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The Land Where the Good Songs Go

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

presents

The Land Where the Good Songs Go

Friday, March 20, 2009 at 8pm
Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo
695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo

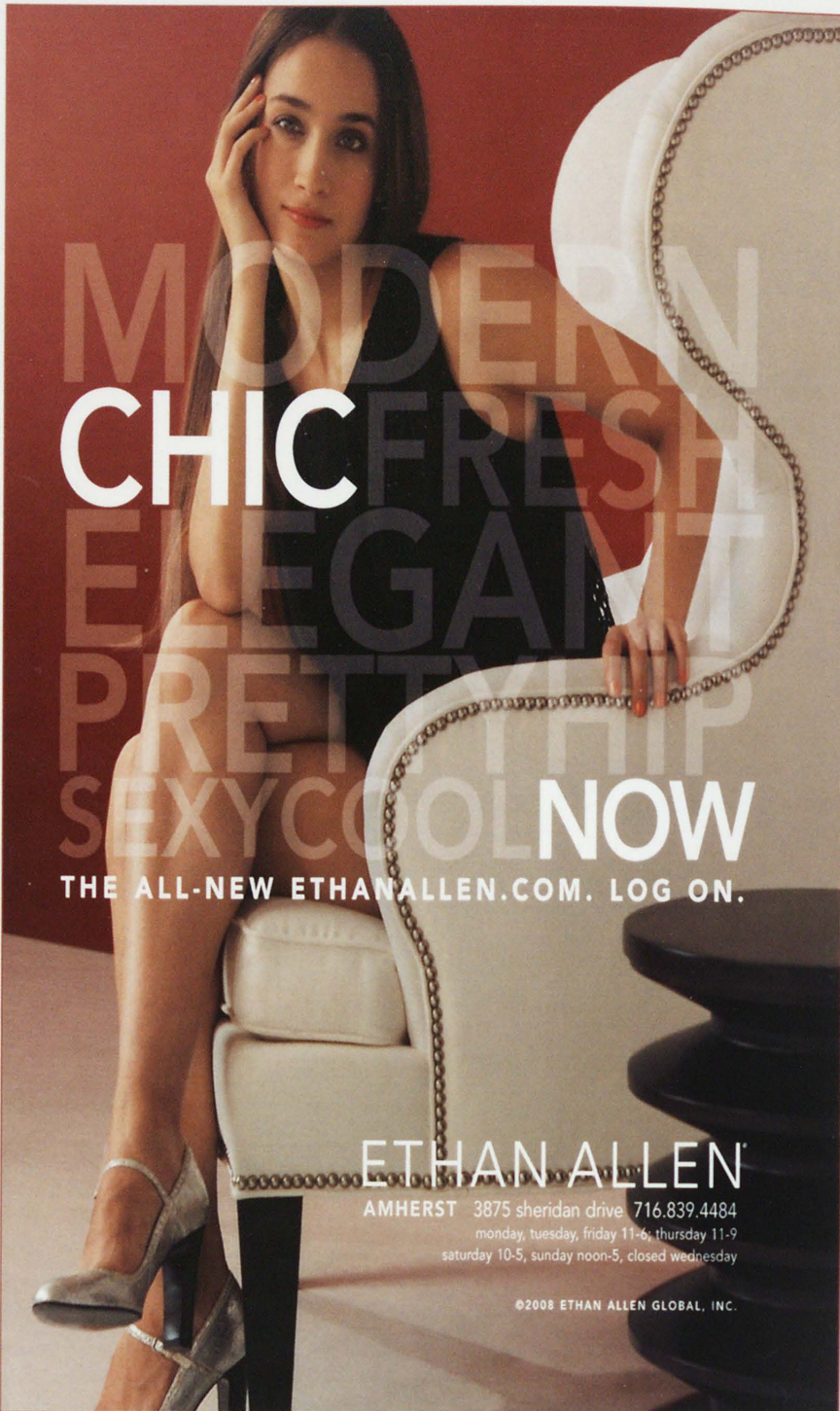
Saturday, March 21, 2009 at 8pm
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1080 Main Street, Buffalo
Interpreted for the hearing impaired

Sunday, March 22, 2009 at 4pm
Daemen College
4380 Main Street, Amherst

\$20 for adults
\$18 seniors and disabled
Seating is available 1 hour prior to concert

BGMC
The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Barbara Wagner, Artistic Director
Debi Overton, Accompanist
www.buffalogaymenschorus.org
716-883-1277



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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

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



March 9, 2009

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

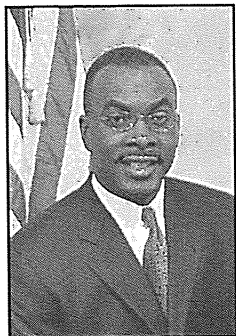
Greetings and salutations to the BGMC on the occasion of your 8th season of song!

We send warm wishes on behalf of the City of Buffalo as you present "The Land Where Good Songs Go," at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo on March 20th and again at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on March 21st. We also wish you success with your appearance at Daemen College on March 22nd.

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 yours sounds are the fruit of hard work and many rehearsal hours. We also congratulate you on your successful engagement with 88.7 FM WBFO's "On the Border" Wednesday Night Concert on December 17th. We wish you well with your special appearance at the Lancaster Opera House on April 17th and with your special event, "Diamonds & Pearls" on May 16th.

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

Special Thanks

Our Friday Hosts	Rev. Joel Miller and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo
Our Saturday Hosts	Rev. Dr. Charles D. Bang and the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Our Sunday Hosts	Brenda Rosen and Daemen College
Advertising	Dave Batt, Russ Link and Andrew Pollard
House Manager	Damian Tremblay
Music Notes	Jason Ward and Barbara Wagner
Photography	Mike Longo
Program Cover Artwork	Michael Gillis, Elmwood Framing and Interiors
Program Design and Layout	Robin Johnson and Vilardo Printing
Recording Coordinator	Michael Styn
Recording Producer	Mark Custom Recording Service, Inc.
Rehearsal Tapes	Jaime Goldfuss, Darrin Kahn, David Mathewson and Barbara Wagner
Sectional Accompanist	David Mathewson
Signing for Hearing Impaired	Christopher Coles
Tickets	Paul Cassavaugh and Linda Reznick
Ushers	Buffalo Front Runners and Front Walkers
Web Master	Norm Duttweiler
Assistant to the Web Master	Jaime Goldfuss

Please feel free to notify the Chorus of any changes or corrections for future programs at 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 "voices" to ours.

The Friends of the BGMC listed in this program are those whose contributions were received between June 1, 2008 and March 6, 2009.

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

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Virtuoso \$500 - \$999

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Linda Reznick, *To all my dear
friends at BGMC*

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Soloist \$100 - \$199

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Michael J. Bonilla

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*Honoring our friends, Frank an
Monty, Michael and Paul, Dave
and Mike and, especially, CB*

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Martin A. and Sheila P. Casey

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Terry M. Griggs

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John F. Herbert

Marylouise Hewitt

Ronald Houk, *Honoring my
family, with Love*

Glenn Hufnagel

Karen Keil and Family

Norma Jean Lamb

Kathleen S. Ludwig

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Louis J. Moran, LCSW-R,

*Honoring Bill Coplton and
Michael Duclos*

Irene E. Norton

Debi Overton and Kathleen Niles

James B. Palka

Arthur J. Picogna, *In memory of
Arthur E. Neeb*

Richard W. Price

John Rex

Bob and Luann Roberts

Alan D. and Paula Alcala Rosner,
Honoring Russell Link

Brian Rotach and Cheryl Bird

Harriet B. Stewart

Eunice Stuart, *Honoring Mark
Meyer and Del Milander*

A. Dean Theiss, Jr.

Urban Valet Dry Cleaners and

Eric Pyne

Cynthia M. Van Ness, *Honoring
OUTspoken For Marriage*

Joseph Vuich

Edward J. Witul

Singer \$30 - \$99

Andy Anselmo

D. Jeanne Aydelotte, *Honoring
Russell Link*

Virginia Barron

LaVerne M. Behr

Michael and Pamela Benz

Alan B. Block

Pam and Alex Borok, *Honoring
Jason Ward*

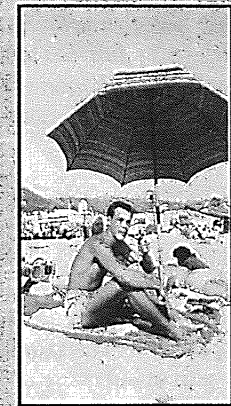
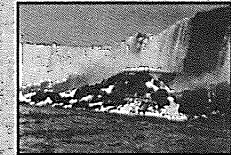
Ruth L. Bury

Singer \$30 - \$99 (Continued)

Paul Carroll, <i>In memory of Jim Cain</i>	Peter and Mary McNally
Judith Clarke and Alan Dozoretz	Dr. Horace Mann
Ruth Cohan	Sandra Marshall, <i>Honoring Christopher Profitt</i>
James N. Connelly	Kathryn A. Meyer
Dave Davis	R. Mark Meyer and Delwyn P Milander, <i>In memory of James D Haynes</i>
Florence Davis and Clarence A. Davis, Jr.	Karen and Buz Miranda
Joan M. Doerr, <i>In memory of Suzanne Manson Dwyer</i>	Louis M. Molisani, <i>Honoring Orlando Del Zoppo, my partner for over 30 years</i>
William G. Englebrecht	Russell A. Newbert
Irene M. Enright and Family	Don and Andrea Oswald
Dom DeFillippo and Arlan Peters	Ellen, Paula and Douglas Jack
William J. Fay	John Pellegrini
John Fleischman, Jr.	Jim and Trudy Possinger
Marcia Frankel, <i>Honoring Glen Adam and Lucy Mayo Cohen-Frankel</i>	Thekla Putnam, <i>In memory of John Putnam, Jr.</i>
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Sylvia Gold	Debbie M. Sheehan, <i>Honoring members of the military</i>
Claire Goldberg	Eunice Stuart, <i>Honoring Mark Meyer and Del Milander</i>
Carl and Eloise Granger	Paul and Gloria Stuart
Robert P. Graves	Summer Street Cat Clinic
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Jack Hogan	John and Elaine Swaine
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Robert Hughes and Margaret Fisher, <i>In memory of Carolyn Grove Hughes</i>	Mary G. Therrien
Paula, Ellen and Douglas Jack	Alan R. Thompson
Doris Jones	Dom Trapani
Edward W. Koryl	Johanne Haberstro Trotter, <i>Honoring Barbara Wagner</i>
John P. and Jennifer C. Lane	Edward K. and Shirley Y. Tuttle
Dr. Richard J. Lee	John and Noreen Visone
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Mark G. Littlefield	Tom Zawadzki
Marjorie Lord, <i>Honoring Donald Savage</i>	
John P. McCarthy, <i>In memory of Sam Herr</i>	

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

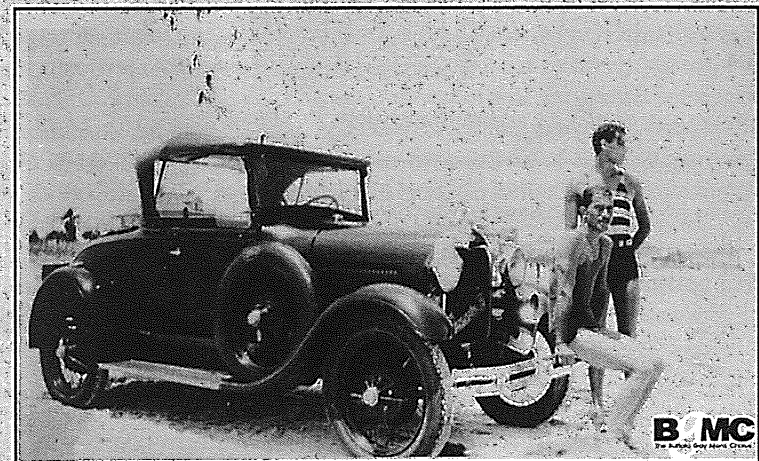
On Vacation!



Friday, June 19, 2009, 8pm
Unitarian Universalist Church
695 Elmwood Ave
Buffalo

Saturday, June 20, 2009, 8pm
First Presbyterian Church
Symphony Circle
Buffalo

Sunday, June 21, 2009 4 pm
Church of the Nativity
1530 Colvin Blvd.
Kenmore



www.buffalogaymenschorus.org



716-883-1277

The Land Where the Good Songs Go

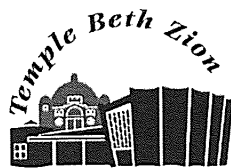
G. Michael Liska, President



What makes a concert great? This is possibly one of the hardest questions we ask ourselves after every concert series concludes. Each concert evening, while speaking with our Patrons in the receiving line, one comment is repeated over and over, "You guys sure look like you are having fun!" We are indeed. We love putting these events together for your enjoyment. We see your faces during our performances, the smiles, the laughter and the tears. We feel strongly about our service to the community and the joy we try to bring to you, our beloved audiences.

Sincerely,
G. Michael Liska (Spike)

Congratulations to the
Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus,
On their outstanding concert events.
Wishing you continued success!



Laurence Rubin, President
Harry Rosenfeld, Sr. Rabbi
Ilana Schwartzman, Assistant Rabbi
Penny Myers, Cantorial Soloist
Mark Criden, Executive Director
Susan Goldberg Pardo, Director of Education

And the Trustees and Members of
Temple Beth Zion,
Buffalo, New York

The Land Where the Good Songs Go

Barbara Wagner, Artistic Director

Dear Friends and Loyal Fans,



Our gratitude for your loyal presence in the life of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus means more to us than you'll ever know. Your comments to all of us before and after each concert are so critical to our growth. You asked over and over again when we would have a Holiday Concert. We finally paid attention, you attended and brought your friends and families, and a new tradition was born. There will be more holiday concerts. We loved preparing and performing it. You, the people of our treasured audiences were right as you always are. Speaking of listening, I'm going to try very hard to speak clearly and directly into the microphone from now on. You asked for that too and, of course, you're right. We've all been together for quite a while now and we want and respect your helpful comments. I promise to listen more carefully to your words of wisdom.

"The Land Where the Good Songs Go" is a beautiful place of wonder and gentleness; there are flowers and trees everywhere, there are even soft showers before the sun shines brightly again. All kinds of songs go to this lovely land, some that make us laugh, like "Puttin' on the Ritz", complete with top hats and canes; "Sherry" with its toe tapping beat; and an energetic, satirical chorus from Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*. Don't miss the pitter patters and clitter clatters!!! They are a real challenge, but so much fun to sing. Rachmaninoff's sublime setting of *Ave Maria* even finds its way to this land of inclusion and love. Another marvelous Phil Sims arrangement, "It's a Grand Night for Singing", takes us down the aisles to open the show. Brahms comes along for the show, too, as his gorgeous song *Mainacht* (May Night) makes its way to the land of the good songs, along with the old spiritual, "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho". Moses Hogan, who was one of the greatest arrangers of spirituals of his generation, died at the very young age of 40, right at the height of his career; I fervently hope that the memory of his arrangements is safely enshrined in this same beautiful land. In honor of the fresh, hopeful presidency of Barack Obama, we plan to sing the optimistic setting of "Our Love is Soaring Across the Land" by Holly Near. It feels good to be an American again. Our talented guests are duo pianists Anne Moot and Judith Burritt, who will take us to the "Land of the Good Songs" with music by Cole Porter, Harold Arlen and Jerome Kern.

Thank you for joining us as we take this nostalgic trip down memory lane.

Love,
Barb

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Tenor 1

Jerrod Baldwin
Robert Black
Joshua D. Blasdell
Robert C. Donner
Norm Duttweiler, Jr. *
Joseph Grieco
Ronald Houk
Dion Johnson
'Spike' Michael Liska *
B. Aidan Ngin
John Rex
Robert J. Szustak **
Hanford Searl, Jr.
Jeff Wilson

Bass 1

Franklin Ball
Dave Batt *
Paul Berglund
Denis Bolton
William H. Gardner *
Andrew Giarrizzo
Jeffrey C. Hunt
Darrin Kahn *
Ray M. Moore, Jr.
Raymond Neil
Andy Newbert **
Mark Palmer
Andrew C. Pollard
Joe Puma
Jimmy Rigo
Robert Rose
Sherwood 'Woody' Sipprell
Mark Smith
Cedric 'Flip' Taporco

Tenor 2

Donald Behr
Paul Brundage
Edward Ciszek Jr.
William C. Hardy
Gerry Klein
Delwyn Milander
Cliff Moore III
Scott Nachbar
Nelson A. Neels
Nathan E. Phillips **
Michael Rogers
Michael Styn
Jason A. Ward

Bass 2

Jack Ashwood
Christopher Babbitt *
Neal B. Flaig
Jaime Stephan Goldfuss
Jason Higbee *
Jim Jagow
Russell C. Link
Timothy H. Mahiques
David K. Mathewson * **
Ryan J. McKane *
L. Martin Palcic
Brian Rotach
Joseph A. Zimmerman

* Board Member
** Section Leader

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus (continued)

Non-Singing Members

David Gannon
Michael Gillis
Michael Hunter
John Jubulis
Michael Longo
Ryan McDonald
Mark Meyer
Kyler Miller
Roger Parris
Mark Peszko
Ben Phillips
Linda Reznick
Michael Shanahan
Larry Van Heusen

Artistic Director

Barbara Wagner

Accompanist

Debi Overton

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Christopher Babbitt, Vice President
Jason Higbee, Secretary
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Darrin Kahn
Ryan McKane
David Mathewson
Dennis Stuart, *ex officio*

News & Information Director

Kathleen Bryce Niles

Archivist

Chuck Alaimo

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. And, as always, we welcome any man, straight or gay, who wishes not only to sing but to join our mission to seek through song to enlighten as well as to entertain.

Phone our Artistic Director, Barbara Wagner,
at 668-1124 or 359-1894
to make an appointment for an audition.

The Land Where the Good Songs Go

- It's a Grand Night for Singing** Music: Richard Rodgers
from *State Fair* Lyrics: Oscar Hammerstein
Arrangement: Phil Sims
- The Land Where the Good Songs Go**
from *Miss 1917* Music: Jerome Kern
Lyrics: T.G. Wodehouse
Arrangement: Phil Sims
David Matthewson, Baritone
Inga Yanowski, Violinist
- Remember Then** Music and Lyrics: Tony Powers,
Beverly Ross and Stan Vincent
Arrangement: Phil Sims
Joshua Blasdell, Tenor, and The Chorus
- In the Still of the Night** Cole Porter
Arrangement: Anne Moot
Judith Burrit and Anne Moot
Piano Four-hands
- Unchained Melody** Music: Alex North
Lyrics: Hy Zaret
Arrangement: Mark Brymer
- Bogoroditzye Deyvo** Sergei Rachmaninoff
(*Ave Maria*)
from the All-Night Vigil, Opus 37
Sung in the original Russian
- Vocalise** Sergei Rachmaninoff
Arrangement: Anne Moot
Ms. Burrit and Ms. Moot
- Hallelujah** Music and Lyrics: Leonard Cohen
Arrangement: Roger Emerson

The Road Home Tune: "Prospect"
from *Southern Harmony*, 1935 Adapted by Stephen Paulus
Words: Michael Bennis Brown

The Battle of Jericho African American Spiritual
Arrangement: Moses Hogan

— Intermission —

Finale from *The Gondoliers* Music: Arthur Seymour Sullivan
"Dance a cachuca,
fandango, bolero."
Words: W.S. Gilbert

Mainacht (May Night) Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Choral Setting: Z. Randall Stroope
Poem: Ludwig Heinrich Christoph
Holty (1748-1776)

(See program notes for translation)

All the Things You Are Jerome Kern
Arrangement: Anne Moot
Ms. Burritt and Ms. Moot

Yesterday Music and Words: John Lennon and
Paul McCartney
Arrangement: Phil Sims
Robert Szustak and the BGMC Chamber Singers

Puttin' On the Ritz Music and Words: Irving Berlin
Arrangement: Kirby Shaw

Get Me to the Church on Time Music: Frederick Loewe
From *My Fair Lady* Lyrics: Alan Jay Lerner
Arrangement: William Stickle

Arlen's Rainbow Harold Arlen
Arrangement: Anne Moot
Featuring "Over the Rainbow", "Get Happy", "Blues in the Night",
"Silent Spring", "I've Got the World on a String", "That Old Black
Magic", "Let's Fall in Love", "My Shining Hour", "Over the Rainbow"
Ms. Burritt and Ms. Moot

Sherry

Music and Lyrics: Bob Gaudio
Arrangement: Mac Huff

Try to Remember
from *The Fantasticks*

Music: Harvey Schmidt
Lyrics: Tom Jones
Arrangement: Jaime Goldfuss

BGMC Chamber Singers

Our Love is Soaring Across the Land

Music: Jeff Langley
Lyrics: Holly Near

Christopher Hart, Percussion
Timothy Mroz, Bass

*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.*

To the BGMC

Thank you

Our hearts are lightened by your song

BUFFALO

Front Runners / Front Walkers

A social exercise group meeting in
Delaware Park at Nottingham Terrace at Meadow
Road, Sunday at 10 a.m. and Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Website: www.freewebs.com/buffalofront/

ALL WELCOME

ALL YEAR ROUND

Music Notes

Jason Ward and Barbara Wagner

It's a Grand Night for Singing

From the 1945 film *State Fair*, with music and lyrics by Rodgers and Hammerstein, this 1945 version of the film is actually the second version of the movie. However, the original (which debuted in 1933) did not include their music. It was remade a third time in 1962, and finally premiered on Broadway in 1996.

The Land Where the Good Songs Go

From the 1917 revue *Miss 1917*, this arrangement is by Phil Sims, a good friend of the BGMC. Produced by Broadway moguls Florenz Ziegfeld & Charles Dillingham, the show was considered to be a gathering of the best musical comedy talent around, with music by Jerome Kern and Victor Herbert, lyrics by P.G. Wodehouse, and book by Guy Bolton. The show opened in November of 1917 and lasted a total of 40 shows. According to Wodehouse and Bolton, the show was a "lamentable mishmash" and a "historic floperoo" and that the only thing about the show that is of historic interest was that the boy who played piano at rehearsals was a young fellow named George Gershwin.

Remember Then

The Earls were a one hit outfit, best known for their #29 hit from 1963, "Remember Then". It was a perennial romance/nostalgia anthem that got regular airings on oldies stations. "Remember Then" has a big bass vocal hook (BGMC's big basses hold the song together) that helped the song and the Earls perform nearly as well on the R&B charts as the pop ones.

Unchained Melody

This is one of the most recorded songs of the 20th century which, by some counts, spawned over 500 versions in hundreds of languages. With music by Alex North and lyrics by Hy Zaret, it was originally used in 1955 as a theme for the obscure prison film *Unchained*. It has since been performed by the likes of Harry Belafonte, the Righteous Brothers, Elvis Presley, Sonny and Cher, U2, and now the BGMC!

Bogoroditsye Dyevo

Though Rachmaninoff avoided affiliation with the established church, elements of its music and ritual appeared in several of his compositions, and he contributed magnificent settings of the Divine Liturgy (1910) and Vigil (1915). Both works, but especially the latter, were influenced by a late

19th century movement to return Russian sacred music to a style based on traditional Russian Chant and harmonizations. Unlike many pieces from Rachmaninoff's *Vigil*, the stunning Russian Bogoroditse Dyevo (the Orthodox version of *Ave Maria*) does not contain chant per se, but uses chant-like melodic formulas with simple yet expansive harmonic textures.

Rejoice, O Virgin Mother of God,
Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you
Blessed are You among women.

Hallelujah

This song by Canadian singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen was originally released on his 1984 album *Various Positions*. Cohen's own version of the song never achieved wide success, but it has gained popularity in the more than 180 times it's been covered for release by singers ranging from Rufus Wainright to k.d. lang. Following are the words of UU minister, the Reverend Barbara Merritt, from a reflection called "A Broken Hallelujah"; Merritt quotes a *Rolling Stone* reviewer, who wrote: "The dark poetic music of Leonard Cohen should be listed on the table of periodic elements - when you discover it, it suddenly seems as necessary as oxygen....Hallelujah is concerned with the sanctity of real life and the dangers of real love." The word "Hallelujah" consists of 2 parts. The first "hallelu" is the imperative form of the words "to praise" and the last part "jah" is the abbreviation for Yaweh (God). And so we are called upon to sing, to appreciate, to praise. It's a sacred obligation. Cohen commented on what he was trying to accomplish in this song. He said, "It's a desire to affirm my faith in life, not in some formal way, but with enthusiasm and emotion." He ends the song with:

I did my best, it wasn't much
And even though it all went wrong
I'll stand before the Lord of Song
with nothing on my tongue, but Hallelujah.

The Road Home

Stephen Paulus composed this piece for the Dale Warland Singers when he was commissioned by a couple celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary. With new lyrics written by the poet Michael Dennis Browne, the melody of this piece is based upon a tune used for an old hymn, "The Lone Wild Bird".

The Battle of Jericho

Born in New Orleans on March 13, 1957, Moses George Hogan was a pianist, conductor and arranger of international renown. He has arranged hundreds of spirituals, including "The Battle of Jericho", for singers of every age and range. Tragically dying at the age of 40, in the final years of his life, he became increasingly in demand internationally as an arranger, conductor and clinician. He did the music for several PBS documentaries; he also conducted the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and recorded with them many of his arrangements. He founded the internationally acclaimed Moses Hogan Chorale and served as their Artistic Director. The Chorale electrified audiences in the finest and most prestigious concert halls, ranging from Washington, D.C.'s, Kennedy Center to the Sydney Opera House. BGMC is singing "The Battle of Jericho", one of his most revered and critically acclaimed arrangements.

Finale from *The Gondoliers*

In typical Gilbert and Sullivan fashion, the story of the operetta is terribly complicated. To make a long story short, two would-be kings, the Palmieri brothers, *gondolieri* from Venice, fall in love with and marry two lovely maidens, Tessa and Gianetti. For some very complicated reason the two couples are separated from each other by a wicked Inquisitor. Fast forward! Once more *Gondolieri* brings us to the happy ending of the operetta in which the lovely maidens and their beloved *gondolieri* are reunited. There's lots of very fast singing around all of that and as Shakespeare said, "All's well that ends well."

Mainacht (May Night)

Johannes Brahms' gorgeous song about a May night is his Opus 42, No. 2. Dating from 1864, it is set to a poem by Ludwig Hölty. Text painting in this haunting piece is subtle, but intensely elegant. In the shadows of the night, one can almost see the light shimmering over the grass and the single tear flowing down is palpable. What a gift Brahms had for melding poetry and music. This, for me, as a choral conductor is what separates the great composers from the mundane. It's what creates the spectacular in choral music. The translation that follows is literal rather than poetic and is vital to understanding the music:

When the silver moon through the shrubs beams,
And its slumbering light on the grass,
And the nightingale flutes (sings)
Wander I sadly from bush to bush.
Shrouded by foliage, coos a pair of doves

to me their ecstasy; but I turn away,
Seeking darker shadows.
And a single tear flows down (down my cheek)
When, o smiling image, that like as dawn.
Through my soul radiates, find I you on the earth?
And the single tear trembling hot down my cheek.

Yesterday

This pop song was originally recorded by The Beatles for their 1965 album *Help!* With more than 3,000 versions recorded, "Yesterday" is in *The Guinness Book of Records* for having the most cover versions of any song ever written. It also has the distinction of being the first official recording that relied on the performance of a single member of the band. Paul McCartney was accompanied solely by a string quartet. The final recording was so different from other works by The Beatles that the other three members of the band vetoed the release of the song as a single in the UK and thus it never gained number 1 single status in that country. Ironically, it was voted the best song of the 20th century in a 1999 BBC Radio poll of music experts and listeners.

Puttin' On the Ritz

This pop song was written and published in 1929 by Irving Berlin and was introduced by Harry Richman in the 1930 musical film of the same name. The title was derived by the slang expression "putting on the Ritz", meaning to dress very fashionably. The expression is said to have been inspired by the swanky Ritz Hotel.

Get Me to the Church on Time

This song is from the 1956 musical *My Fair Lady* with music and lyrics by Lerner and Lowe. It is sung by the cockney character Alfred P. Doolittle, who is the father of the show's main character, Eliza Doolittle. When a surprise bequest of four thousand pounds a year from an American millionaire raises him to middle-class respectability, Alfred feels he must marry Eliza's stepmother, the woman with whom he has been "living in sin" for many years. The song is a plea to his friends not to let his drunken merriment on the night before his wedding hurt his good intentions and to make sure he gets to the ceremony on time.

Sherry

Originally recorded by The Four Seasons, this song was written by Bob Gaudio. It was their first nationally released single as well as their first number 1 hit. It initially reached the top of the *Billboard* charts on 09/15/1962 where it remained for five consecutive weeks. According to Gaudio, the song was originally titled "Jackie" in honor of then First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy. It went through a few more name changes before he finally settled on "Sherry". BGMC also spent several weeks trying to find a male name for Sherry. Nothing seemed to work and so back we went to "Sherry".

Try to Remember

With music by Harvey Schmidt and lyrics by Tom Jones, this song is from the 1960 musical *The Fantasticks*. In contrast to major Broadway show productions at the time costing \$250,000 at the least, producers of *The Fantasticks* spent about \$900 on the set and \$541 on the costumes. "Try to Remember" is the first song of the show, used to get the audience to imagine what the sparse set suggests. The original production closed on 01/13/2002 after 17,162 performances made it the world's longest-running musical and the longest-running show of any kind in the United States.

Our Love is Soaring Across the Land

Holly Near has been in the forefront of the Lesbian and Gay music movement for over 30 years. The "Great Peace March", which we plan to sing on our June concert *BGMC on Vacation*, is one of her most beloved compositions, as is "We Are a Gentle, Angry People", which was written in response to the 1978 murder of Harvey Milk. The jubilant words of hope, defiance, rage and love which she wrote in "Our Love is Soaring Across the Land" need to be repeated over and over, as the struggle rages on.

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Our Gratitude for a Special Grant, GALA Choruses, Inc., Grantor

We were proud to sing the world-premier performances of "Yes!" at our June 2008 concerts. The text is based on the poem, "Tableau", published in the collection, *Color*, by Countee Cullen*. It tells the story of two boyhood friends, one black, the other white, openly sharing their friendship in the racially hostile environment of a southern community of the early 1900's.

"Yes!" was composed in 2007 by Adolphus Hailstork, a world-famous composer, on BGMC's commissioning of the work.** BGMC has commissioned and introduced a number of new musical compositions. The Chorus is proud that "Yes!" was one of them.

In July, the Chorus attended the GALA Choruses, Inc. week-long international gathering of member choruses in Miami (3,500 to 5,000 singers present), where it introduced "Yes!" to the international music community.

GALA Choruses, Inc. encourages the commissioning by its members of new musical works. At the Miami convention, GALA Choruses honored BGMC's role in the creation and presentation of "Yes!" to the GALA Choruses' repertoire with a \$3,500 grant toward BGMC's expenses. BGMC gratefully acknowledges this gift.

* "Tableau" by Countee Cullen© 1925

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** "Yes!" by Adolphus Hailstork© 2007

Commissioned by Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, Inc.,
with support from GALA Choruses, Inc., the international association
of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender choral movement.

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About the Artists



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 45 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), the 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/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 is 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*.



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.

Judith Burritt and Anne Moot

Judith Burritt is an MFA graduate of SUNY Fredonia, where she studied with Robert Jordan. A private teacher for many years, she is active in the Pacesetters of WNY and the Music Forum for Piano Teachers. She serves as the local chair of the National Guild of Piano teachers, is a consultant for the International Piano Teaching Foundation, and a member of Sigma Alpha Iota Music Fraternity. Both she and her musical partner are members of Pi Kappa Lambda International Music Honor Society. In July of 2001, the pair performed at the Historical Society as part of the Pan American Celebration.

Anne Moot is an MFA graduate of SUNY Buffalo, where she studied with Livingston Gearhart and a graduate of the Artist and Licentiate programs of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto, where she studied with Alberto Guerrero, teacher of Glenn Gould. Some of Anne's students from a long teaching career have achieved prominence in the music field. She has performed widely in WNY including a debut with the BPO, recitals at the University and on WBFO. She was the first accompanist for the Affiliate Artist program in WNY. As a volunteer, she has served on the boards of QRS Arts Foundation, Studio Arena Theater and currently, Vocalis Chamber Choir. Some of her original compositions for four hands have been published recently by Robert Pace of the International Piano Foundation.

Both Judy and Anne are members of the Wednesday Morning Musicale and the Chromatic Club. They have performed at the Roycroft, Rockwell Hall, SUNY Fredonia, Lilydale, the Montante Center, St. Paul's recital series, the English-speaking Union, the Opening of the Martin House Complex, and the Pan American Celebration among others. Anne has written more than 40 arrangements for the duo, several of them featured on their CD.

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History of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Historically, gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered persons have seldom fully had a voice, a comprehensive, recognized presence, with full participation in the American culture. However, GBLT choruses are flourishing. The Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA), the national support organization for these many choruses is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2008. The passage of New York State's Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act (SONDA), as well as the meteoric rise of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, are prime examples of positive changes relative to our place in this society.

At end of 1999, the vision for a Gay Men's Chorus in Buffalo was conceived. This chorus would offer a voice that would build bridges within the community through music, music that would lift the spirits of listeners and singers alike. Guided by Roger Parris, a vigorous group of men explored this concept thoroughly. With the support and success of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus behind them, these men decided that 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 led by Parris, Mike Longo, Jeff Wilson, Bob Rose, Jim Estep, Bill Fay, Bill Gardner, Russell Link, Doug Levy and many others had written by-laws, papers of incorporation had been filed, fundraisers had been successful in raising over \$5000 in seed money, a mission statement had been painstakingly crafted and officers had been elected. After a thorough search, area choral conductor, Barbara Wagner was asked to be the Charter Artistic Director. Ms. Wagner, in turn, requested that Debi Overton be invited to serve as the Charter Accompanist. Both women are highly respected musicians and serve the chorus well. In fact, Ms. Wagner was to join the ranks of only four female conductors of Gay Men's Choruses. In 2007, the number dwindled to only two, Kathleen McGuire, Artistic Director of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and Ms. Wagner.

The first auditions were held in May, 2001. By day's end there were 36 chorus members. By month's end there were 45. Soon there would be a dozen more. 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, in the Alliance Room of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo. As the men and

Ms. 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. We sang, "From you I receive, to you I give, together we share and from this we live." We learned "How Can I Keep From Singing" and began forging the bonds that still hold us together to this day. "How Can I Keep From Singing" was to become our theme song and was the very first music our first audience heard as the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus processed down the aisles of the Unitarian Universalist Church for the first time.

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; the bonds we formed that night continue to remain strong all of these years later. 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; six years later we have added a third concert to our series and a third performance of each one.

Our audiences continue to be huge and diverse. The awards began coming as we grew in stature and musical expression. Three awards from *Artvoice's* Best in Buffalo found us elected as Best Chorus. We were invited to sing on the stage of 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 its music and its 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.

In 2008, BGMC presented its first series of holiday concerts, entitled *Home for the Holidays*. There were three totally sold out performances, one at a brand new venue in Hamburg, NY.

Our success has brought many requests for benefit concerts. 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, along the way, and we are eager to give back. Following is a list of some of the benefit concerts for which we've raised our voices:

World AIDS Day Memorial Services
 AIDS Community Services Annual *Cause for Celebration*
 Fundraisers
 Domestic Violence Awareness Fundraiser
 CARES Benefit for the University of Buffalo
 Dental School
 AIDS Family Services - 2 Benefit Concerts
 Katrina Relief Funds - Benefit Concert
 AIDS Community Youth Services Benefit
 Erie, Pennsylvania
 AIDS Community Services Benefit
 Jamestown Community College
 Habitat for Humanity Benefit Concert
 Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church Roof Repair
 Benefit Concert
 Amherst Unitarian Universalist Church
 Benefit Music Program
 Tree Lighting Ceremony for Women's and
 Children's Hospital
 Benefit for the Frank Lloyd Wright Darwin Martin House
 Benefit Concert for the Buffalo Philharmonic
 Orchestra and the Olmsted Conservancy
 Fredonia State College - Diversity and
 Multicultural Program
 The Nichols School - Diversity Week
 Arrival of the Amistad
 Mark's Place - Benefit Concert - Niagara Falls, NY
 St. Paul's Cathedral Youth Program - Benefit Concert
 PFLG and GBLT Youth Alliances - complimentary
 tickets to every concert
 Roswell Park Institute, Carly's House - Benefit

PERFORMANCE VENUES

Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo
 Temple Beth Zion
 First Presbyterian Church
 Albright Knox Art Gallery - Gusto at the Gallery Series
 Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra - 2 Appearances
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 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
 The Performing Arts Renaissance Theater in Montreal
 GALA International Festival
 Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in Miami, Florida
 GALA International Festival
 The Nichols School
 Roush Recital Hall, SUNY Fredonia
 Statler Towers Golden Ballroom, MOCHA Awards Dinner
 Trinity United Church - Beamsville, Ontario
 Performing Arts Theater of Ithaca
 Langston Hughes Center
 Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens
 Hochstein School of Music, Rochester
 First Presbyterian Church - Viva Vivaldi
 Buffalo Bisons Baseball Stadium - National Anthem
 Pride Parades and Performances
 Hamburg United Methodist Church
 Episcopal Church of the Ascension
 Daemen College

15 PAIRS OF MAJOR CONCERTS

The Land Where the Good Songs Go
Hope for the Holidays
Connections
The Proud and the Passionate
Celebrate
The Colors of Our Lives

Sounds of Summer
Fearless
If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On
Music From the Heart
Let Us Entertain You
Brothers in Song
A Winter's Tale
Of Sweet Harmony
Singing With Pride

The 2008 - 2009 season find the BGMC offering 3 sets of major concerts. For the first time there was a Holiday concert, followed by a Spring and Summer concerts. There will be 3 performances of each, the last one of each set to be presented in one of the Buffalo suburbs. This means that we have added 5 major concerts to our busy schedule, reflecting the enormous growth we enjoyed.

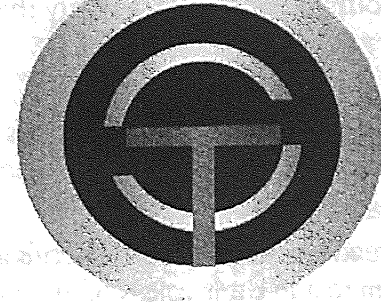
A major force in the success of BGMC has been the impressive dedication of the all volunteer chorus itself. These men take the chorus' artistic ambitions seriously; they are resolute rehearsal attendees and have worked hard to build their choral skills. The chorus' social impact on the community at large 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 homosexuals. And so the hard work continues with each note these intrepid men sing.

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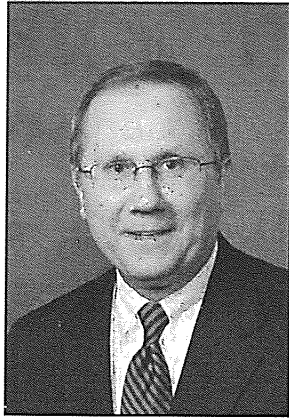
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A	Counseling Center of WNY... 55
Acropolis Family Restaurant... 58	
Artisan Kitchen & Baths49	E
After 5035	Ellicott Development 55
	Episcopal Church of the
B	Ascension53
Benedict House28	Ethan Allen .. Inside Front Cover
Bison Automotive & Detail.... 34	F
Bock & Whitman Roofing..... 36	First Presbyterian Church of
Buffalo Bears..... 36	Buffalo51
Buffalo Brunch 57	Freudig Singers..... 37
Buffalo Front Runners –	
Front Walkers..... 14	G
Buffalo Philharmonic	Gates Circle Wines and
Orchestra47	Liquors33
Buffalo United Artists 59	Gay Bingo 42
	Gay & Lesbian Youth
C	Services 44
Cafe 5953	Kevin L. Gibson, CPA 39
Changes Construction 58	GoingWeb.net.....51
Community of Christ..... 34	

H	Pride Center of
Bernadette Hoppe, Esq. 19	WNY Outer Back Cover
HSBC GLOBE Inside Back Cover	
	Q
K	Q58
Kenney, Shelton, Liptak,	
Nowak LLP 40	R
Key Bank.....50	Shari Jo Reich, Esq..... 40
	David Rivera, Councilmember
L	Niagara District 44
Lancaster Opera House..... 54	
Les Jardins Hair Care 56	S
	Salon Rouge.....51
M	St. John's – Grace Episcopal... 49
Jim Mack, Real Estate 56	St. Paul's Cathedral and Friends
Mark Custom Recording	of Music..... 36
Service, Inc.48	Sweet Tooth.....29
Louis J. Moran, Counselor.....53	
Mother Nature Plant	T
Emporium.....52	Temple Beth Zion 8
Mister Pizza.....46	Tuxedo Junction..... 44
Musicalfare 45	
	U
N	Unitarian Universalist Church
Now Salon 39	of Buffalo 23
	Unity Church in Buffalo 55
O	Urban Roots Community
Out and About Phone Book... 43	Garden Center.....52
Optical Store..... 38	
Opera Buffs.....33	V
	Vilardo Printing..... 49
P	Vocalis.....41
Kay Patterson, Counselor 56	
Mark Peszko, Esq.32	W
Polish Cadets Federal Credit	Westminster Presbyterian
Union..... 42	Church52
Positively Main Street 42	The Wine Thief..... 39
Premier Wines and Liquors 34	WWWhatever46



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April 8, Holy Wednesday: Choral Tenebrae, 7 pm—*The Gentlemen of St. Paul's*

April 9, Maundy Thursday: Chrism Mass & Renewal of Ordination Vows, 12:05 pm,
Solemn Eucharist, 7 pm—*The Cathedral Choirs*

April 10-Good Friday: Mass of the Pre-Sanctified, 12:05 pm—*The Chamber Choir*
Mass of the Pre-Sanctified, 7 pm—*The Cathedral Choirs*

April 11, Holy Saturday: The Liturgy of Holy Saturday, 9 am
The Great Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter, 7 pm—*The Cathedral Choirs*

April 12-Easter Day: Said Holy Eucharist, 8 am
Solemn Eucharist, 9 am—*The Cathedral Choirs*
Solemn Choral Eucharist, 11:15am—*The Cathedral Choirs with Brass Ensemble*
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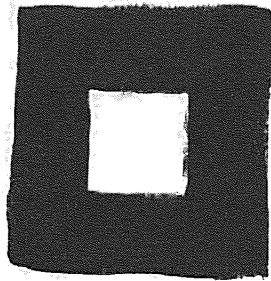
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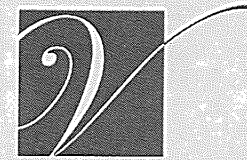
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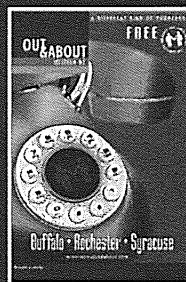
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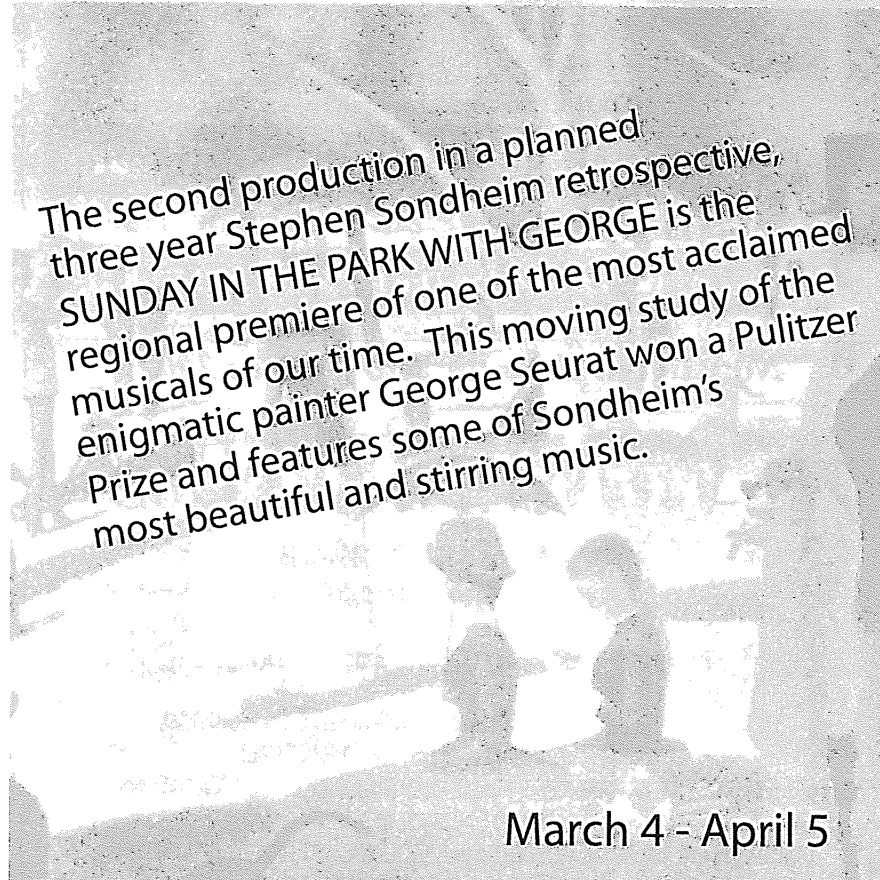
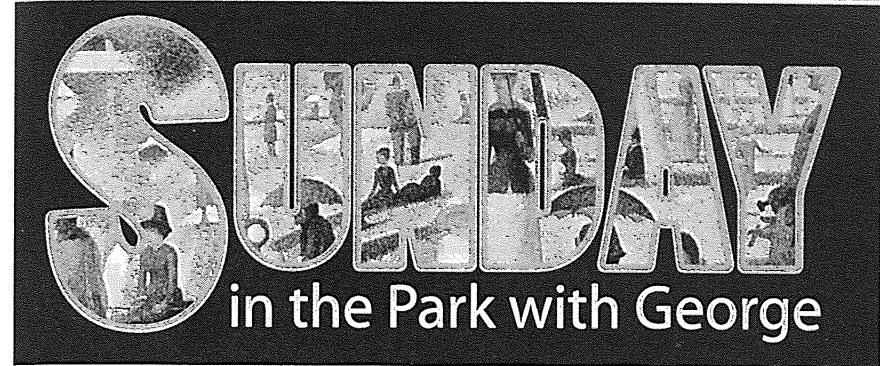
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Robert Franz, conductor
Muza Rubackyte, piano

Nielsen	Helios Overture
Liszt	Piano Concerto No.1
Dvorak	Symphony No. 6

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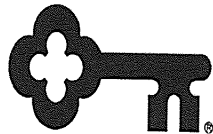
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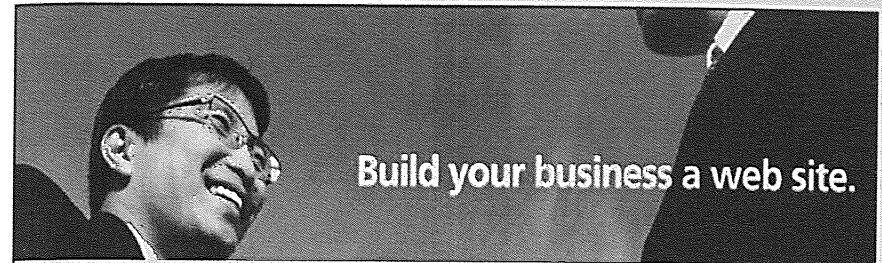
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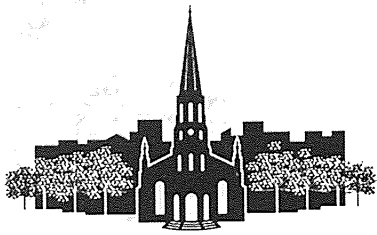
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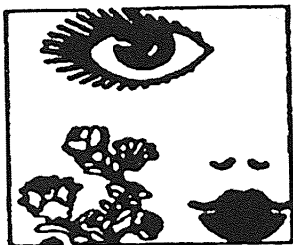
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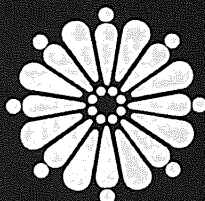
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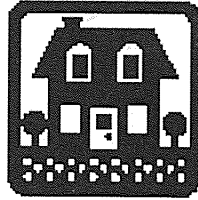
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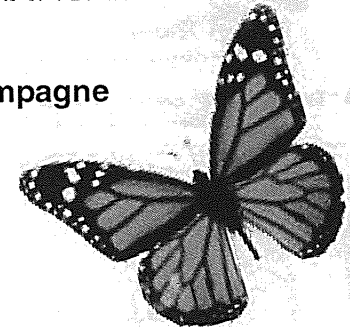
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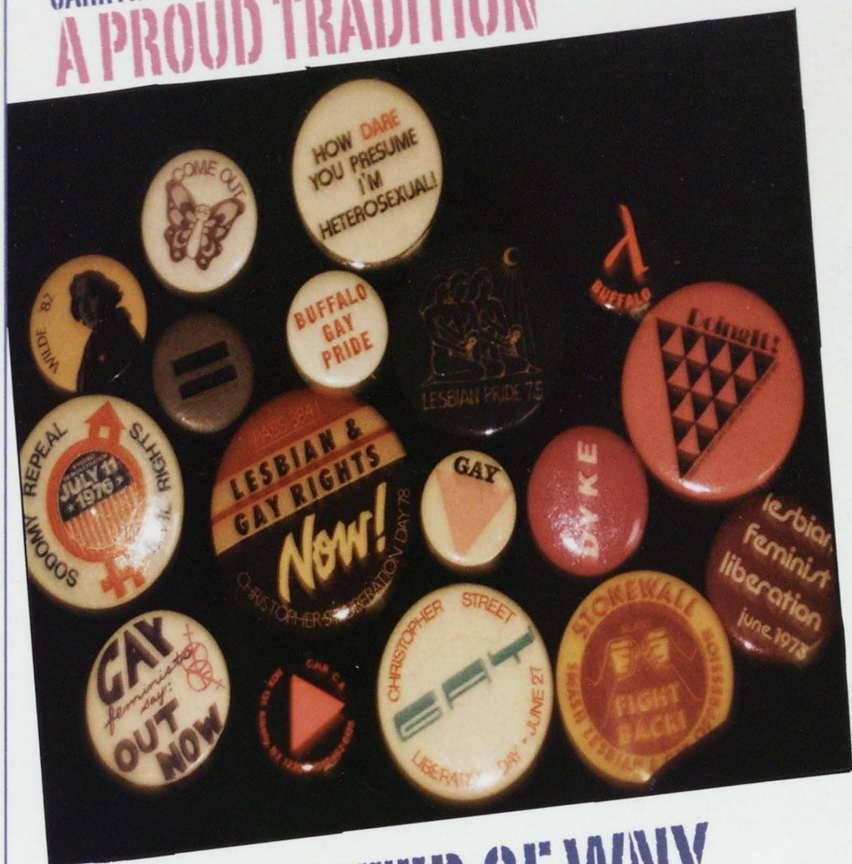
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