benefit for the Children at Roswell Park Cancer Institute and Carly's House  
 MOCHA Project Presents: "Creating Hope Through Art"  
 Collaboration with Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus, Western NY Children's  
 Chorus in program of music by Benjamin Britten  
 Fredonia State College Pride Festival  
 Lighting of the Christmas Tree, Albright Knox Art Gallery  
 Pro Love produced by Amilcar Hill, inspired by the death of his six-year old  
 son.

*The audience was more diverse than any other for which BGMC has performed.  
 It was a defining moment for our organization.*

BGMC's provision of complimentary tickets to BGMC performances for  
 GLYS (Gay and Lesbian Youth Services) and singing and presenting at  
 Gay and Straight Alliance activities in schools.

#### **Performance Venues . . .**

Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo  
 Temple Beth Zion  
 First Presbyterian Church  
 Albright Knox Art Gallery, Gusto at the Gallery Series  
 St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral  
 Erie Basin Marina  
 Performing Arts Center, Rockwell Hall, Buffalo State College  
 Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst  
 First Baptist Church, Niagara Falls  
 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
 Trinity Episcopal Church  
 Westminster Presbyterian Church

Montante Center of Canisius College  
 Kleinhans Music Hall, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, two concerts  
 The Performing Arts Renaissance Theater, Montreal, GALA International  
 Festival  
 The Nichols School  
 Roush Recital Hall, Fredonia State Campus  
 Statler Towers Golden Ballroom  
 Trinity United Church, Beamsville, Ontario  
 Performing Arts Theater of Ithaca, NY  
 Langston Hughes Center  
 Botanical Gardens  
 Hochstein School of Music, Rochester  
 First Presbyterian Church, Viva Vivaldi Series  
 Buffalo Bisons Baseball Stadium, National Anthem  
 Pride Parades and Performances  
 MOCHA Awards Dinners  
 Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church  
 Buffalo Convention Center  
 HSBC Bank Auditorium  
 Elmwood Festival of the Arts  
 Hamilton Collegiate Center, Jamestown Campus, Jamestown Community  
 College  
 Masonic Lodge, Erie, PA  
 Church of the Ascension  
 Riviera Theater  
 Lighting of the Christmas Tree, Albright Knox Art Gallery  
 Chautauqua Institute, Gay and Lesbian Festival  
 Carnival Theaters, Miami, FL GALA International Festival

#### **Major Concerts . . .**

February, 2002	Music from the Heart
June, 2002	Sounds of Summer
January, 2003	Of Sweet Harmony
June, 2003	Songs of Freedom
January, 2004	If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On
June, 2004	Singing With Pride
July, 2004	GALA Festival of Choruses, 2004, Montreal
January, 2005	Brothers in Song
June, 2005	Fearless
January, 2006	A Winter's Tale
June, 2006	Let Us Entertain You
January, 2007	Celebrate
June, 2007	Colors of Our Lives

January, 2008	The Proud and the Passionate
June, 2008	Connections
July, 2008	GALA Festival of Choruses, 2008, Miami
December, 2008	Hope for the Holidays (our first Holiday Concert)
March, 2009	Land Where the Good Songs Go
June, 2009	BGMC On Vacation
December, 2009	Joyful and Triumphant (Holiday Concert)

**Musical Genres . . .**

Classical, Renaissance, Baroque, Romantic and Modern Styles  
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 Contemporary  
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 Du Wop  
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 Pop Standard  
 Folk Songs of many countries  
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 Barbara Wagner, Minister of Music

*About the Artistic Director*



**Barbara Wagner**, Artistic Director of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, has served as Minister of Music at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo for 48 years and was Director of Vocal Activities at Nichols School for more than 24 years.

The Choir at the UU Church, in addition to its Sunday morning responsibilities, enjoyed two highly acclaimed European tours: the first to Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic, and the second to Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland. The Choir, under Ms. Wagner's direction, has recorded for American Public Radio, performed locally with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO), Amherst Saxophone Quartet and the Ars Nova Musicians. Ms. Wagner was the conductor for the Peace Odyssey Concert Tour of Hungary and the former Soviet Union. Choral singers from all over the US participated in this tour.

She ran a choral program at Nichols High School that involved more than 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, Buffalo's Gay and Lesbian chorus in the mid 1980s.

Ms. Wagner earned a BFA Degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo, where she studied organ with Squire Haskin, and completed graduate work at Westminster Choir College. Her advanced studies include organ with Karl Richter at the Munich Conservatory and conducting with Raymond Harvey, formerly Assistant Conductor of the BPO and presently Music Director of the Kalamazoo Symphony.

She is a member of the American Choral Director's Association, the Erie County Music Educators Association, MENC; Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (founding member, former vice president and board member); NYSSMA; the American Guild of Organists (former sub-dean and program chair for the Buffalo Chapter); and the Chromatic Club of Buffalo. She was a member of the Hymnbook Commission for Singing the Living Tradition and served as chair of the New Hymns Task Force of the Unitarian Universalist Association. She is presently the Moderator of the 900 member Unitarian Universalist Musicians' Network.

Ms. Wagner was the recipient of the Buffalo Philharmonic/Erie County Music Educators Award for Excellence in Choral Music in 2002, and has been included several times in *Who's Who in American Women* and *Who's Who in America*.



## About the Accompanist



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, Dalton Baldwin and 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.

In addition to her duties as Organist and Choir Master at Calvary Episcopal Church in Williamsville, NY, Ms. Overton has enjoyed the position of accompanist for the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus since its inception in 2001; is a past chair of the Music Commission of the WNY Episcopal Diocese; currently serves as 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 November of 2007, Debi was the musical director and conductor for the WNY premiere performance of Leonard Bernstein's *MASS*. Most recently, Debi was pleased to have served as guest conductor for the Freudig Singer's 2010 winter and spring concerts.

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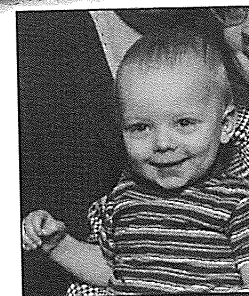
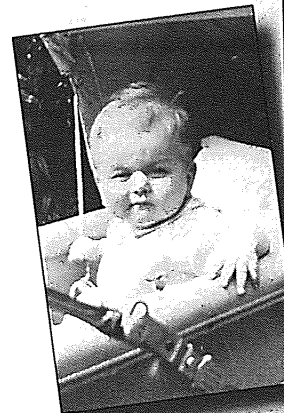
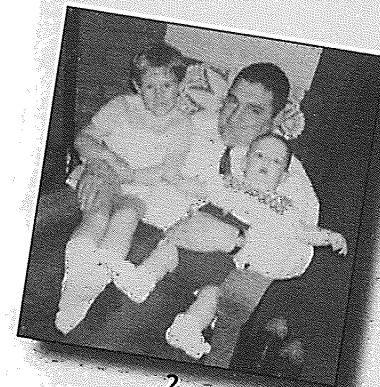
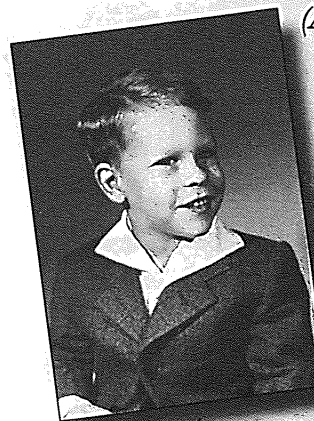
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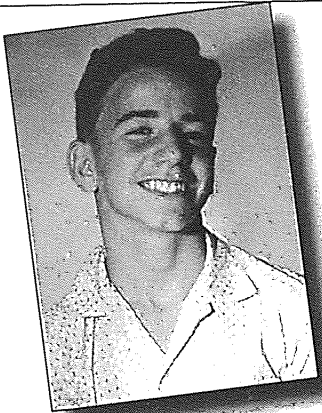
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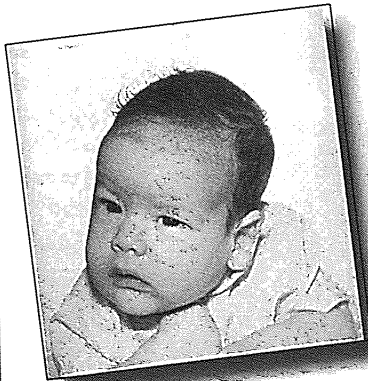




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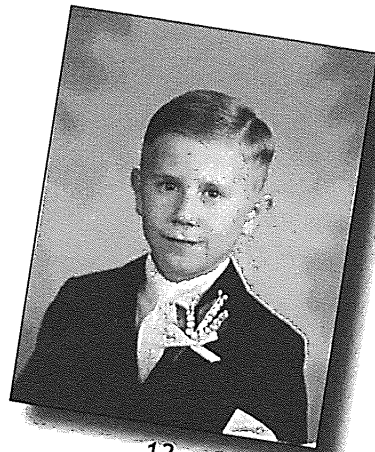
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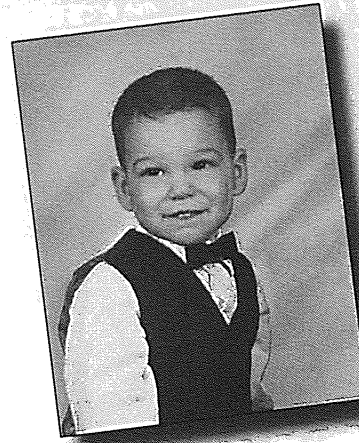
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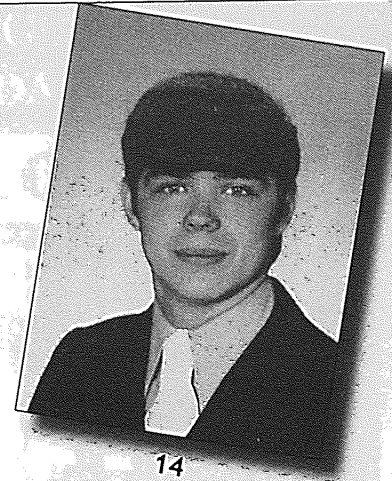
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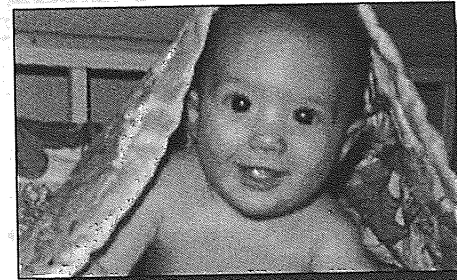
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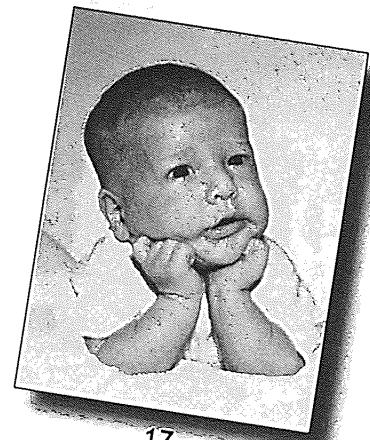
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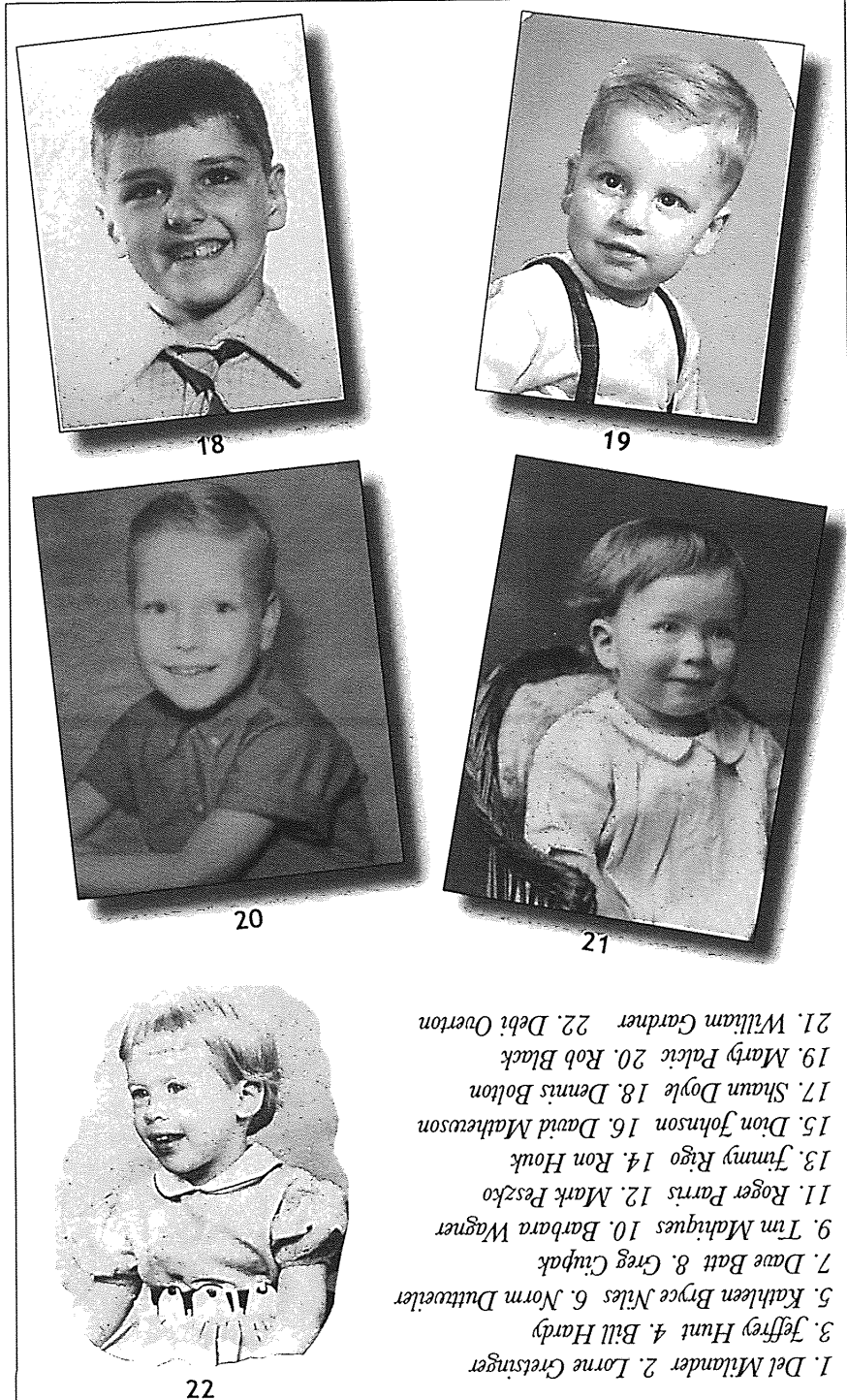
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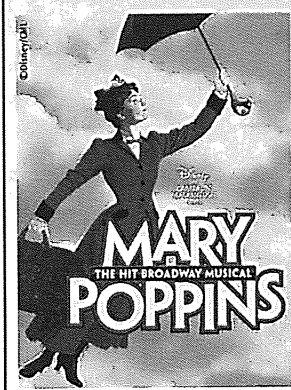


1. Del Milander 2. Lorne Gretsinger  
 3. Jeffrey Hunt 4. Bill Hardy  
 5. Kathleen Bryce Niles 6. Norm Duttweiler  
 7. Dave Bath 8. Greg Ciupak  
 9. Tim Mahtiques 10. Barbara Wagner  
 11. Roger Farris 12. Mark Peszko  
 13. Jimmy Rigo 14. Ron Houk  
 15. Dion Johnson 16. David Mathewson  
 17. Shaun Doyle 18. Dennis Bolton  
 19. Marty Palic 20. Rob Black  
 21. William Gardner 22. Debi Overton

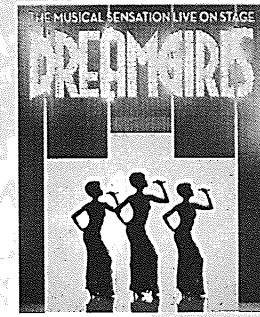
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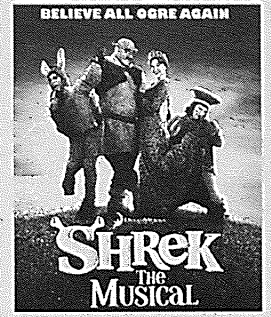
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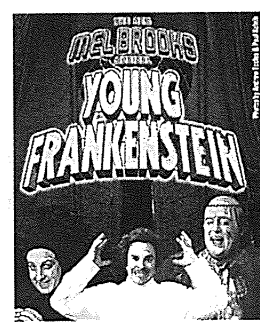
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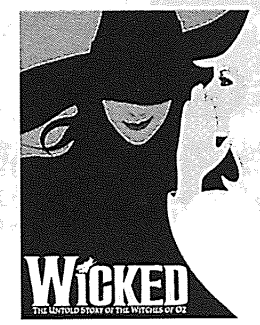
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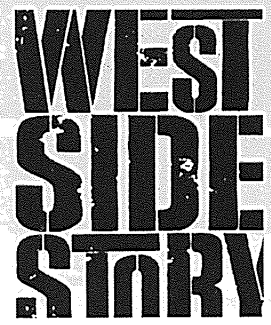
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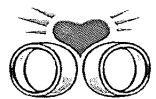
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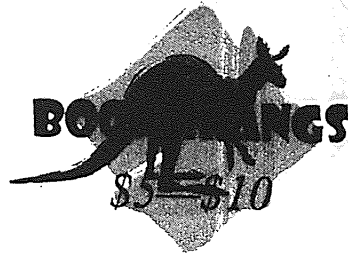
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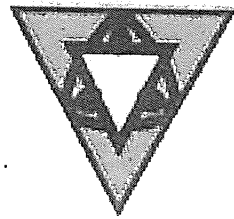


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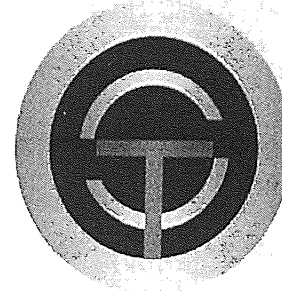
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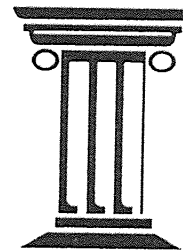
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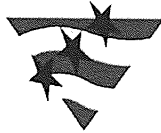
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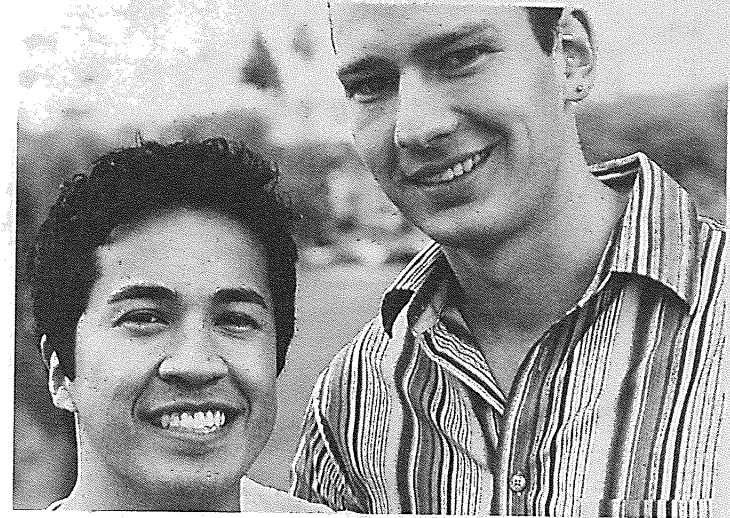


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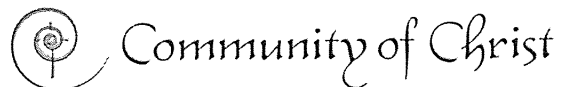
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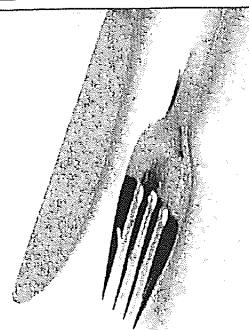
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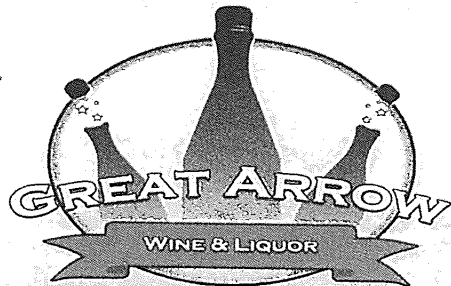
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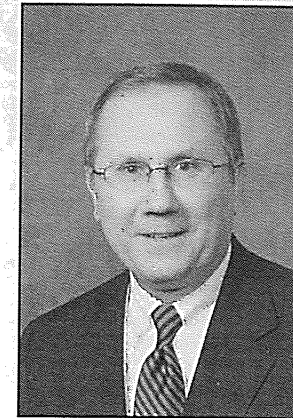
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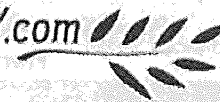
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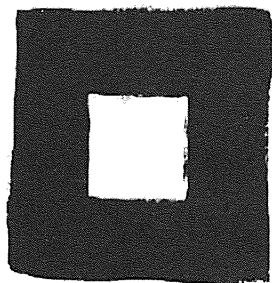
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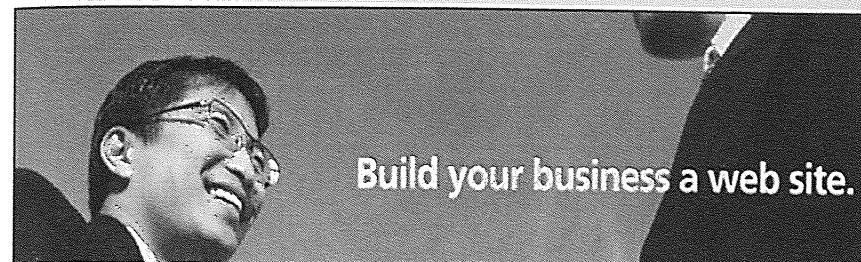
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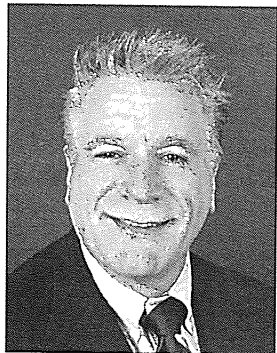
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
  
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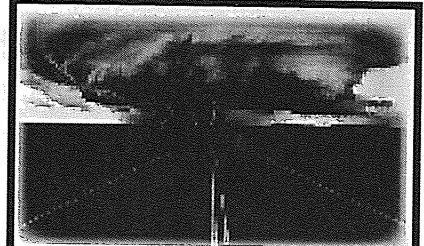


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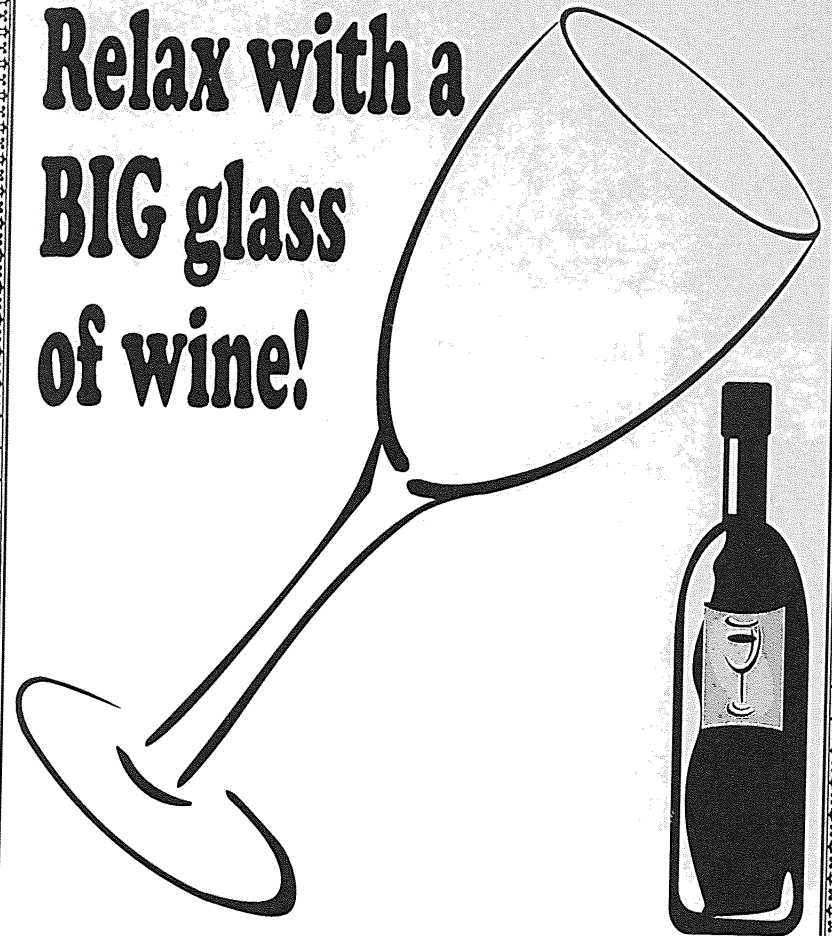
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